



Girl Scout Bronze Award Frequently Asked Questions

Who can earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award?

Any registered Girl Scout Junior (grades 4 and 5) can earn the Bronze Award.

What is the deadline for a girl to finish the Bronze Award?

A Girl Scout Junior has until September 30th (the official end of the Girl Scout membership year) of the year in which she starts 6th grade to finish her project and turn in her Bronze Award Final paperwork.

Why are the Leadership Journeys prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award?

The Journeys give Girl Scouts a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills Girl Scouts gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action project for the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

How do Girl Scouts know when a Journey is completed?

A Journey is completed when a Girl Scout has earned the journey awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

What makes a Bronze Award project different from a Journey Take Action project?

In contrast to Journey Take Action projects, which give Girl Scouts themes on which to base their Journey Take Action project, the Girl Scout Bronze Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. After exploring their own communities and discovering issues they wish to address, Girl Scouts select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action project. The Girl Scout Bronze Award is as much about the process Girl Scouts go through to decide upon their project as it is about the project itself.

What is the suggested number of hours for a Girl Scout Bronze Award project?

Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. The time it takes to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the Journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours for the Girl Scout Bronze Award is a minimum of 20 hours (each girl working on a group project should have at least 20 hours).

If a Girl Scout starts working on her Bronze Award project and moves, can she still earn her award?

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

Are the Adult Guidelines for council staff, parents, or volunteers?

Any adult is welcome to use the adult guides. The guides were designed for volunteers working directly with Girl Scouts on achieving their awards.

Do we need a different set of requirements for Girl Scouts with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award?

No. The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are done to the best of a Girl Scout's ability. There is no need to have special requirements for Girl Scouts with disabilities - encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the Girl Scout individually.

Can a Girl Scout earn her Bronze Award on her own?

The Bronze Award is meant to be a team-based project earned by a group of Girl Scout Juniors. The GSLE Connect outcome of cooperation and teambuilding is an outcome we hope to achieve with Bronze Awardees. Progressing in their leadership skills, Girl Scouts learn to work within a group before they begin to take on the role of leading one.

Is sustainability differentiated at each grade level?

The guidelines give Girl Scouts tools to examine the underlying root cause of issues, develop a sustainable project plan and measure the impact of their project on their community, the target audience and themselves. There is progression. While Girl Scouts working on their Girl Scout Bronze Award will reflect on how the project could be kept going, Girl Scout Cadettes plan for sustainability. Seniors and Ambassadors work to ensure the sustainability of their project in order to meet the Girl Scout Gold Award standards of excellence.

While Girl Scout Juniors explore an issue that affects their Girl Scout community,

Cadettes create a community map of their neighborhood or school. Meanwhile Seniors and Ambassadors earning the Gold Award assess an issue and its effect more broadly by interviewing community leaders, research using a variety of sources and investigate other community's solutions to a similar problem.

What are the financial guidelines that Girl Scouts and troops need to follow?

All of the established guidelines found in Volunteer Essentials should be followed by troops and Girl Scouts working on their Bronze Award projects. Of particular importance are these two:

- 1.** Girl Scouts may not raise money for any other organization, in their roles as Girl Scouts. This means that Girl Scout Bronze Award projects may not be about raising money for someone else. This is a guideline that is necessary to protect the non-profit status of our organization.
- 2.** Girl Scouts and troops may raise money or request donations for their Bronze Award project expenses, but need to follow all safety guidelines. Girl Scouts need an approved Girl Scout Volunteer or parent or guardian with them at all times during any Girl Scout activities, and only adults may ask for donations on behalf of a Girl Scout's or troop's project. Girl Scouts may explain the project to another adult, but then an adult - the leader, project advisor, or parent - has to actually ask for any donations of goods or services. For more clarification on this, please contact a GSHG council Program staff member.

How does a Girl Scout measure project impact?

Girl Scouts identify their project goals for their community, target audience and themselves by developing success indicators using a matrix provided in the guidelines.

How do leaders obtain Bronze Award pins for their Girl Scouts?

After Girl Scouts finish their Bronze Award projects, they will fill out the Bronze Award Final Report (found on our website gshg.org). Each Girl Scout completes her own report - leaders do not fill out the Bronze Award Final Reports. In this way, a Girl Scout has the opportunity to formally reflect upon what she has accomplished and learned. Once the Final Report has been completed, it is submitted to your local Program staff member, who reviews the report. The staff member then sends a letter to the leader so that she/he may go to the GSHG council shop and purchase the Bronze Award pins for the Girl Scouts who have earned it. Only those who have a letter of congratulations are allowed to purchase Bronze Award pins.

What if a Girl Scout's project is not completed by the council ceremony time?

If a Girl Scout wishes to be recognized at the council Highest Awards ceremony at the beginning of May, her Bronze Award Final Report paperwork must be finished and submitted to council Program staff by March 15th. If she finishes after March 30th, her project will be recognized at the following year's council ceremony.