Gold Award Girl Scout Resource Guide





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Where to Begin?

Yay! You're ready to begin your quest for Gold – so just how do you get started?

- 1. Complete your Gold Award pre-requisites
 - a. Registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador (must be in 9th grade or above)
 - b. **Two** Senior or Ambassador Journeys OR
 - c. Earn your Girl Scout Silver Award and **one** Senior or Ambassador Journey
- 2. Read through this packet (good start!) to gather important information about our Gold Award processes.
- 3. Register to attend a council-led Gold Award training (online or in person)
 - a. Find all upcoming training dates at www.gcnwiprograms.org
 OR
 - b. Request a custom training for your troop or service unit



From green to gold, leaders are born.



So, you want to Take Action!?

Gold Award projects (or Take Action projects) should...

- Have a national and/or global link
- Be sustainable
- Take approximately 80 hours of your time
- Address an issue that you are passionate about

What does that mean?

National and/or Global link

• Your issue may be as local as saving trees in the town park. Now step back and look around. Forests across the country are being devastated by other things as well, what connection can you find?

Sustainable

 How will your project remain active even when you're done? Will someone pick up where you left off? Will education you instilled be provided again?

Takes approximately 80 hours

• 80 hours of **your own time** starts with doing your research and choosing an issue (before you ever submit a proposal). Remember that hours project volunteers put in do not count towards your 80.

Address an issue you care about

• You care about. Not your mom, dad, best friend, or leader. You. Be brave and take a stand.

Think Bigger!

(Take Action vs. Service)

What's the difference?

Community Service Project	Take Action Project
Addresses an immediate need	Addresses the root cause of an issue in the community
in the community	
A project done FOR the	A project done WITH the community
community	
A one-time project that helps	A long-term project that is sustainable and makes a
something or someone now	lasting impact
Uses your time	Uses your leadership
Short term, helps right now	Helps longer term (sustainable)
You show up for something	You get other people to show up to help you with
already set-up by someone else	something you arranged

What **NOT** to Do

Canned Projects

 Because a canned project is pre-designed and demands only that you implement someone else's project. Gold Awards require you to act in a leadership role from start to finish.

Collection Projects

 Because collecting items does not elicit the creativity or leadership we know Girl Scouts are capable of.

Fundraising Projects

• Because Girl Scouts are not allowed to raise money for another organization.

Group Projects

• Because your Gold Award is about making change on an issue **you** are passionate about. This doesn't mean others won't be working with you and consulting, just that you'll be the one calling the shots!

Who's Who of the Gold Award Process?

Project Advisor

An advisor who is not your troop leader or a family member. This person should be an expert in the field that your project relates to.

**(They will be responsible for signing off on your proposal before you can submit to council)

Gold Award Panel

Made up of volunteers, the Gold Award Panel will review your proposal and final reports and provide feedback and suggestions.

You – the Girl Scout!

Troop Leader/Family Members

This person knows your Girl Scout journey and can verify that you have met the pre-requisites before beginning your Gold Award.

**(They will have to electronically verify that you have met prerequisites before you can submit your proposal.)

Gold Award Coach

Assigned to you by region, your Gold Award Coach will be your guide throughout your project. You will be responsible for meeting with them **before** you receive full approval to start your project. You should also check in with them throughout your project.

Girl Scout Council Staff

Have questions? Reach out to council staff. This will also be the person communicating with you via email regarding approval and assigning your coach.

Step by Step

Have meeting with your Gold Award Complete Gold Award pre-requisites: Coach and receive approval. After that Earn the Silver Award and complete coach meeting it's time to execute one Senior/Ambassador journey OR your project! earn two Senior/Ambassador journeys. Complete your Gold Award project. Be sure to check in with your Gold Award Begin the Go Gold online process. Create a login and move through Steps Coach (at least monthly!) 1 & 2 (Investigate and Discover). This also includes research! Work with your Gold Award Coach to submit your final report through Go Begin your project proposal (through Gold online. Go Gold online). Be sure you have your project advisor identified! Submit your final report to council for feedback/approval. Once proposal is verified by your leader and project advisor, submit to council for approval. Once you receive council approval congratulations, you've earned your Gold Award. Share your story and Receive feedback from council on your celebrate! Don't forget to attend our council Gold Award Ceremony in the proposal and meet your Gold Award Coach! spring!

