

# WHY GIRLS SHOULD GO GOLD



## ABOUT ME

Hello everyone! My name is Chrissy P. I am a Girl Scout Ambassador and have been a Girl Scout since elementary school. Currently, I am a junior in high school. I am working on my Girl Scout Gold Award, a project I designed to close the achievement gap by tutoring disadvantaged children and raising awareness. I also serve as a Girl Member of the GSWCF Board.

## ABOUT THE GOLD AWARD

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. It is a service project that addresses substantial issues within communities and builds girls of character.

You can learn more about the Girl Scout Gold Award [here](#).

Unfortunately, only about 6% of Girl Scouts at GSWCF earn their Gold Award, and only 5% of Girl Scouts earn their Gold Award nationally. I hope to change this by building awareness about the impact of the Gold Award and by sharing the experiences of girls who have earned the Gold Award.

## THE PURPOSE OF MY PROJECT

1. The first goal of my project was to gain insight into the Gold Award by surveying Gold Award recipients.
2. The second goal of my project is to use that data to promote the Gold Award and increase participation.

## WHAT I DID

- I reached out to Gold Award Girl Scouts and sent them a survey.
- I emailed 60 Gold Award Girl Scouts from GSWCF who earned their Gold Award in either 2018 or 2019.
- I asked them questions about their experience including: how they overcame challenges, what they enjoyed, what advice they have, how the Gold Award has impacted them down the road, and what they would say to Girl Scouts who are unsure about going for their Gold Award.
- I received 26 responses\*, which I compiled and analyzed.

\*Responses have been edited for grammar or clarity.

## SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What motivated you to earn your Girl Scout Gold Award?
2. What were your biggest struggles and how did you overcome them?
3. What did you enjoy most from the experience of completing your Gold Award?
4. What skills did you gain?
5. How did completing the Gold Award impact you down the road?
6. On a scale of 1-10, how highly would you recommend completing a Girl Scout Gold Award project?
7. How would you encourage Girl Scouts who are unsure about completing the Gold Award?

# SUMMARY

1. Motivation: The motivation to complete the Gold Award stemmed from a desire to benefit the community and learn life skills.
2. Challenges: The most common challenges were organization and time management. They were able to overcome these challenges through mentorship and persistence.
3. What they enjoyed: The Gold Award Girl Scouts enjoyed the opportunity to directly impact the community, interact with a diverse range of people, and make a positive difference in the lives of many people.
4. Skills learned: While working on their Gold Award projects, the Girl Scouts developed leadership, communication, organization, and time management skills, in addition to increasing their confidence.
5. Gold Award Impact: Earning their Girl Scout Gold Award helped these girls with the college application process, helped them earn scholarships, enhanced their professional resumes, and gave them a sense of accomplishment that empowered them to be leaders in their everyday lives.
6. Recommendation: These Gold Award Girl Scouts recommended completing the Gold Award at a 9.6/10, with 14 out of the 26 (54%) recommended it at a 10.
7. Advice: The Gold Award Girl Scouts advised girls who are uncertain about completing a Gold Award project to persevere because it is an invaluable experience. They said that the skills gained and network formed while working on their projects made the experience worthwhile.

## Q1. WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO DO THE GOLD AWARD?

“I wanted to do something to help my community.”

“Even though I am not able to physically help every single homeless animal, I thought I’d do my part...and raise awareness so others can help out as well.”

“My troop leaders were extremely supportive and encouraging.”

“I really wanted to make an impact in my community and do it with something I am passionate about.”

“I knew that earning my Gold Award would be very helpful in building my character and skills.”



## Q2. WHAT WERE YOUR BIGGEST STRUGGLES AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

“Organizing events...I constantly was in contact with everyone involved.”

“The church delaying the start date..I just had to be persistent.”

“Time was the biggest constraint. I was able to recruit more volunteers to help.”

“I was most concerned with...sustainability. I posted the plan online, did an interview with the local news, and donated relevant books to the school.”

“Trying to deal with school, extracurricular activities, sports, etc. I overcame this struggle by seriously learning about time management and priorities.”

Q3. WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST FROM THE  
EXPERIENCE OF COMPLETING YOUR GOLD  
AWARD?

“I enjoyed the chance to do something that will exist forever and change lives.”

“Looking at everything that I was able to donate to help the animals without homes made me so happy.”

“Working with the migrant kids was my favorite part of the project.”

“I enjoyed leadership as well as teamwork.”

“Just being able to talk to such a wide variety of people from different backgrounds that helped me with my project.”

“Interacting with kids my age to get them involved.”

### Q3. WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST? (CONT.)

“The ability to connect with my community.”

“Being able to see the impact of my project”

“I enjoyed the process and learned many skills along the way.”

