



## **Bronze Award Frequently Asked Questions**

### Journey Requirements

Why is completing a Junior Journey a pre-requisite to earning the Bronze Award?

- ✦ Girl Scout Journeys give the girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan, and implement their award Take Action project. Girls will have completed the Journey when they have earned the Journey Awards and have created and carried out a Journey Take Action project.

What makes the Bronze Award guidelines different from the Journey's?

- ✦ In contrast to the Journey Take Action projects, which give girls themes on which to base their Journey Take Action project, the Bronze Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. Girls select their own theme, their own design, and execute their Bronze Take Action projects.

### Award Progression

Do girls have to complete the Bronze Award if they want to do the Silver or Gold Award in the future?

- ✦ Not at all! Each award is set up to give the girls progression, but if they don't earn a particular award, they can still complete the next level award. We have set up a way for them to get the same skills in the Journey books; by earning Journey awards they are learning how to do a Take Action project.

Can a troop work together on a Bronze Award project?

- ✦ Yes, it is required at the Bronze Award level. Each Award level brings a new progression of leadership development. At the Bronze level, girls must work together as a team.

### Timeline

What are the required hours for earning the Bronze Award?

- ✦ The time it takes to earn the Bronze Award will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community/volunteers. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the Journeys requirement is fulfilled, the required minimum hours for each girl working on the Bronze are 20 hours.

Do the hours put into planning and researching a potential Bronze Award project count towards the minimum hours needed for the Bronze Award project?

- ✦ Yes. Once the pre-requisite Journey is completed girls begin tracking all time spent working on their Bronze Award project from the time they begin researching their community and brainstorming. This includes if they attended the 2 hour Bronze Award Workshop. Even if a group decides not to do the project they have come up with during their initial research, they have learned the process required to begin planning their project, and can count these hours even if they end up completing a different project to earn their award.

What if a girl has already done some similar activities in Girl Scouting? Can these activities count towards her Bronze Award?

- ✿ Activities done prior to the Bronze Award project may not count towards the hours required for the Bronze Award. Also, general community service hours do not count towards the Bronze Award. The Bronze Award must be earned through a Take Action project.

Can girls start working on their Bronze Award project immediately after bridging from Brownies to Juniors?

- ✿ As long as they have completed a Junior Journey including the Journey Take Action project, they may begin working on their Bronze Award project. It takes time to do quality projects and steps shouldn't be rushed. Please note that final reports on the completed projects from each girl in the group must be received by council by September 30<sup>th</sup> of the girls 6<sup>th</sup> grade year they bridge to Cadettes.

### Take Action

What should be the scope or reach of the Bronze Award Take Action project?

- ✿ Girl Scout Juniors complete a group Take Action project that focuses on an issue the girls care about that they would like to improve within their communities. The focus should be of looking into the root cause of an issue, rather than putting a band-aid on a symptom of an issue in the community. Take Action projects must also reflect on sustainability.

Can Take Action projects for the Bronze Award focus on Girl Scouting?

- ✿ Bronze Award projects should try to focus on issues within their communities. At the Bronze level, girls may work on projects in support of the Girl Scout movement or a GSWCF camp. The award progression is planned to offer our younger girls the opportunity to develop their planning and leadership skills within the comfort and familiarity of Girl Scouting if they choose. To complete the Bronze Award at camp please submit the "Bronze Award Request Form-GSWCF Properties" found at [gswcf.org/bronze](http://gswcf.org/bronze)

### Sustainability

What does it mean to have a sustainable project?

- ✿ A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girls involvement with it ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on.

Is sustainability differentiated at each level?

- ✿ Yes, the Bronze project will reflect on how the project could be kept going, while the Silver plans for sustainability, and the Gold will work to ensure sustainability.

### Scope of projects

How can we make sure that our award project represents a quality project?

- ✿ The best way to make sure that the girls are doing the best of their abilities is to ensure that both the girls and their project advisor receive training. For adults this is the Take Action webinar and for girls this is the Bronze Award Workshop or the Bronze Award Webinar. Both the girls and adults should understand the difference between a one-time community service opportunity and a Bronze Award Take Action project. It is the responsibility of the troop's project advisor to ensure that the project meets the requirements of the award.

Do we need to submit our project plans to council for approval prior to beginning our project?

- ✦ Bronze Award projects are approved at the troop level by the girl's troop volunteer. Prior approval by council is not needed, but you are welcome to run any potential projects by the council staff member who handles the Bronze Award.

### How can we fund the project?

- ✦ Please refer to the document "Supplemental Money Earning for Awards" for guidelines.
- ✦ Troops generally use a portion of the fall product and cookie proceeds to fund award projects.

### Who can earn the Bronze Award?

Can a Cadette who didn't turn her paperwork in last year earn the Bronze Award?

- ✦ Only current 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade Juniors can earn the Bronze Award.

Can a girl earn the Bronze Award even if she hasn't been in Girl Scouting very long?

- ✦ Yes, she just needs to be a registered Girl Scout Junior to earn her Bronze Award.

Can a girl earn the Bronze Award if she is an Individually Registered Member (called a Juliette), and not affiliated with a troop?

- ✦ Yes. Earning the Bronze Award is a team experience for a group of Juniors. If the girl is an Individually Registered Member, she will need to partner with other Individually Registered Members, a troop, or a group of friends which can include non-Girl Scouts who may want to join Girl Scouting. Working as part of a team is essential to the leadership development learned through the Bronze Award process.

Can a girl who is developmentally delayed earn the Bronze Award? Do we need a different set of requirements?

- ✦ The Bronze Award is something done to the best of a girl's ability. You may need to adapt the process or requirements to fit the needs of individual girls. There is no need to have a separate set of requirements—encourage flexibility and understanding on the part of the troop. It is important to remember that Girl Scouting is an inclusive activity for girls of all abilities.

Can a girl earn her award if she moves after starting her project?

- ✦ We encourage councils and Overseas Committees to be flexible and to take girls' best interests into account. Whenever possible, a girl should continue to work with her council or Overseas Committee to complete her project.

### When the project is completed?

What do we do once we have completed our project?

- ✦ Once you have completed your project, each girl who worked on the project will need to fill out the final report form. The group's final reports must be sent to council together by September 30<sup>th</sup> of their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year that they bridge to Cadettes. You will receive an email that we have received your reports and another when your reports have been processed. You will receive your certificates in the mail 4-6 weeks from receipt of the email letting the leader know the reports have been processed.
- ✦ Purchase your Bronze Award pins
- ✦ Celebrate with your troop or community