Think Ahead

Wondering how long the process will take? Think about this...

 Pre-requisites (Journey may take up to six months to complete) These hours DO NOT count towards your total of 80.

- Research! Be sure to do enough research, you want to be well informed.
- Identify a project advisor. Be sure to pick someone willing to help and guide your project.
- Write your proposal in Go Gold online. Remember you can always save and come back if necessary!

These hours DO count towards your total of 80.

- Allow some time for your troop leader and project advisor to sign off (electronically) – it may take a week or so.
- Submit proposal to council. Allow up to two weeks from submission for our panel to review your paperwork and provide feedback. Council will contact you when it's been reviewed.
- Meet your Gold Award Coach! Communicate and set up a meeting with your coach, don't wait too long! Remember, they are the one who **ultimately approves** you to move forward and execute your project!

All aspects are estimated and dependent on a girl's schedule.

Go Gold online

What, Why, Where?

What?

Go Gold online is a platform created by GSUSA for girls to keep all of their Gold Award information in one place! Girls will make an account and be taken through steps (1-7) while they work through their Gold Award.

Why?

Go Gold online is easily accessible through mobile or web browsers. It is easy to use and walks girls through, step by step, the process of going gold. There is also an auto-save function, so data won't be lost!

Where?

Go Gold online can be accessed via our council website (www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org). Girls will create an account and utilize this platform throughout their entire Gold Award process.



Proposal Pro Tips

Ready to start your proposal through Go Gold online? Perfect! Keep these things in mind while you move through the process.

- Be sure you have identified your project advisor! They will be responsible for signing off on your proposal (electronically) before you submit to council.
- Make sure you provide detailed answers to the questions.
 Providing more detail up front will help ensure you aren't asked to make any edit later in the process.
- Put thought into your budget and timeline/project plan. The more detail you can give the better our panel can understand how you are going to complete your project.

Starting your proposal during your senior year in high school? Seniors in high school **must submit** their project proposals by June 1st of their graduation year to be eligible for their Gold Award.

Next Steps

Once you've submitted your proposal to council, give us some time for our panel to review. This can take up to two weeks.

After our panel has reviewed your proposal, you'll hear from council via email.

- Panel has no questions and you move to the next step of the process – it's time to meet your Gold Award Coach and set up your meeting.
- Panel needs some more information/details from your proposal. Please edit online and resubmit before meeting your coach.

Approaching the Finish Line

As you work through your project and are approaching the end it's time to start thinking about your final report. Remember – you should be keeping in contact with your coach throughout your project.

Use Go Gold online to work on your final report and remember these helpful hints:

- Your project advisor will have to sign off on your final report as well (electronically). Give them enough time to receive the email and respond, don't expect it to be the same day.
- The more detail and information you provide in your answers (and budget and timeline) the better off you'll be! By providing the most detail you can you'll help our panel to understand the full scope of your project and what you did to better the world.
- The Gold Award Panel will ultimately provide your approval. You
 will receive notification from council once the panel has reviewed.
 Please allow up to two weeks for the panel to review.

Please remember – you have until September 30th of the year you graduate high school to complete your Gold Award. For example, a girl that graduates high school in May 2020 has until September 30th of that year to complete her Gold Award project and receive approval from council.

If you are a graduating senior, we advise that you submit your final report on Go Gold online **no later than September 10th so our panel has time to review **before** the September 30th deadline.

Tell Your Story & Celebrate!

