

1. Q. Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: Any registered Girl Scout Senior (grades 9, 10) or Ambassador (grades 11, 12) can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.

2. Q: Can individually registered girl members or Juliettes earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: Any girl, who meets the grade-level and membership requirements, can work on her Girl Scout Gold Award.

3. Q: What is the deadline for a girl to finish the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: A Girl Scout has until September 30th (the official end of the Girl Scout membership year) of the year in which she graduates high school, or until she turns 18 years old, to finish her project and turn in her Girl Scout Gold Award Final paperwork.

4. Q. What are the prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: A girl must complete two Journeys OR earn one Journey and have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award. In our council, a girl must take Gold Award training before she begins her Gold Award project.

5. Q: Does a Senior or Ambassador need to do the two journeys in any particular order?

A: No. She can complete two Girl Scout Senior level journeys, two Girl Scout Ambassador level journeys, or one of each, or the Silver Award plus one of either. She must do a Journey for the grade level she is in currently when she does the Journey requirements.

6. Q: How do girls know when a *Journey* is “completed?”

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

7. Q. What makes the awards’ guidelines different from the *Journeys*?

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

8. Q. What are the suggested hours for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: 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 Gold Award will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team working with the girl, 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 Gold Award is a minimum of 80 hours.

9. Q. Are girls required to take training to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: Yes. Girls are required to take Gold Award training to become familiar with the process of earning Gold in our council and to fully understand the requirements. They will be assigned a Mentor from the GSHG Gold Committee after they take training to help guide them through our process. These provisions help to ensure that every girl who wants to earn the Gold Award will be given the greatest chance of success.

10. Q. When can a girl take her Gold Award training?

A: A girl can take the training any time after she is officially registered as a Senior Girl Scout but she must take the training before she begins her Gold project. Girls may complete their pre-requisite Journeys before they've taken Gold training.

11. Q. What is the GSHG Gold Committee?

A: The GSHG Gold Committee is a group of volunteers from the community who want to help girls achieve Girl Scouting's Highest Award. The Gold Committees (six in our council) meet regularly to hear girls' Gold Award Proposals and Final Reports. The volunteers are Girl Scout members who have earned the Gold Award themselves, or who are well trained in Highest Awards.

12. Q. What is a Gold Committee Mentor?

A: The Gold Committee Mentor is someone who will work with a Gold Candidate individually. The Mentor can discuss project ideas, assist with paperwork, and help a girl prepare to appear before the Gold Committee. She is a member of the Gold Committee who may have special knowledge of a girl's project area.

13. Q. What is a Gold Award Project Advisor?

A: A Gold Award Project Advisor is someone in the girl's community that has expertise or experience in the content area of the girl's project. For example, if she is building a shade shelter, her Project Advisor may be an engineer or someone who manages construction projects. If she is starting a library, her Project Advisor may be a librarian or an educator. The Project Advisor may not be her Girl Scout leader or someone who is related to her. A girl needs both a Project Advisor and a Gold Committee Mentor to assist her with her Gold Award.

14. Q Does a girl have to go before the Gold Committee to earn her Gold Award?

A. Yes. A girl must appear before the Gold Committee twice. She first presents her Gold Award Project Proposal and gets feedback. The Gold Committee must approve her Proposal before she can begin. The second time she appears before the Gold Committee, she presents her Gold Award Final Report. The Gold Committee will award her the Girl Scout Gold Award if her project is finished and all of the documentation is complete.

15. Q. If a girl starts working on her Take Action project and moves; can she still earn her award?

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

16. Q. Who are the Adult Guidelines for – council staff, parents, or volunteers?

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

17. Q: Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

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

18. Q. Can a girl earn her Girl Scout Gold Award with a partner or a group of girls?

A. No, a Girl Scout Gold Award project must be a completely individual project.

19. Q. Can a Gold Award project be done for Girl Scouts?

A. No, a Girl Scout Gold Award project must reach beyond the Girl Scouting community, and have an impact on the community at large.

20. Q. Is sustainability differentiated at each grade level?

A. The guidelines give girls 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 Girl Scout 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.

21. Q: What are the money guidelines that girls and troops need to follow?

A: All of the established guidelines found in *Volunteer Essentials* should be followed by troops and girls working on their Girl Scout Gold 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 Gold 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. Girls may raise money or request donations for their Gold Award project expenses, but need to follow all safety guidelines. Girls must have 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's project. Girls 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 staff member.

22. Q: How does a girl measure project impact?

A: Girls identify their project goals for their community, target audience and themselves by developing success indicators using a matrix provided in the guidelines. Different projects will be measured in different ways. Deciding how to measure impact is part of the Gold Award work.

23. Q: How do leaders obtain Gold Award pins for their girls?

A: After a girl finishes her Gold Award project, she will fill out the Gold Award Final Report (found on our website gshg.org). In this way, a girl has the opportunity to formally reflect upon what she has accomplished and learned. Once the Final Report has been completed, it is submitted to the local Program staff member, who reviews the report for completeness. If the report is complete, the girl is given an appointment with the GSHG Gold Award Committee to present her Final Report. The staff member will then send a letter of congratulations to the girls and her leader/advisor. Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia provides pins for the girls who have earned the Gold Award; the leader, parent and/or staff members make arrangements for receipt of the pin. They will be mailed or can be picked up at a council office. If desired, they can be presented at the council Highest Awards ceremony, but troops and girls are also encouraged to have their own awards ceremonies and celebrations.

24. Q: What if a girl's project is not completed by the council ceremony time?

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