



## Take Action Award



## Global Action Award

**You have the power to make a real difference!** With friends or fellow Girl Scouts, design a project that addresses a community issue. Take Action projects focus on local challenges, while Global Action projects explore how communities worldwide have approached similar issues.

### Steps

1. Identify a community issue
2. Explore the issue's root causes
3. Brainstorm solutions
4. Make a plan
5. Take Action and celebrate!

### Purpose

When I've earned this award, I'll know how to address a community or global issue with a sustainable and measurable solution.

## Getting Started

Find friends or fellow Girl Scouts to earn your award together as a group. This guide will help your group plan (and do!) a project that makes a lasting impact on an issue you care about. Your project should be fun and achievable within a couple of weeks or a month. You get to decide how big your project will be—and remember you don't have to plan a *big* project to make a *big* impact! Use the Senior and Ambassador Take Action and Global Action Plan worksheet to help you create your project.



Explore leadership and take the first big step toward the Gold Award. This award stands strong on its own—and it's a prerequisite for Gold!



Meeting tools and additional resources for leaders can be found within the Volunteer Toolkit on [mygs.org](https://mygs.org).

# Step 1: Identify a community issue

*Reflect on badges you've earned to explore what your community—and the world—really needs.*

Take Action and Global Action projects create lasting change. Take Action projects focus on a community issue and what's already being done to address it locally, while Global Action projects explore how a community issue is experienced around the world.

These projects make a lasting or **sustainable** difference by building community connections and setting up systems that keep working over time. For example, a one-time coat drive is a service that helps people right now, but a Take Action project could connect a local store with a community center—making a lasting difference. By scheduling regular collection times, securing storage space, and distributing items to those in need year-round, the program can continue even after your involvement ends—that's sustainability in action!

In this step:

## 1. Choose a badge as your starting point.

Your project will build on a badge your group has already earned. Which badges were your favorites? What have you learned about your community through earning them? Consider different badges you've worked on together and choose one to connect with a Take Action or Global Action project.

## 2. Brainstorm community issues.

Reflect on your group's experience earning the badge and make a list of community issues related to the topic. For example, the Water badge may have alerted you to issues like water scarcity, water quality, and water pollution.

## 3. Pick a community issue.

Consider what your group already knows about each issue on your list, as well as what you know about your own community. Which issue seems especially important to address? Which one could you make a meaningful impact on? Could what you learned in the badge help you tackle any of these issues? Discuss each of the community issues and choose one to focus on with your project.

## Global Challenges and the United Nations' Global Goals



Many community issues—like clean water, education access, and climate action—are also at the heart of global efforts to create a better world. The United Nations created 17 **Global Goals**, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to address challenges that impact communities around the world. Goals (SDGs), to address global challenges.

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

# Take Action and Global Action Plan

## Step 1: Identify a community issue

*Reflect on badges you've earned to explore what your community—and the world—really needs.*

Badge:

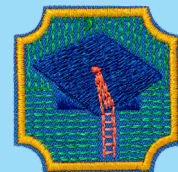
Community issues we learned about:

The community issue our group wants to address is:

### Senior and Ambassador Badge Examples



- Your group wants to protect wildlife after earning the **Voice for Animals** badge.



- You earned the **College Knowledge** badge and saw a need for more community education in trade schools.



- You explored global advocacy in the **Public Policy** badge and want to take your interest in human rights to the next level.

## Step 2: Explore the issue's root causes

*Identify community barriers and resources to address the issue.*

Community issues are rarely isolated; they're often part of a larger web of causes and effects. For example, an empty park might be the result of uninteresting equipment or poorly maintained bathrooms. It could also stem from a bus stop that's too far away, making it hard to get to the park. That's a root cause—the underlying issue that might not be clear without investigation.

In this step:

### 1. **Decide if your group will earn the Take Action or Global Action award.**

- **If your group wants to earn the Take Action award,** you'll focus on making a lasting impact on an issue in your community. You'll collaborate with local organizations, groups, and community members who are already driving change.
- **If your group wants to earn the Global Action award,** you'll explore how communities around the world experience the issue and apply what you learn to your project. You can also choose to connect your project to one or more of the 17 Global Goals. For example, access to public transportation could connect to Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 13: Climate action.

**2. Dig into the details.** Write down everything your group knows about the issue and how it impacts your community (and communities around the world, for Global Action). Add anything you may have learned from earning your badge. Next, research the issue and connect with people and organizations who are affected by it or already working to address it. Talk to community members, attend neighborhood meetings, conduct online research, or use other methods to understand the impact, root causes, and available resources. Look into other projects addressing the issue and explore what has worked, what hasn't, and why.

**3. Map the community issue.** Organize all the research and data gathered by your group and add it to the map in your Take Action or Global Action Plan. Then analyze it and look for patterns—how do different root causes lead to each impact? What's already in place that you can build on? If you find gaps in your data or have additional questions, try to find answers so you can see the full picture.



# Take Action and Global Action Plan

## Step 2: Explore the issue's root causes

*Identify community barriers and resources to address the issue.*

We plan to create a: ☐ Take Action project ☐ Global Action project

### Dig into the details

What we know about the issue and our community:

*For example, how does the issue impact your community? Who's working on this issue?*

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What we still need to find out:

*For example, what solutions already exist? Who are experts on this issue?*

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How we'll find the answers:

*For example, search online or talk to individuals or groups who are impacted by or working on this issue.*

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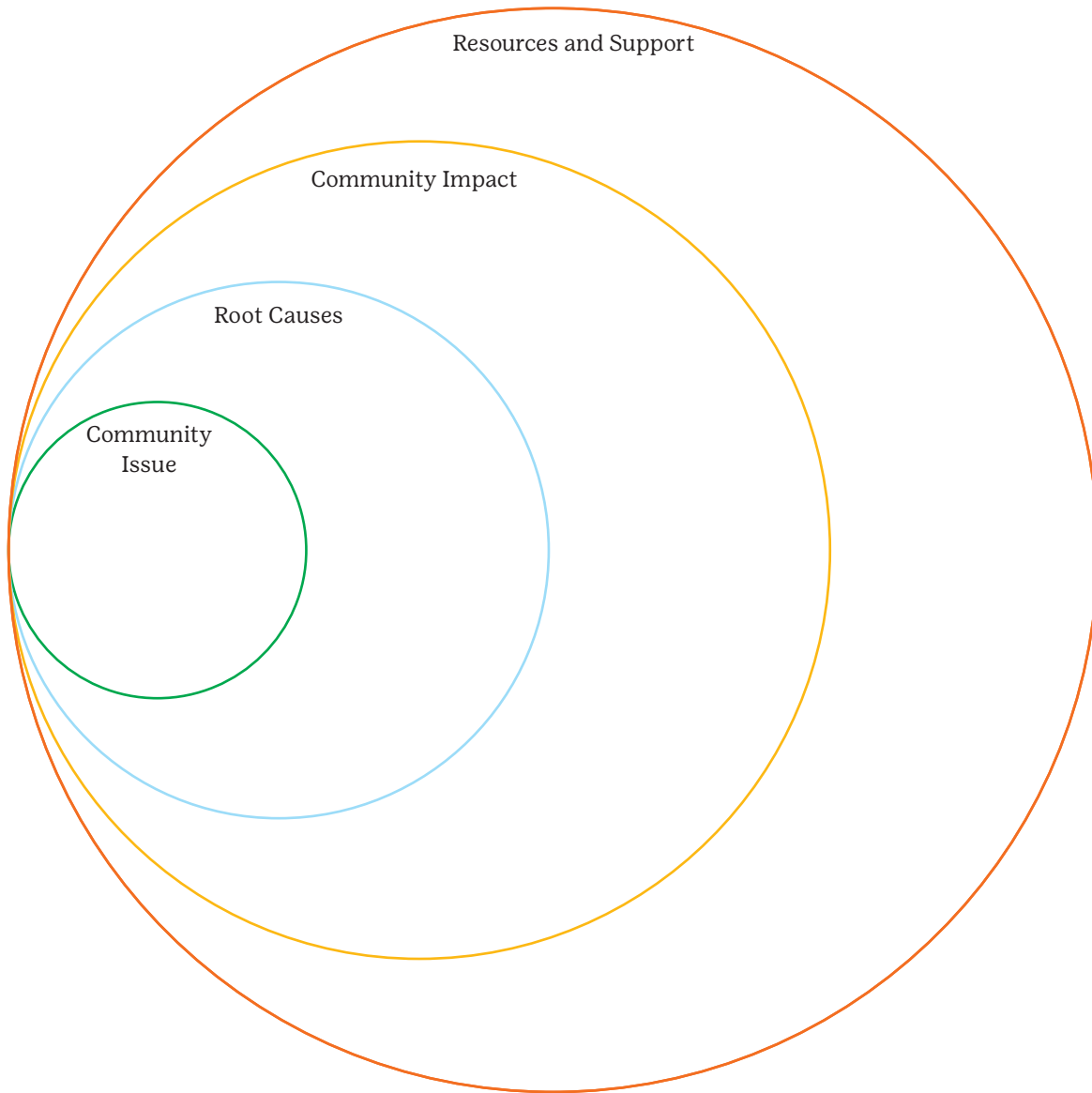
## Step 2 continued

### Community Issue Map

**Resources and Support:** Who's working on this issue? What solutions already exist? What resources are available?

**Community Impact:** Who is affected, and how? What about plants, animals, and the environment?

**Root Causes:** What and who is causing the issue? Why is the issue happening? (Once you have an answer, ask "why?" again to see if there's another answer underneath.)



For example, if the community issue is...	Its impacts might include...	It might be caused by...	Potential resources and support might include...
<b>Single-use plastics filling trash cans during lunch at school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bags end up in landfills, and they can take hundreds of years to break down.</li> <li>• Plastic can harm animals who try to eat it or get caught in it.</li> <li>• Plastic can break into chemicals that harm people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People don't know about the dangers of plastics.</li> <li>• Kids at school don't have other options for their lunches.</li> <li>• It's cheaper for corporations to manufacture single-use plastics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your school's or community's environmental club/group</li> <li>• A national (or global) organization that has data on the dangers of single-use plastics</li> <li>• A local grocery store's single-use-plastic recycling center</li> </ul>



## Step 3: Brainstorm solutions

*Come up with sustainable project ideas.*

Now that your group has explored the issue, focus on finding solutions that not only address today's needs but also create lasting impact. There are three ways to build a sustainable project:

1. Build a permanent solution
2. Educate and inspire others
3. Advocate to change a rule or law

For example, a project might connect a local library with an assisted living center for a weekly reading program. This is a sustainable because the project resulted in a permanent solution: the weekly reading program.

In this step:

- 1. Build on what works.** What's already working in your community (and, if you're doing a Global Action project, around the world)? Review the "Resources and Support" data in step 2 and identify what people and organizations locally (and globally!) are already doing to address the issue. Write down ideas for projects that emphasize and build on work that's already happening. Make sure they're sustainable!

- 2. Add your talents and interests.** As a group, talk about your interests and talents and think about how they can strengthen your project ideas. What does each person like to do? What are their strengths? Add any skills your group gained from the badge that could be helpful.
- 3. Choose one project idea.** Review your list of project ideas against your map from step 2—how do you think each project would work in your community? Which ideas best build on the community's resources and strengths? Talk about the options together and choose the one that motivates you the most for your project.



## Take Action and Global Action Plan

## Step 3: Brainstorm solutions

*Come up with sustainable project ideas.*

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For example:

**Make art that inspires.** Create a poster or email campaign, draw a comic, or even make an animated or live-action movie that inspires others to learn about the issue and join you to make a difference.

**Build something.** Plant a garden, design a ropes course, or repurpose a space into something your community needs.

**Use your voice.** Advocate to your city or town leaders for permanent community improvement or make a presentation to your principal about how they can address the issue. You might also create an online petition.

**Teach others.** Film video tutorials or your own PSA to tell others about the issue. Hold a workshop to share what you’ve learned. Create a “how to” handout or an informational pamphlet sharing information and ideas for others to get involved.

**Participate in an event.** Concerts, plays, art exhibits, sporting events, field days—or even poetry slams or open mic events—can be great places to raise awareness.