Tell Your Story!

Use your voice and share what you have just accomplished!
Becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout is an amazing accomplishment, so
tell everyone! Write a story for your local newspaper, get a blog to
show off your project, or get your message out through social media.
Whatever the way, it's time to show off your leadership skills and tell
the world!

*Spreading the word is not the equivalent of sustainability. It should be in addition to sustainability.

Celebrate!

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana hosts a celebration that recognizes our newest Gold Award Girl Scouts. The event is held yearly in May to recognize those girls who earned their award during the 12 months from March to March. Girls need to have completed their projects by March 1st of the calendar year to be recognized that year.

Every year, 10 inspiring Gold Award Girl Scouts are chosen as National Gold Award Girl Scouts. This honor is given to Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors whose Gold Award projects demonstrated extraordinary leadership, had measurable and sustainable impact, and addressed a local challenge related to a national and/or global issue. Please talk to your council regarding nomination for this honor.

What else...?

Use these additional resources to help answer any questions you may have. Still don't see the answer you need? Contact council staff.

- 1. Leader/Parent Guide to helping girls through the Gold Award
- 2. Project Advisor templates how to reach out
- 3. Money Earning FAQs
- Copy of Proposal and Final Report forms (for example only – all submissions need to be online via Go Gold online)





The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Leaders

How can girls earn the Gold Award?

The first step is to check in with your council's Gold Award staff. You'll want to find out if they require any type of training (e.g., an informational session) before girls can begin the Gold Award application process. These staff members will also be invaluable partners to both you and your Girl Scouts throughout the process. When girls are ready to get started, they can complete an online application through GoGold Online—our national web app that guides girls through the seven steps to earning the Gold Award.

What are the core components of earning the Gold Award?

A girl first identifies the root cause of a community issue she's passionate about. She then designs and implements a Take Action project that addresses a significant need in the community and has long-term benefits. The girl must show leadership by guiding a team of volunteers who support her project, which must be sustainable and measurable with a national and/or global link.

Here's more on that:

- Sustainable projects continue to have an impact after the Girl Scout has completed her part.
- **Measurable** projects enable a girl to demonstrate her impact through data and other information. She can use numbers to say, "Here's how I know I made a change."
- A Gold Award project has a national and/or global link when a Girl Scout can explain how her project connects to an issue that is relevant beyond her own community. Examples: poverty, literacy, women's rights, environmental sustainability.

What resources are available to help girls and caregivers understand the Gold Award?

Check out GSUSA's <u>Gold Award webpage</u> for the fundamentals—and visit your council's website as well, because each council has a unique process that supports girls through their Gold Award journeys! Your council may also offer sharable resources aimed at both Girl Scouts and adults.

In October 2019, GSUSA will release brief coaching videos on its <u>YouTube channel</u>. These videos will help girls understand the core components of going Gold.

Pro-tip: Help your troop parents learn about the Gold Award! When they understand the process and see the value, they can help their daughters prioritize it among their other commitments.

What is the time commitment behind earning the Gold Award?

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from Girl Scouts, though the girls themselves design the timelines. In some cases, the work is completed over the course of a summer, and in others, over a year.

When are Girl Scouts eligible to begin working toward their Gold Award?

Girl Scouts should be a registered Senior or Ambassador in grades 9–12. In order to be eligible, girls must have completed two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or have completed a Silver Award and completed one Senior or Ambassador Journey.

Communicating with Your Project Advisor

This may be your project advisor's first time being involved with a Gold Award project. So take the opportunity to educate them about Girl Scouts and the Gold Award. Below is a template to help you, though keep in mind that it's just a jumping-off point—be sure to add your own voice and thoughts! Consider laying out a communication strategy with your advisor from the get-go, based on what works best with your timeline and your advisor's schedule. Let your advisor know how, and how often, you plan to check in, and because they may have a busy schedule, it can also be helpful to suggest some specific dates in advance.

