



girl scouts

of west central florida



Girl Scout Gold Award Packet



Girl Scout Gold Award®

gogold



Congratulations on wanting to earn the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. For over 100 years Girl Scouts have worked hard to fulfill the requirements to achieve this prestigious award. This Gold Award packet is a helpful tool that will answer all your questions and set you on your path to Gold.

The Gold Award makes you take a closer look at your community to see where you can make a difference.

Seven Steps to Gold

- 1. Choose an issue:**
Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about and are passionate about.
- 2. Investigate:**
Research everything you can about the issue.
- 3. Get help:**
Invite others to support and take action with you.
- 4. Create a plan:**
Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.
- 5. Present your plan and get feedback:**
Sum up your project plan for your Girl Scout council.
- 6. Take action:**
Take the lead to carry out your plan.
- 7. Educate and inspire:**
Share what you have experienced with others.

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Pre-requisites

Where to Begin?

First, complete your Gold Award prerequisites:

- Be a registered Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout
- Earn the Girl Scout Silver Award as a Cadette, and complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey.

OR

- Complete **two** Journeys at the Girl Scout Senior and/or Ambassador level

Next, read through the [Girl Scout Gold Award Guidelines](#). Now's a good time!

Register to attend a [Gold Award Workshop or take the Gold Award Webinar](#), **this is required!**

Finally, you're ready to tackle this booklet, The Gold Award Packet. This will walk you through the seven Girl Scout Gold Award Steps and help you with anything you may need to complete your Gold Award Project.

What's My Timeline?

Each girl will set her own timeline. But here are some helpful dates.

Gold Award Proposals are accepted all year long:

The Gold Award committee only meets once per month (usually on the first Wednesday of the month in Tampa, and as needed in the Northern counties). You will need to do an initial interview with them to get your project approved. Please submit your proposal 4 weeks prior to expected interview.

March 31 - All completed final paperwork due to GSWCF to be in the current year's ceremony.

September 30 - After High School graduation-ultimate deadline to earn Gold-will be in the following year's ceremony.

Gold Award Ceremony – usually held the second weekend in June.

Take Action!

What is the difference between a Take Action project and a Community service project?

Community service: comes from your heart, service is a passive role where you help out on something that is already in place. Major decisions have been made and you are following someone else's directions.

Examples:

Collecting and donating items –a one-time fix of a problem

Beautification and renovation without an educational or awareness raising component

Take Action project: comes from your heart and is your passion, but uses your head to develop long lasting impact

You are the leader of the project = an active role in decision making

You create a Take Action project based on your observations of an issue

Tackle the root cause of this issue to make a long lasting impact –why is this issue happening? What caused it? = root causes

You develop your leadership skills by exploring your community, brainstorming, planning, organizing, and putting your plan in motion = you are the CEO!

What is the difference between a Journey Take Action Project and a Gold Award Take Action Project?

The Journey Take Action Project should be looked at as the practice run for the Gold Award Take Action Project.

The only difference is the **Journey Take Action Project** is topic specific, the project must relate to the Journey and what you have learned. It can be completed as a Troop, but each girl needs a leadership role.

The **Gold Award Take Action Project** must be done individually and the topic is of your choosing. You will need to identify an issue in your community that you want to improve or help solve. Tackling the root cause of this issue will help make a bigger impact on your community and help sustain the project.

You will gain Leadership skills in developing the Journey Take Action Project, and build upon these acquired skills to complete a quality Gold Award Take Action Project.

A Gold Award Take Action Project...

...has community/ national and/or global links

Your issue may be as local as saving the ash trees in the town park. Now step back and look around. Forests across the country are being devastated by borer beetles, which are spread when people transport firewood. Linked! **Then when your project is completed, share it with the world to inspire others.**

...is sustainable

How will your project's advocacy (inspiration and education) stay alive even when you're done? Will someone else be able to pick up where you've left off? Can you involve school clubs? Change curriculum? Start a non-profit? Partner with your community or an organization? Advocate for change in local government or beyond? Will the education you've provided live on in people's memories and habits by starting a grassroots movement?

...takes approximately 80 hours

80 hours of your own time starts with Girl Scout Gold Award Step One, Choosing an Issue, before you even submit your proposal. Keep a detailed "Hour Log". Remember to count your workshop/webinar, research, doing proposal paperwork etc. (Can only count up to 10 hours prior to approval)

...addresses an issue you care about

You care about. Not your grandma, dad, best friend, or leader. **You.** So be brave. Take a stand. Find your passion.