”It was a small way to show my appreciation for all [female veterans] have done for me.”

“I enjoyed the energy with which the students I spoke to responded.”

“I really enjoyed working with different members from my community that I wouldn't have worked with otherwise.”

## Q4. WHAT SKILLS DID YOU GAIN?

“Organization, time management, leadership”

“Communication, time management, professionalism”

“Networking skills”

“How to successfully lead and plan an event”

“Research skills and confidence”

“Improved ability to communicate and articulate my ideas”

“Reaching out to people on my own...this project taught me that every voice matters and that everyone can make a difference.”

“I learned the skills of delegation, mentorship, and confidence.”

## Q5. HOW DID COMPLETING THE GOLD AWARD IMPACT YOU DOWN THE ROAD?

“It helped me learn to be self-motivated.”

“It is a project I continue to talk about and it is something I am proud of.”

“I have a better ability to interact as an equal in professional settings.”

“...It made me realize that if I truly put my heart into something, I'll be able to accomplish anything.”

“...It helped me get into my first choice college as well as the honors program.”

“Giving me a mindset of purpose and reason to change myself and the world for the better”

## Q5. HOW DID IT IMPACT YOU DOWN THE ROAD? (CONT.)

- “I feel better prepared presenting ideas and communicating with people from other organizations whom I am not already familiar with.”
- “I currently have my Girl Scout Gold Award on my professional resume, which is very helpful.”
- “Completing my Gold Award gave me confidence that I can always do what I set out to do.”
- “My Gold Award has aided me in becoming a finalist in a national scholarship.”
- “I believe that completing my Gold Award was instrumental in helping me get accepted to all of my top colleges and has helped me develop leadership skills that I have already utilized in college.”

## Q5. HOW DID IT IMPACT YOU DOWN THE ROAD? (CONT.)

“Not only does the Gold Award show colleges and scholarships that you care about making an impact in your community and helping others, but the skills I gained in communication, collaboration, and leadership will be helpful throughout college, my career, and beyond.”

“I used my organizational and leadership skills to organize several service projects at my university.”

“I received scholarships for completing my Gold Award...I was even hired for a job because the employer knew how big of a deal this award is.”

Q6. ON A SCALE OF 1-10, HOW HIGHLY  
WOULD YOU RECOMMEND COMPLETING  
THE GOLD AWARD?

Out of the 26 responses, the average was a 9.6.

14 respondents (54%) ranked it a 10/10.



## Q7. HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE GIRL SCOUTS WHO ARE UNSURE ABOUT COMPLETING THE GOLD AWARD?

“It is worth it for interviews and college applications.”

“Speak to others...and ask for help when you need it”

“There are no words to explain the feeling at the end of the road when you have fully completed your project and you actually receive your award. Hearing your name, walking across that stage and being acknowledged is one of the best feelings in the world. Knowing that you were able to make a change in your community is truly amazing.”

“It may seem daunting now to complete the Gold Award, but once you work through whatever is making you uncomfortable, you will come out on the other side and you won't be uncomfortable anymore. What you are currently experiencing will not last forever, but having that Gold Award to be able to put on your resume forever makes it all worth it.”

## Q7. HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE GIRL SCOUTS? (CONT.)

“I would say that not only can it be such a resume builder but it gives you the skills you need to be a leader in your community and whatever future career field you want to enter.”

“Just get started! The time to complete the Gold Award flies by, so if you’re considering it, just start! This will allow for the most flexibility during the process and reduce the stress of completing by a certain time- so don’t wait. It’s such a rewarding process, for both the impacted community and you.”

“It is a lot of hard work, but there are people who are willing to help you. It is a great opportunity to be able to make a lasting change in an area that you care a lot about”

## Q7. HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE GIRL SCOUTS? (CONT.)

“The skills and community that I built through the program have made brought success to me inside and outside of girl scouts. I have been able to put this project on my college resumes and it has helped me grow as a member of my community.”

“Try to do it!...If you don't try, you will never be able to achieve it.”

“Completing your Gold Award will be one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. It's something that you'll appreciate for the rest of your life.”

## CONCLUSION: WHY GIRLS SHOULD GO GOLD

In conclusion, the Girl Scout Gold Award is an important learning experience that fosters leadership and communication skills. It also prepares Girl Scouts for their college and professional lives.

In addition to using this Powerpoint as a resource, I suggest the following steps to encourage Girl Scouts to “Go for the Gold”:

1. Ask Gold Award recipients to speak directly to your troop.
2. Encourage girls to identify an issue they feel passionate about.
3. Help girls reach out to people who could serve as their Gold Award mentor.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or would like to speak further, please contact  
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Thank you for reading.