Dear [PROJECT ADVISOR NAME],

Thank you for volunteering to be my project advisor for my Girl Scout Gold Award project. I would like to share more with you about what the Gold Award means and what you can expect.

The Gold Award is the highest award that Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn. In order to become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a girl identifies an issue that's important to her, then develops and carries out an innovative and sustainable solution with measurable impact. Each project must link to a national and/or global issue.

I plan to earn my Gold Award by addressing [DESCRIPTION OF YOUR CHOSEN ISSUE, WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, AND HOW YOU'LL APPROACH IT].

Project advisors play an important role in this process. Although plans and ideas should be my own, I will appreciate any knowledge and advice you can offer along the way.

I would like to check in with you by [YOUR COMMUNICATION STRATEGY]. Please let me know if that makes sense to you.

If you'd like, you can learn more about the Gold Award at <u>girlscouts.org</u>. I have also attached additional information to help you understand the instrumental role you'll play in supporting my efforts.

Thank you again for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Money Earning FAQs

- Girl Scouts may ask for in-kind donations of goods and supplies. Girl Scouts cannot ask for cash donations.
- Girl Scout adults can make requests for goods or supply donations on your behalf and with your input.
 Girls can describe their project, but adults must do the asking.
- Remember that Girl Scouts cannot raise money for another organization.
- All money earned should flow through your troop account. If you are an individually registered member, money must go through a service unit account or an account your parent opens specifically for your Girl Scout money.
- Fall product and cookie sales should be the first way a girl raises money for her Gold Award project. If more funding is needed, she can apply for an additional money earning activity at www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org. (Money earning activities may not be done during fall produce or cookie sales.)



Your Name:

NOTE: BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM, CHECK WITH YOUR COUNCIL TO DETERMINE IF THEY REQUIRE GOLD AWARD TRAINING AND/OR ONLY ACCEPT APPLICATIONS ONLINE. IF YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE, PLEASE GO TO: https://gogold.girlscouts.org.

Prior to starting your project, subn	nit this proposal	to:	
Council Name:		*	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Street Address:			
City:		_ State:	Zip Code:
Email:	Phone:		
NOTE: BE SURE TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOS	SAL BY THE DATE ES	STABLISHED BY YOUR	COUNCIL.
Your Name:	*		
Street Address:			
City:			
Email:	Phone:		
Age: Grad Year:	School:		
Troop/Group Number: Troop	/Group Volunteer:_		
Troop/Group Volunteer's Phone:	Ema	il:	
Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor:			
Project Advisor's Organization:			
Project Advisor's Phone:	•		





Prerequisites: You must have either completed Abassador Journey, or B) two Journeys. Please list your troop/group volunteer's signature.		
Senior/Ambassador Journey	Date Completed	Troop/Group Volunteer's Signature
1.		
2.		
Girl Scout Silver Award Completion Date		

Your Name:___

Council Where You Earned the Award

Your Team: List the names of individuals and organizations you plan to work with on your Gold Award project. This is a preliminary list that may grow over the course of your project.

Individual (if applicable)	Organization	How my team will help





☐ Other:_____

girl scouts Y	our Name:
Proposed Project Description	
Gold Award Title:	
Proposed Start Date:	Proposed Completion Date:
The theme(s) my Gold Award will address is/are:	
☐ Animals	☐ Health
☐ Arts, Culture, Heritage	☐ Healthy Relationships
☐ Children's Issues	☐ Human Rights
☐ Civic Engagement	☐ Military/Veterans Affairs
☐ Disability Issues	☐ Poverty
☐ Disaster Relief	☐ Public Safety
☐ Education	☐ Sports
☐ Elderly Issues	☐ STEM

My Gold Award aims to address this issue:

☐ Environment & Sustainability

The reasons I selected my issue are:





	Your Nam	e:	
--	----------	----	--

Root Cause

The root cause of my issue is:

I will address the root cause by:

Target Audience

The target audience(s) for my Gold Award project is/are:

The skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes my target audience will gain are:

I will know that my audience has gained the desired skills/knowledge because:

Proposed Impact—National and/or Global Link

My Gold Award's national and/or global link is:





Girl	Scout	Gold	Award	Projec	t Pron	osal
	SCOUL	OUIG	Avvaiu		LIIUP	USai

Your Name:

Proposed Impact—Measurable Goals

Measurement of my project's success:

What my audience will learn/gain	How I will measure impact	When I will measure impact
,		
	,	

If you need more space, please use the extra page at the end of the application.

SMART goals are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely. My Gold Award project's **SMART** goals are:

Proposed Impact—Sustainability

My Gold Award will be sustained beyond my involvement by:





Girl	Scout	Gold	Award	Project Proposa
SILI	Scout	Gold	Awaru	Project Proposa

Your Name:	

Create Your Plan

I will put my plan into action by:

Date	Activity	Teammate(s) Needed	Resources Needed	Hours of Work

If you need more space, please use the extra page at the end of the application.

Estimate your project expenses and how you plan to meet those costs (e.g., donations, cookie proceeds, money-earning project):

Item	Source of Funding	Amount

If you need more space, please use the extra page at the end of the application.





Your Name:_____

☐ Project Management	☐ Collaboration	☐ Problem Solving
☐ Public Speaking	☐ Community Building	☐ Time Management
☐ Budgeting	☐ Decision Making	☐ Research
☐ Courage	☐ Empathy	☐ Organization
☐ Confidence	☐ Implementation	☐ Risk Taking
☐ Character	☐ Presentation Skills	□ Innovation
he skills I plan to develop as I v	work toward earning my Gold Awar	d are:
Tell the World!		
will let others know about my	Gold Award (the impact of my proj	ect, what the Gold Award is, an
will let others know about my vhat I learned in earning it) by	oromoting via:	ect, what the Gold Award is, an
will let others know about my what I learned in earning it) by p Note: This is NOT about your Go	oromoting via: old Award's sustainability.	
will let others know about my what I learned in earning it) by p Note: This is NOT about your Go Website	oromoting via: old Award's sustainability. Presentations	☐ Articles
will let others know about my what I learned in earning it) by plote: This is NOT about your Go Website Blogs	oromoting via: old Award's sustainability. Presentations Posters	☐ Articles ☐ Public Demonstrations
will let others know about my what I learned in earning it) by plote: This is NOT about your Go Website	oromoting via: old Award's sustainability. Presentations	☐ Articles
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will let others know about my what I learned in earning it) by p Note: This is NOT about your Go Website Blogs Social Media Your Signature:	oromoting via: old Award's sustainability. Presentations Posters Videos	☐ Articles ☐ Public Demonstrations ☐ Workshops





girl scouts	You	ur Name:					
If you need extra spa	f you need extra space, please continue your answers here:						
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		· ·					





Girl Scout Gold Award	Project Proposal
-----------------------	------------------

Your Name:	

If you need extra space, please continue your answers here:





Your Name:_____

Council Name:			
Submit the original completed fo project advisor and you to keep.	rm to your council. Ma	ake copies for yo	ur Girl Scout Gold Award
Your Information			
Name:			
Street Address:			
City:		State:	Zip Code:
Email:	Phone:		1
Age: Graduation Year:_	School:		
Troop/Group Number:	_ Troop/Group Volun	teer:	
Troop/Group Volunteer's Phone:_		Email:	
Girl Scout Gold Award Project Ad	visor:		
Project Advisor's Organization:			<u> </u>
Project Advisor's Phone:		Email:	
Your Team: List the names of ind	ividuals and organizat	ions you worked	with on your project.
Individual (if applicable)	Organization		Team Role
	-		
			70