From Good to Gold

Red Flags

Below, you'll find a list of projects that just don't make the cut as Gold Award Take Action Projects.

Why so many rules, you ask?

Because a Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Project is about creating the greatest impact possible, so you make the world a better place! Avoiding these simple traps will help you do just that.

What Not To Do...

Canned Projects...

...because a canned project is pre-designed and demands only that you implement someone else's project (i.e. a blood drive or annual clean-up). A Gold Award Take Action Project requires you to act in a leadership position from the get-go, designing a sustainable service or advocacy project on an issue that you have carefully researched.

Collection Projects...

...because collecting items for an organization does not elicit the creativity or leadership required by the Gold Award. Collections are also a short term fix of a problem, which does not tackle the "root cause."

Fundraising Projects...

...because Girl Scouts, whether girls or adults, are not allowed to raise money for other organizations.

Procrastinate

...waiting until your senior year is not good idea be sure to start early, almost all girls who have completed their Gold say they wish they would have started sooner!

Take Action Project Idea Areas

Community Development

- Civic/Public Infrastructure
- Homeless Assistance
- Transportation
- Community Uncleanliness
- Social Services
- Volunteer Capacity/management
- Historic Preservation
- Animal Care Services
- Independent Living Assistance

Economic Development

- Financial Literacy
- Workforce Development
- Financial Assistance Awareness
- Economic Revitalization
- Technology Access
- Volunteer Service Awareness

Disaster Recover and Relief

- Disaster Mitigation
- Disaster Recovery
- Other Disaster
- Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Relief

Education

- Adult Literacy
- Computer Literacy
- Special Education Populations
- After School Programs
- English Language Learners
- Classroom Education
- Child Literacy
- Job Preparedness
- Cultural Heritage
- School Preparedness

Environment and Energy

- Clean Air, Water
- Environmental Protection
- Waste Reduction/Recycling
- Endangered Flora/Fauna Advocacy
- Environmental Restoration
- Weatherization
- Energy Conservation

Health & Wellness/Nutrition

- disability Services
- HIV/AIDS Prevention
- Nutrition Education
- Health & Wellness Education
- Substance Abuse Prevention/Education
- Food Production
- Aid to Seniors/Elders
- Maternal/Child Health Services
- Health Care Service Delivery
- Mental Health Services
- Specific Disease/Health Awareness

Public Services

- Accident Prevention
- Crisis Intervention
- Victim/Witness Services
- Community Policing
- Fire Prevention
- Public Safety education
- Conflict Resolution/Mediation
- Legal Assistance
- Crime Awareness/Prevention
- Offender/Ex-Offender Service/Rehabilitation
- Children and youth Safety
- Elderly Safety

Take Action Project Idea Areas Continued

Youth Development

- Child and Youth Safety
- Juvenile Justice Services
- Bullying Prevention
- Delinquency Prevention
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Teen Pregnancy/Parenting Services
- Gang Prevention/Rehabilitation
- Youth Leadership Development
- Volunteer Service Awareness

Veterans Assistance

- Housing Assistance
- Military Family Assistance
- Veterans Employment Services
- Outreach and Counseling
- Veterans Disabilities/Rehabilitation

High Awards that benefit GSWCF or Girl Scouts

To do a Gold Award project within Girl Scouts, it must align with the council's strategic objectives and long-term goals and must still meet the requirements that are key to taking sustainable action:

- The project makes a lasting difference in the local community, region or beyond
- The project puts the Girl Scout Promise and Law into action
- The project includes provisions to ensure sustainability
- The project identifies national and global links to the girl's selected issue
- The project inspires others

COUNCIL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES TOPICS

Please ensure your project aligns with these strategies prior to moving forward:

- **IMPACT-** Program aligned with the GSLE, Financial literacy and Entrepreneurial aspect of Product program, STEM, outdoors, Juliette's, Properties
- **BRAND-** Alumni, Advancing the Brand
- **GIRL-** Recruitment, Undeserved girls, Older Girl Retention, Education of importance of High Awards, Travel, Global Girl Scouting
- **OPERATIONS-** Volunteer Training, Volunteer On-boarding, Volunteer Retention

Please complete the WuFoo form to request to do a High Award at GSWCF:
<https://gswcf.wufoo.com/forms/high-awards-at-gswcf/>

Please turn this in before you start on your Gold Award Proposal paperwork and allow time for processing. Please do not begin the project until your request and proposal have been approved.

