



Quick Guide: Gold Award

Who can earn the Gold Award? Who helps?

Only Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors (grades 9–12) are eligible to earn the Gold Award. Each Girl Scout is supported by two adults. The Project Advisor is a trusted adult with expertise related to the community issue and is not a family member or affiliated with Girl Scouts. The Gold Award Mentor is a council-trained volunteer assigned to the Girl Scout who provides guidance on the Gold Award requirements and overall project process.

What is a Gold Award?

The Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouts, earned by Seniors and Ambassadors who lead a project that tackles a community issue and creates lasting, sustainable change. It is an opportunity to make a real impact while developing leadership, problem-solving, and advocacy skills.

When are the important dates?

March 15th:

All final reports submitted and approved by this date will be included in that year's ceremony. Reports submitted after this date will be included in the following year's ceremony.

September 30:

All final reports (submitted and approved) due following the Girl Scout's 12th Grade year.

Where is a Gold Award completed?

Girls will explore their community and the issues around them to decide where they will take action. Projects done at camp or benefitting Girl Scouts require council pre-approval. This must be completed prior to starting the project and before submitting their Gold Award Project Proposal.

Why earn the Gold Award?

The Gold Award is a great way for Girl Scouts to make a difference in their community while learning important life skills. It helps girls:

- Tackle a meaningful issue and create sustainable change in their community or beyond.
- Build leadership skills
- Stand out! The Gold Award is nationally recognized and highly respected by colleges, scholarships, and employers.
- Grow courage and confidence



How does a Girl Scout earn her Gold Award?

Complete prerequisites:

- Membership registration is current
- Complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey or a Leadership Award
- Research community issues and their root causes.
- Recruit a team to help
- Choose and develop a Gold Award project
- Make a plan, submit your Project Proposal for approval

Gold Award Process Overview

Before you Begin: Complete the Prerequisites

You need to complete one of these, the Girl Scout Silver Award, a Senior/ Ambassador Journey (retiring in October 2026), or a Senior/Ambassador Leadership Award (new in 2025!). New Leadership Awards for Seniors and Ambassadors include the Gold Torch Award, the True North Award, the Teaching Award – Volunteer In Training (VIT), and the Community Advocacy Awards (Take Action and Global Action).

Step One:

What do you care about? What are you passionate about? Is it students with disabilities? Animal cruelty? What about social justice and equity? Whatever you want to change about the world around you, focus on that. What you care about influences your behavior and how you interact with your environment and with others.

Step Two:

Research everything you can about the issue. Identify the national and/or global links (connections) to your community issue. Use a variety of sources to gather information and evaluate the reliability and accuracy of all your sources. What you learn may challenge your own beliefs and the beliefs of others-and that's OK!

Step Three: Get Help

Invite others to support and take action with you. Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special knowledge and skills to your Take Action project. Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths in others. Respect different points of view and styles of work. Think about who would be an asset to your project goals.

Step Four: Create a Plan

Use GoGold Online to submit your Gold Award proposal to the Gold Award Panel. View additional resources on our website, www.gsksmo.org/goldaward.



Gold Award Process Overview

Step Five: Present your Plan

Once you have submitted your plan through GoGold Online, you will be invited to share your project proposal with a council representative and a Gold Award Mentor. Bring your best self and be ready to tell us about the most significant parts of your project. Once approved, lead your team to carry out your plan and conduct check-ins with your Gold Award mentor.

Step Six: Take Action

As you are in action on your project, take many photos (you will need those for the celebration portion). Keep records as you complete your project and if a task requires follow-up, write those items into the plan too. If a task takes more time than you planned, do not be discouraged. Great plans take time!

Step Seven: Educate & Inspire

Celebrate your accomplishment! You met the challenge and made a difference in your world! Demonstrate your courage and share your newly discovered information with the community.

Find the Gold Award Guidelines and other resources on our Council website:

