

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

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 final report and provide feedback or approval.

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 pre-requisites before you can submit your proposal.)***

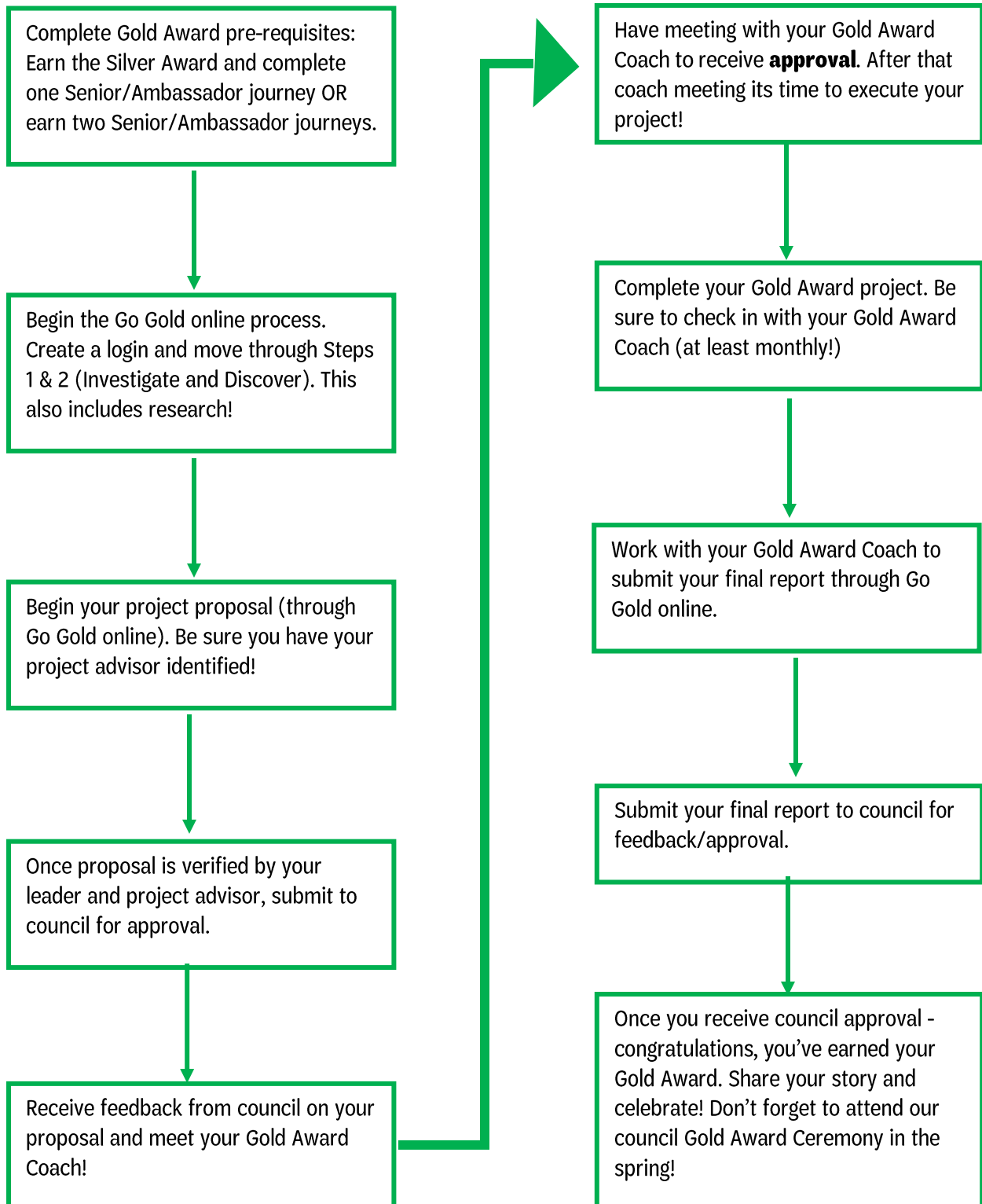
Gold Award Coach

Assigned to you by region, your Gold Award Coach will be your guide throughout your project. You will be responsible for meeting with them once assigned to you. They will be the ones to approve 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



Think Ahead

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

- **Pre-requisites (Journey may take up to six months complete)**
- **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!**
- **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!**

These hours DO NOT count towards your

These hours DO count towards your total of 80.

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

Go Gold

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

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.

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

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 10 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**
- 4. Copy of Proposal and Final Report forms (for example only – all submissions need to be online via Go Gold online)**

Money Earning

- **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.*)**