Being a Leader

You Are the leader of
Your Team

- friends
- volunteers
- troop mates

Your Target Audience

- people you're educating
- organizations you're working with
- groups you're advocating for or toward

Your Wider Audience

- everyone you'll share your story with once
- you complete your Gold Award Take Action Project

The Gold Award process is girl-led. That means that *you* are responsible for writing your proposal, turning in your paperwork, attending your interview and contacting your Gold Award Coach with any questions and contacting them monthly.

Follow these **tips**, and you'll be **unstoppable!**

write thank you notes

call or email people yourself

It's OK to run into road block, find plan B

be okay with making mistakes

keep a friendly smile

don't be afraid to ask for help

lead your team with confidence

Once you have completed your pre-requisites go to Go Gold Online Application process.

<https://gogold.girlscouts.org/en/sign-in.html>

Here you will be able to start brainstorming ideas for your project the application takes you step by step through the Gold Award process. You can register anytime and save your progress as you go.

What is in the Gold Award App? What questions is it asking? This is where you will start the process to complete your proposal paperwork

Consider This: This is your chance **to make an impression** and tell the Gold Award Committee about your Take Action Project idea. Your Project Proposal allows the Committee to form their questions for you.

The following is a guide to help you know what the app will be asking you, prior to submitting your proposal.

Step 1:

- Why: What are you inspired by?
- Who: Who do you want to help?
- Where: Where do you want to make an impact?
- What: What are your strengths and talents?
- How: How do you want to make a difference?
- Issues: Do any of these interest you? Select all (select from listing)

Step 2:

- Finding root cause
 - Mind map (like car accidents from workshop)
- Research
 - What organization or people have knowledge of your issue's root cause?
 - Interview an expert, then summarize how this information can help with your project.

Step 3:

- Building your team
 - Project Advisors

- Team Members

Step 4:

- Create your plan
 - Timeline, budget, measurable & sustainable impact, and natural or global link.
- Proposal Description
 - Title, date from start to finish, project description
- Themes (Select up to 5)
 - Animals, arts, children’s issues, civic engagement, disability issues, environment, entrepreneurship, health, healthy relationships, human rights, life skills, military/veterans, outdoors, poverty, public safety, sports, STEM.
- Estimated Expenses
 - Estimate your project expenses
 - Have a plan to meet these costs
 - Amount Source item
- Strengths and Talents
 - New skills/plans to learn and develop throughout my Gold Award are...
- Tell the World
 - “I will let others know about my Gold Award (impact of my project, what the Gold Award is, and what I learned by earning it) by promoting it via...”
- Go to Submit
 - CC yourself so you have a copy of the proposal email.
 - Download in the preview section to your computer.
- Step 5:
- Issue: My Gold Award aims to address this issue?
 - The reasons I selected this issue are...
- Root Cause: The root cause of the issue
 - I will address the root cause by...
- Target Audience: The target Audience for my Gold Award is/are:
 - The skills, knowledge, and or attitude my target audience will gain are...
 - I know that my audience has gained the desired skills/knowledge because...
- Defining: National and/or Global link
 - My Gold Award’s National and/or Global link is...
- Measurability: Measuring my Gold Award projects success
 - What my audience will learn/gain...
 - How I will measure impact...
 - When I will measure impact...
 - My Gold Award project goals are...
- Sustainability: How my Gold Award is sustainable
 - My Gold Award will be sustained beyond my involvement by...
- Project Plan (Timeline)
 - Outline steps involved in putting your plan into action, including the activity, your team’s role, resources you’ll need, and how long you expect it to take.
- Outcomes

- Through my Gold Award I will demonstrate the following Girl Scout leadership outcomes...
 - Options: Strong sense of self, positive values, challenge seeking, healthy relationships community & problem solving.
 - Upload additional files, download proposal (and save!)
- Step 6:
- Gold Award Experience Log- Needs 5 entries
 - Track work, time log, budget, experiences, and summary.
 - Send to project advisor and troop leader.
 - Push submit – this will email to council your proposal.

Helpful Hints

GSWCF Gold Award Proposal Form

Be detailed in your answers -makes for a better understanding of what you are doing

Do not leave anything blank - for example: Project Advisor, signatures

Type answers no handwritten forms will be accepted

Please think through your timeline - you **MUST** submit your Gold Award

Project Proposals 4 to 6 weeks prior to your estimated start date. There is a review process of your proposal that takes time.

GSWCF receives Gold Award Proposals most days of the year, so there is always a wait for an interview. **We cannot bump you ahead of other girls waiting – so timing is important.**

Proposal Status

When GSWCF receives your Gold Award proposal you will get an email letting you know it has been received. The review can take up to 2-4 weeks.

When the review is completed you will be emailed to schedule your initial interview, along with helpful questions to review prior to your interview.

At your interview your proposal will be either

Approved!

Your idea is a solid Take Action project and well planned out. You are ready to start your project!

Pending = Work with a Gold Award Coach

As written, the project does not meet the standards of a Girl Scout Gold Award project.

The idea itself may be good, but the project is missing key elements. You may not show your individual mark on the issue, you may need to define your leadership, or the committee may question the project's scope.

Projects designated as pending have potential, but they must be developed to address the areas of concern raised by the Gold Award committee.

A Gold Award Coach will be assigned to you at the time of your interview. You should consult with him/her as you consider how to further develop your project. Then send your revisions to your coach for review. They will let you know when you are approved and ready to start your project.

Don't Despair!

Your proposal status does not judge

you as a person. It's just GSWCF's way of making sure that you will be successful!

Helping Hands—Who's Who?

Girl Scout Advisor

Your Troop volunteer is your Troop Leader or your parent, if you are an Individual Girl Scout. They will help you as you complete your pre-requisites and can help guide you through the Gold Award proposal submission process. Then they become your cheerleader!

GSWCF - Gold Award Coach

Your Gold Award coach is assigned to you at your initial interview and you need to check in with them at least once per month. If you do not stay in contact with them on a regular basis you will not be able to receive your Gold Award. Your Gold Award coach will help guide you and review your project and project pieces to ensure you are staying within guidelines. Please contact them if you have any questions. If for any reason you cannot get ahold of your coach please contact the council at goldaward@gswcf.org

Gold Award Project Advisor

You need to seek out a Project advisor from your community, school, or an organization who has specialized knowledge that relates to your Gold Award Take Action Project. They cannot be your Troop Leader nor your parent, and should be outside of your Girl Scout community. Their signature is required on both your proposal and final report. Somethings your project advisor can help you with are

- **providing content expertise for your project's topic**
- **identifying your ideal target audience**
- **identify areas where you can expand your project**

Your Interview

GSWCF interviews girls once a month year round. Your interview date is determined by the date that it was submitted and the number of submissions received. The Gold Award committee meets once per month to do interviews at the Tampa office (usually the first Wednesday of the month), we also meet in Marion county as needed.

Once your Gold Award proposal is reviewed and accepted you will be invited to your Gold Award Interview via your email address on your proposal. Make sure it is your email, not your parent or guardian's! (please do not use school email addresses)

Here is the low down on what to expect and do!

- Please rsvp promptly— *if you cannot attend, we will invite the next girls in the queue and you will be placed on the next month's agenda.*
- Be sure to read the entire email, so you are prepared for your interview
- Uniforms are appropriate attire— *GS vest and a nice outfit (business casual) if you don't have the entire uniform.*
- You will be interviewed by a small group of 5-8 Gold Award committee members/coaches

- The interview lasts approximately 20 minutes, parents/guardians/troop leaders are not invited into your interview
- Do a practice run — *speak out loud about your Gold Award project idea and plan. This can help you feel confident at your interview*

“Be Prepared” know your project’s issue, root cause, audience, plan, team, partners and be confident, passionate, excited, and not too nervous— we are here to help you!

Bring:

any visuals that will help describe your project idea

- Any paperwork that may be missing- signatures etc.

To help your interview go smoothly, please be prepared to answer any questions that were sent to you prior to your interview. This would have come from the Girl Award and Teen Experience Manager. Also be prepared to answer questions from the committee about your project.

Money and Safety

The Dirt on the Green

Girl Scout girls may ask for in-kind donations of goods and supplies. Keep in mind that Girl Scout **girls cannot ask for cash donations**. Girl Scout adults can do so on your behalf and with your input. You can describe your project to others, write a letter or create a PowerPoint presentation, but an adult has to do the actual “ask”.

All money-earning hours, such as product sales and money earning activities, cannot be counted toward your project hours. Example: the hours spent organizing and running a car wash does not count toward Gold Award project hours. Those hours are not specific to the project. However, if you are doing a presentation while doing a money earning activity it can count towards the hours. All money earning must be approved by your Girl Award and Teen Experience manager at (goldaward@gswcf.org)

Money Earning and Gold Award

Gold: Projects may be funded by Troop Cookie Sales, Troop Fall Product Sales, Troop/ GS Community donations, Troop/ Individual girl Supplemental Earning, family donations, business donations, youth-service grants or girl contributions. **Project budget does not have a value cap-the sky is the limit!** Budget must be review by Girl Award and Teen

Experience Manager 6-12 regardless of dollar amount. All receipts should be kept for all expenses and turned in with project final (It is HIGHLY recommend that no more than 1/3 of the estimated budget be contributed by the individual girl, if possible)

What is Supplemental Money Earning?

Supplemental Money Earning activities are all money-earning activities that girls participate in other than Fall Product Sales and Girl Scout Cookie Sale to support Girl Scout activities. Additional Money Earning events should be an experience that gives girls the opportunity to develop self-confidence and to practice and develop skills in goal-setting, budgeting, marketing, and customer relations. Read the GSWCF and GSUSA policies and standards in Volunteer Essentials regarding money earning online at:

www.gswcf.org/resources

- Money-earning activities need to be age appropriate, suited to the abilities of the girls, be agreed upon by the girls as part of their overall budget and be consistent with the goals and standards of Girl Scouting as presented in Volunteer Essentials and the Blue Book of Basic Documents.
- The Girl Scout Cookie Sale and Fall Product Sale are the primary money-earning activities in which girls can participate. Troops and Individual girls must participate in at least one or more council sponsored product programs, at one point during their Girl Scout career, in order to request a supplemental money earning activities to support their high awards projects as these programs promote and educate girls in financial literacy and money management.
- Supplemental Earning Forms must be **submitted a minimum 4 weeks prior** to the money earning event. Projects may not be approved if conflict with existing council wide events, policies or procedures on money-earning. Forms are attached to this document.
- Troops may only participate in two Supplemental Earning projects during a membership year for Journey Awards, Bronze Awards or other General projects. The number of Supplemental Earning projects allowed for girls participating in the Girl Scout Silver Award will be determined on a case by case basis by the community GSLE coach and the Manager overseeing those awards.
- The number of Supplemental Earning projects allowed for girls participating in the Girl Scout Gold Award will be determined on a case by case basis by the girls Gold Award Coach assigned to the girl and Manager overseeing those awards.
- Girl Scouts forbids use of games of chance, the direct solicitation of cash by girls, and product-demonstration parties. (NO Bingo, Raffles, penny drives, etc) (pg59)
- If you plan on soliciting to businesses and individuals for donations please fill out a Supplemental Money Earning form and attach a list of businesses/individuals you wish to approach and the amounts/items you are requesting.
- If a letter is used, the letter must be reviewed and approved by the Troop Manager 6-12

overseeing the awards at council prior to use. Templates are available on request from Girl Award and Teen Experience Manager 6-12 overseeing those awards.

- All money donations or grant funds for projects with a budget less than \$2,000 should go directly to troop or to Service Unit if girl is an independent with a note for {name} Award Project. The troop or Service Unit will then cut a check to the girl for project expenses. If project exceeds \$2,000 then all money donations or grant funds for project will go to Girl Scouts of West Central Florida and mailed to Girl Scout office, Girl Scouts West Central Florida, Attn: Accounting Department 4610 Eisenhower Blvd. Tampa, FL 3463. Council will then cut a check to the troop or Service Unit who will then cut a check for the girl for project expenses.
- If you plan on applying for youth- grants for your project (**GS Silver and Gold Awards ONLY**), pre-approval to apply is required. All grant money must be sent to council first. Council will then cut a check to the girls' troop or Service Unit who will then cut the check to the girl for project expenses.
- Girls can't make the "ask" for money or In-Kind donations as members of Girl Scouts. This asking is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout policy states adults are the only people who can raise money for Girl Scouting thus, girls need to partner with adults to seek donations. Girls can describe their projects to others, write a letter, create a PowerPoint presentation, or write the grant, but an adult has to make the actual "ask" and sign on the dotted line.