	vard Project I		
itle:			
tart Date	9:	Completion Date:	Hours:
he them	e(s) my Gold Awaı	rd addressed was/were:	
□ Childre □ Civic E	ulture, Heritage en's Issues ngagement ity Issues	☐ Education ☐ Elderly Issues ☐ Environment & Sustainability ☐ Health ☐ Healthy Relationships ☐ Human Rights	☐ Military/Veterans Affair☐ Poverty☐ Public Safety☐ Sports☐ STEM☐ Other:
y Gold A	ward addressed th	iis issue:	Li Otrier.
y Gold A	ward addressed th	iis issue:	Hours
ny Gold Av	ward addressed th	iis issue:	
Bold Av	ward addressed th	iis issue:	
iy Gold A	ward addressed th	iis issue:	
iy Gold A	ward addressed th	iis issue:	





oject in			
Date	Source of Funding	Details	Amount

	more space, please use th	e extra page at the end of the application.	
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tal inco	me:		Amount
tal inco	me: penses:		Amount
otal inco	me: penses:		Amount
	me: penses:		Amount





girl scouts	Your Name:
Gold Award Summary	
The root cause of the issue my Gold Award add	dressed was:
I addressed the root cause of the issue by:	
My target audience was:	

Measurement of my project's success:

What my audience learned/gained	How I measured impact	When I measured impact
	•	
	,	

If you need more space, please use the extra page at the end of the application.

SMART goals are **s**pecific, **m**easurable, **a**ttainable, **r**ealistic, and **t**imely. My Gold Award project's **SMART** goals were:





girl scouts	Your Name:	
Share if/how you reached your SMA	RT goals. My results were:	
The skills, knowledge, and/or attitud	es my target audience gained wer	e:
I know that my audience gained the	desired skills/knowledge because	:
My Gold Award will be sustained bey	ond my involvement by:	
My Gold Award's national and/or glob	oal link was:	
I led my team by:		
	•	
Shout it from the rooftops!		
I told others about my Gold Award (tl leanred in earning it) by promoting v		Gold Award is, and what I
☐ Website ☐ Blogs ☐ Social Media	□ Presentations□ Posters□ Videos	□ Articles□ Public Demonstrations□ Workshops•





girl scouts	Your Name:	
I would change the following if I co	uld start over:	
Through earning my Gold Award, I :	now demonstrate the following	Girl Scout leadership outcomes:
☐ Strong Sense of Self	☐ Challenge Seeking	☐ Community
☐ Positive Values	☐ Healthy Relationships	Problem Solving
Your Signature:	Date:	······································
Project Advisor Signature:	Dat	te of Approval:
Date of Final Report Submission:		

Interested in a \$15,000 college scholarship?

Just copy and paste the content from your project proposal and final report forms into <u>GoGold Online</u> and let your council know you'd like to apply for the honor of National Gold Award Girl Scout. Applications are accepted by councils April 1–30. Visit our <u>National Gold Award Girl Scout page</u> for more information, and check out <u>additional scholarship opportunities</u>.





Your Name:____

	В	
Time to reflect!		
The obstacles I encountered were:		
I overcame them by:		
•		
The attracestic talanta and abilia tour	linto antiquo vocano	
The strengths, talents, and skills I put	into action were:	
☐ Project Management ☐ Public Speaking ☐ Budgeting ☐ Courage ☐ Confidence ☐ Character	☐ Collaboration ☐ Community Building ☐ Decision Making ☐ Empathy ☐ Implementation ☐ Presentation Skills	☐ Problem Solving ☐ Time Management ☐ Research ☐ Organization ☐ Risk Taking ☐ Innovation
The leadership skills I put into practic	e were:	
I learned the following about myself:		
The most successful part of my proje	ct was:	





ce, please continue		
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~		
		,
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	*	

Your Name:__





Girl Scout	Gold	Award	Final	Repo	rt

Your	Name:	

If you need extra space, please continue your answers here:

