



Gold Award

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are journeys pre-requisites to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

- ❖ The journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the Gold Award. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action Project.

How do girls know when a journey is “completed?”

- ❖ A journey is completed when a girl has earned the journey awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

What makes the awards’ guidelines different from the journeys?

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

Do girls have to complete the Bronze Award and Silver Award to be able to complete a Gold Award?

- ❖ The answer to this question is no, each award is set up to give the girls progression but if they happen to miss doing Bronze or Silver they can still complete their Gold 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. So if a girl hasn’t completed any awards and wants to go for Gold she just has to complete two journey books at the Senior or Ambassador level.

What are the suggested hours for the Gold Award?

- ❖ The time it takes to earn the awards will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours, however we want you to get as close to the

suggested minimum as possible. After the journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours to use as a guide are:

- ❖ The Bronze Award- suggested minimum 20 hours
- ❖ The Silver Award – suggested minimum 50 hours
- ❖ The Gold Award – suggested minimum 80 hours

Can a troop work on a Gold Award together?

- ❖ Each award level brings a new progression of leadership development and each award level has different group guidelines. At the Gold Award level are to work on their own Gold Award project. This isn't to say their troop mates can't help them with their project, they can but they would be listed as volunteers and would not earn the award.

Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) from one Girl Scout level to the next?

- ❖ Yes however, the deadline to turn in their project is Sept. 30th of the year they graduate. It takes time to do these projects so be sure they have ample time to complete their project.

Can Take Action Projects for the Gold Award focus on Girl Scouting?

- ❖ Yes GSUSA just released in Oct. 2019 that all high awards can now benefit Girl Scouting. However, at the Gold Award level it is expected that girls will also advocate for their project outside of Girl Scouting as well as within. To do a project benefitting GSWCF please have girls fill out this form prior to filling out their proposal form: <https://form.jotform.com/201904607399158>

If a girl starts working on her Take Action project and moves; can she still earn her award?

- ❖ Councils and Overseas Committees are encouraged to be flexible to work and serve the girls' best interests. If a girl moves, she should work with her council and/or Overseas Committees to complete the project.

Can girls use crowdfunding sites to fund their projects?

- ❖ As of October of 2019 yes girls can use crowdfunding sites to help fund their projects if their project budget exceeds \$2000. GSWCF has strict guidelines that girls need to follow so please see this form for more detailed information <https://www.gswcf.org/content/dam/wcf-images/pdf-forms/Supplemental-Earning-for-Gold-Awards.pdf>

Is sustainability differentiated at each grade level?

- ❖ Yes, Gold Award will ensure their project is sustainability. This means that the advocacy of their project must continue on past their involvement. Girls cannot say I will always be involved as part of their sustainability plan.

Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

- ❖ Any registered Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout

How can we make sure that Girl Scout Awards represent quality projects?

- ❖ The best way to make sure that a girl is doing the best of her ability is to ensure that both she and her project advisor receive training. (for adults the Take Action Training for girls it is the Gold Award Workshop/Webinar) Both adults and girls should understand the difference between a one-time community service opportunity or event and a Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project. It is the responsibility of the troop/group volunteer, council staff member to work with the girl to ensure that she meets the quality requirements of the award.

Why can't a parent be a Gold Award project advisor?

- ❖ Girls are encouraged to connect with their community when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. That means working with a project advisor who is not their parent.

What does it mean to have a sustainable project?

- ❖ A sustainable project is one that last after the girl's involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on-learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government, and or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl's involvement.