Guidelines for using crowdfunding to fund your Gold Award Project

You will need to work with the Girl Award and Teen Experience Manager to set up your crowdfunding page. If you open up your own crowdfunding page, you may be denied your Gold Award.

Your project must exceed \$2,000 to use a crowdfunding site.

Complete these steps to ensure your crowdfunding page is successful:

1. Submit your project proposal and get approval from the Gold Award committee to start your project.
2. Turn in a budget form and cost estimate that illustrates when and how you will use the funds.
3. Figure out a timeline for when to stop the crowdfunding page (i.e. after two months or when you reach 100% of goal)
4. Provide a clear plan for your project, a paragraph or two about your project and why you are doing it and what the funds will be used for- this will go onto the crowdfunding site. Also, provide any pictures you would like to include on the website.

5. GSWCF will give stipends for your project so when you need funds you will need to request a check 2 weeks prior to needing it. To request a check, send an email to goldaward@gswcf.org and include the items you will be purchasing as well as the amount you need, be sure to estimate costs for taxes.
 - a. Once you receive the check you will need to submit copies of the receipts as you are purchasing items.(no later than one week after purchasing)
 - b. Keep detailed receipts and invoices. Please be sure to write your name and troop number on the top of the receipts so we know what project it is for and can file accordingly.
 - c. All funds must be used for your project even if you go over your goal-to prevent this you can stop the fundraiser once you reach your goal. (recommended)
 - d. If you do not spend all of the funds they should be returned to GSWCF within one week. (if you do not return funds that were not utilized for your project you may be denied your Gold Award)
 - e. GSWCF can pay vendors directly, the vendor will need to provide a W-9 form. (this is the best way to pay for services or items)
 - f. Funds cannot be donated to another organization they must be used for your project only!

Money Donations to Others

- Girls CANNOT donate money, raise money, ask for money or do a money earning activity for another organization or person as a Girl Scout.
- Example: Girls can't have a bake sale and tell people that they are giving the proceeds to a homeless shelter for meals, ask for pledges for a walk-a-thon to benefit breast cancer research, or hold a benefit dance to raise money for Sally's kidney operation.
- Girls CAN hold a money earning activity or ask for money from businesses/people in which the money the goes towards her project. The money may go towards purchasing materials to support her project or materials to donate to a cause. However, the girl (s) must have council permission for any Supplemental Earning (see above)

Supplemental Earning Ideas

Reminder: All Girl Scout activities must meet Safety Activity Checkpoints and Volunteer Essentials and be approved by council. [Safety activity checkpoints](#)

- Provide childcare at special events during the holiday season or community events. (Be sure to have an adult or girl trained in First Aid/CPR

present.)

- Recycle aluminum cans. (How about a community can-a-thon? Involve small businesses as well as families.)
- Host a Girl Scout event: Daddy daughter dance, Barn dance, Juliette Gordon Low birthday bash
- Put on a gigantic garage sale
- Have a bake sale
- Offer clown activities and face painting at family events or malls
- Wrap gift packages
- Provide classroom or home birthday parties on order
- Have a dog wash, car wash, or window wash
- Create jewelry, accessories or crafts

and sell them at a local fair, to friends or neighbors

- Pet walking and pet care
- Babysitting
- Lawn mowing, leaf raking
- Recycling
- Tutoring younger kids
- Providing respite care for family caregivers
- Refereeing sports games
- Creating hand-made greeting cards
- Providing a calligraphy service for addresses on special invitations
- Provide holiday decorating services
- Teach dance, sewing or other activity

SUPPLEMENTAL EARNING REQUEST Form – High Awards

This form is to be used when girl(s) plan a supplemental money activity to help finance her GS Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. **Attach project budget form to this.** GS Bronze groups- submit to community troop consultant, GS Silver and Gold groups/individuals submit to council Troop Support Manager 6-12.

Troop/Individual # _____ Program Age Level: ____ Junior ____ Cadette ____ Senior ____
Ambassador

Girl Scout's Name: _____ Girl Scout Community: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____
Telephone # (____) _____ Email: _____

Projected Money Earning Project(s):

Proposed Date _____

Proposed Date _____

Proposed Date _____

1. PROJECTED INCOME

Money Earning Activity	Estimated Income
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
TOTALS	\$ _____

PROJECTED INCOME TOTAL

\$

2. PROJECTED EXPENSES

Specific Expenses – Describe	Estimated
Expenses _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

PROJECT EXPENSES TOTAL

\$

3. TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROFIT (Income less expenses)

\$

We have read the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida and GSUSA policies and standards in *Volunteer Essentials*. We have discussed our money-earning activity plan with the parents/guardians and have secured their support for these activities.

Group/Individual Girls Signature
Signature

Date
Date

Adult

FOR COUNCIL USE

Money-Earning Project Approved _____ Money-Earning Project Not-Approved _____

If not approved reason

are: _____

Staff person reviewed: _____ Date: _____

*If project exceeds \$2,000.00 project must be approved and reviewed by Troop Support Manager

BUDGET FORM

Project Title: _____

Income from	Details	Amount

Total income: _____

Expense Item	Details	Amount

Total expenses: _____

Safety First

During your Gold Award Take Action Project, keeping yourself, your team, and your participants safe is key! Make sure to ask yourself these questions:

Do I have any volunteers or participants under the age of 18? If so, I definitely need to have permission slips for them. Do you have photo release permission for those under 18. [Permission slip](#)

Have I thought about having any snacks or meals? What food allergies do my participants have? This is a great question to ask on permission slips. Once I read my permission slips, what allergens might I need to avoid?

Are the activities I'll be doing during my project, or activities like them, listed in the online [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)? If so, what do I need to do to ensure the safety of my project participants?

Do ALL Girl Scout meetings and activities need a first aider?

No, but a first aider **is required** for:

- Physically demanding activities
- Activities involving potential injury such as but not limited to hiking, camping, backpacking, bicycling, caving, climbing, horseback riding, skating, skiing, swimming, and boating.
- An activity of 24 hours or more

Event Planning

If you are planning to hold an event as a part of your Girl Scout Gold Award Project please be sure to follow Volunteer Essentials and Safety Activity Checkpoints guidelines for events (add links). Here is some helpful information that you may need specifically for your project.

Event insurance

What is event/accident insurance?

We use it mainly to insure people who are not registered Girl Scouts but they are participating in an authorized, supervised Girl Scout activity. This insurance is similar to our regular Girl Scout insurance that covers registered members during our normal Girl Scout activities: (for further information see [Volunteer Essentials](#))

HOW TO APPLY FOR EVENT/ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Applying for event/accident insurance doesn't require a special form!

- It's inexpensive – only 11 cents per unregistered person per day!
- Payment must be in the form of a check or money order payable to United of Omaha, or an ACH bank draft. Unfortunately we are unable to process a cash payment for insurance.

Just email your event information to Mwilliams@gswcf.org and mail or drop off a check or money order to her at
GSWCF Attn: Maurna Williams
4610 Eisenhower Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33634

- Date/Time
- Location address
- Approximate Number of attendees

Social Media Tips and Tricks for High Awards

Social media is a great tool for Girl Scouts to connect their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award Project to members of their community. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Blogs, and YouTube are all great options to help you sustainably advocate for your project. And creating groups, pages, and content for your project is easy!

4 Keys to Social Media Success:

1. **Be Safe** – Follow the guidelines of the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge, and use your best judgement when posting personal information online. When in doubt, ask your advisor for guidance on what is safe to post.
2. **Be Respectful** – Treating others with warmth and respect allows your followers to feel comfortable asking questions and engaging with your page and posts. When responding to a negative audience, write your response not for the person who made the comment, but for the next person who will read both the original comment and your response. You can't change the haters, but you can show your maturity and respectfulness to others who come along afterwards.

3. **Be Resourceful** – Utilize the page and your posts to advocate and educate for your cause, and call people to action. Be sure to clearly introduce yourself, your project, and your goal. Let people know why they should care and how they can help.

4. **Be Connected** – Each social media outlet allows you to connect with audiences of different demographics. People use Twitter for news consumption and updates that are short and get to the point quickly. 90% of people on Instagram are under age 35, and communicate with visuals rather than text. LinkedIn is where business professionals network, so it can be useful for communicating with people who have high-income and are highly educated. Think about what kind of message you want to communicate, and with whom you want to share it, and then choose the social media that fits your needs.