The project we chose:

### Why we chose this project:

How our project will address a root cause of the issue:  
*[Choose one]*

- ☐ Build a permanent solution
- ☐ Educate or inspire others
- ☐ Advocate to change a rule or law



## Step 4: Make a plan

*Create your goal and a plan to reach it.*

Now that your group has a great idea, it's time to create a plan with a measurable goal, timeline, materials, and resources to bring it to life. Make sure to include how you'll involve your community in bringing your vision to life. For example, if you're raising awareness of voting rights through a social media campaign, you might create a content calendar and partner with a local voter rights group to highlight local resources and broaden the reach of your campaign.

In this step:

- 1. Choose a goal.** What does your group hope to achieve by the end of your project? Consider how it will be sustainable: is it a permanent solution, will it educate or inspire others, or lead to a change in a rule or law? How will you know your project has been successful? Estimate the impact you could have and how you'll measure it. You might count the number of participants or track improvements. For example, if you're coordinating a group to participate in an environmental action day, you could track how many people attend—this shows how many people you've helped educate or inspire.
- 2. Create your plan.** Together with your group, organize the tasks for your project into a timeline and assign roles for each group member. Divide the tasks to align with each person's talents and interests—make sure everyone's voice is heard. Decide what materials and other resources you'll need.
- 3. Share your plan.** Discuss your plan with your troop leader or another trusted adult—they can help you with supplies, serve as an extra volunteer, or provide critical feedback that improves your plan. Make sure to also share your plan with any potential community partners. Adjust your plan as needed based on the challenges they identify, the resources they can offer, and any ideas they have to strengthen your approach.



# Take Action and Global Action Plan

## Step 4: Make a plan

*Create your goal and a plan to reach it.*

*Project goal:* What do you want your project to accomplish? How will you measure it?

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How we'll know our project is making a difference:

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*Tasks and timeline:* Include important milestones and roles.

Overall timeframe: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Date or Timing	Action	Group Member(s)
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*Materials and budget:* Include supplies, transportation, etc.

Item	Cost	Sourcing from
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**Other resources:** *List experts, volunteers, free meeting spaces, etc.*

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### Change is good!

As you create your project, your goal or plan may need to change, and that's okay! Keep these questions in mind throughout the process to help you assess your plan as you go:

- **Do you have enough information?** How can you find the answers you need?
- **Do you have enough time?** If not, how can you scale back and still complete a project that makes a difference?
- **Do you have the resources and materials?** What do you already have and what can you borrow? Can you use recycled materials or find alternatives? If you need to purchase something, how will you pay for it?

## Step 5: Take Action and celebrate!

*Turn your plan into community change that keeps growing.*

It's launch time! Put your plan into action, assessing your progress along the way. Every step you take now helps create lasting change.

In this step:

- 1. Launch your project.** Follow your plan and document progress together. Keep track of what's working and what needs improving so your project stays on track. Remember, it's okay if your plan shifts along the way—adjustments can help your project make the impact you're aiming for.
- 2. Evaluate your project.** When you're done, evaluate your project's success as a group. Were you able to reach your goal? How have you set up your project to create lasting change?
- 3. Celebrate!** Reflect on your experience and celebrate your accomplishments with your group. If you'd like, share your project to inspire others and maintain the momentum even after it's complete.

### Reflect and Grow

You've made a difference in your community through your Take Action or Global Action project. As you reflect on your experience, consider...

- **What worked:** How did teamwork strengthen your project? What strategies had the biggest impact?
- **What challenged you:** What obstacles did you face? How did you overcome them?
- **What's different:** What changes are you seeing in your community? How has your project made a difference?
- **What's next:** The experience you've gained from creating change is valuable—how will you apply it to future projects? Could your project expand to address other root causes?



### Keep Going!

Now that you've earned this award, you can:

- Keep practicing leadership with other [Leadership Awards](#)
- Become a [Gold Award Girl Scout](#)



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# Take Action and Global Action Plan


## Step 5: Take Action and celebrate!

*Turn your plan into community change that keeps growing.*



**Project progress notes:**  
*Take photos, make videos, and write notes below!*

A large rectangular area with a light gray dotted grid for taking notes.



### When you're done:

*Were you able to reach your goal? Why or why not?*

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*Were you able to set up your project for long-term success? Why or why not?*




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**Reflect & Grow**  
*Take a moment to think about your experience and reflect on...*

**Reflect & Grow**  
*Take a moment to think about your experience and reflect on...*



**What worked?**



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