*If you have any questions, or need advice on social media for your project, please contact: The Girl Award and Teen Experience manager at goldaward@gswcf.org

Making a Powerful YouTube Video

While it may be tempting to shoot a quick video on your phone and upload it to YouTube right away, taking the time to plan and make a bit more of an effort will result in a higher quality video that can engage and inspire your audience. The best advice when making a video to post to YouTube is to think about the videos you watch, and what keeps you watching, or makes you click away. Try our tips below for making a great YouTube video, and be sure to publicize your video on your other social media pages.

- **Sound-** Can your audience hear you? Viewers will often make allowances for fuzzy videos, but if they can't understand what you're saying, they're a lot more likely to leave your page. You don't need to buy a microphone or expensive equipment. Just find a quiet place with good acoustics, take a few test videos, and listen to them. Can you understand what's being said? Is there a lot of background noise (a crowd talking, wind blowing, etc.)?
- **Lighting-** Can your audience see you? Good lighting will make even a low-quality camera produce better video. Again, there's no need to buy expensive equipment, you can place a few desk lamps behind and around the camera. Good lighting will make you stand out from the background, and give a sense of depth to the video.
- **Make a plan-** Communicating effectively is easiest when you know what you're going to say, and how to say it. Write out a script, and decide what your shots will look like ahead of time. Having a plan will help you prevent awkward pauses, fumbling with your words, and using verbal fillers (like, uh, um, etc.). Pro Tip: Let your passion and personality shine through. People want to see someone they can relate to, not a robot.
- **Jump cuts-** Scripts can be hard to memorize, and getting it all exactly right can be frustrating. Jump cuts can be used to make this easy! While recording, have a friend read your line to you, and then you say it back. Do this for the entire script. After you have all your shots, use a video editor (like iMovie or Windows Movie Maker) to edit out your helper's voice. Pro Tip: make sure your body position is consistent from cut to cut. It can be a jarring to have someone's body move from one position to another, without seeing how it got there.
- **Hold the camera like a pro-** If you're filming with your phone, make sure you're holding it horizontally, not vertically. Try to avoid a shaky camera. If you'll be filming a long video, find a way to prop the camera up without holding it. Using a tripod, or even a stack of books on a table, will make a big difference. Pro Tip: Don't zoom. Using zoom on a phone will cause your image to have a lower resolution. Place yourself closer to the camera instead.
- **End with a call to action-** Now that people have watched your video, and you've convinced them to join your cause, what should they do? Let them know how they can help, where they can find information, and ask them to like, comment and share your video. Make sure to use tags that are general enough that you can find wide audience, but not so popular that your video gets lost. The "funny" tag may be relevant, but it'll also get lost in the millions of humorous videos on YouTube. Pro Tip: Verbal calls to action work best, but you should also be sure to also include this information in the video's description.

National Young Women of Distinction

- Every year GSUSA selects 10 National Young Women of Distinction. These young women have earned the Gold Award with outstanding projects and will receive scholarship money in the \$10,000 range as a result of this honor.
- Each year GSWCF is able to nominate 3 girls to GSUSA for National Young Women of Distinction. In order to be nominated you will be asked to fill out the Go Gold Online form for your Gold Award Proposal and Final documents. If you are nominated we will contact you with further instructions.

To learn more about the National Young Women of Distinction please visit

[National Young Women of Distinction](#)

The Finish Line

First, Complete the Gold Award final paperwork in the Go Gold App online. (same place you started your proposal) Download and turn it into your Gold Award coach for review. They may ask you to revise or add items to your project to ensure that you have met all of the requirements.

Then, once your Gold Award coach approves your paperwork you can then submit it in the Go gold online app. Once it is received it make take 2-4 weeks to be reviewed once reviewed you will be contacted to come in for your final interview.

Don't forget, to go over the forms and reflect on your experiences with your Troop/Group Volunteer and your Gold Award Project Advisor.

Celebrate

The Gold Award Ceremony is the official Girl Scouts of West Central Florida celebration that recognizes the current year's Gold Award Girl Scouts. The event is held each year in June to recognize those girls who earned their award during the 12 months from April to March.

Every Gold Award Girl Scout who turns in her completed Final Report by March 31 or September 30 (prior year) is recognized at this event.

Upon completion of the Girl Scout Gold Award, you become a member of the **Gold Award Alliance**, a sisterhood of all past recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award or prior similar awards. As a Gold Award Girl Scout we encourage you to stay involved in Girl Scouts, by contacting the Volunteer Initiatives Manager at GSNC. As a Gold Awardee you are now a role model for the next generations of girls!