

GSMW Gold Award Toolkit

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Gold Award Overview

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador can earn. Gold Award Girl Scouts will demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable Take Action projects that have a sustainable impact in their communities and beyond.

What are the benefits of earning the Gold Award?

- ✓ Higher Education/Career:
 - Distinguish yourself for college essays and job resumes
 - Earn college scholarships
- ✓ Life Skills
 - Be a role model
 - Empower yourself to lead
 - Learn how to complete applications, stick to deadlines and time management
- ✓ Community
 - Tackle an issue and provide a sustainable solution that will make an impact
 - Establish a lifetime network of peers and advisors

Prerequisites

- ✓ Be in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades
- ✓ Be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador
- ✓ Have completed **one** prerequisite: Silver Award, True North, Gold Torch, Volunteer in Training, Counselor in Training I and II, Take Action, Global Action, Senior or Ambassador Journey*

*Journeys will be retired 10/1/2026 but will count as a prerequisite if started before that date.

Important Deadlines

Project Proposal

- If you are a graduating senior, you must submit your project proposal through GoGold by May 1st of your senior year to allow time for your proposal to be approved and complete your project.

Final Report

- September 30th of the year you graduate from high school, or turn 18, which ever allows you the most time.

Gold Award FAQ

Do I need to submit a project proposal for approval?

Yes!

Please submit your proposal online through GoGold. You will hear from the Gold Award Committee in about 2 weeks however allow at least 6-8 weeks for the approval process.

GOLD AWARD CHECKLIST

- ❑ **Step 1:** Complete the prerequisite. Choose one of the following: Silver Award, True North, Gold Torch, Volunteer in Training, Counselor in Training I and II, Take Action, Global Action, Senior or Ambassador Journey* *Journeys will be retired 10/1/2026 but will count as a prerequisite if started before that date.*
- ❑ **Step 2:** Read the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit and GSUSA Gold Award Girl Guidelines and watch the GSMW Gold Award training video. When you are ready take the GSMW Gold Award Quiz. Please have your Troop Leader read the GSUSA Gold Award Guide for Leaders and GSMW Gold Award Toolkit as well as watch the GSMW Gold Award training video. Everything you need for this step is found on the [Gold Award page of our website](#). Questions? Please email customercare@gsmw.org or call 406-252-0488.
- ❑ **Step 3:** Research and brainstorm project ideas. You can create a GoGold account even if you don't have a project idea. GoGold steps 1 and 2 can be used to brainstorm and mind map topic/issue ideas.
- ❑ **Step 4:** Find a Project Advisor, choosing someone who is an expert on your issue. The Project Advisor cannot be a family member or Girl Scout volunteer. Please give your Project Advisor copies of the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit, GSUSA Gold Award Guide for Project Advisors, the link to the GSMW Gold Award training video and Project Advisor Agreement form (p. 16).
- ❑ **Step 5:** Complete your project proposal, adhering to the May 1st deadline if you are a graduating senior, through [GoGold](#). The Gold Award Committee will initially respond in about 2 weeks however please allow at least 6-8 weeks for the entire approval process.
- ❑ **Step 6:** Respond to all of the Gold Award Committee's feedback in a timely manner. The email provided in your project proposal will be used. You will make all of your updates and edits in GoGold and resubmit your proposal through GoGold.
- ❑ **Step 7:** Once your project proposal has been approved, you, your Troop Leader and Project Advisor will be notified by email. You will also receive a letter for your records.
- ❑ **Step 8:** Implement your project and use GoGold to log your project hours, income and expenses. We are here to support you, please contact GSMW by emailing customercare@gsmw.org or calling 406-252-0488 for assistance.
- ❑ **Step 9:** Submit your Final Report through GoGold no later than September 30th of the year you graduate from high school. Extensions will not be granted.
- ❑ **Step 10:** Celebrate your achievement and spread the word! GSMW would like to help you celebrate, let us know when your Gold Award ceremony will be and ask us for the latest Gold Award ceremony toolkit to help make your day special!

Caregivers: What is their role?

Pursuing the Gold award demonstrates a commitment to yourself, Girl Scouts, and your community. As you make a plan, engages others and your community and lead a team toward a common goal to fix a problem that is important to you, your caregiver plays an important role in supporting you. However you decide to tackle this challenge, it is your project and your caregiver is your cheerleader. You can expect bumps along the way so here are some ways they can support you.

- ✓ Have them GSMW Gold Award Toolkit and GSUSA Gold Award Guide for Adults and watch the GSMW Gold Award training video so they are familiar with the Gold Award if you have questions. These are all on the [Gold Award page of our website](#).
- ✓ Brainstorm project ideas talk through the concepts of sustainability, measurability identifying a root cause of an issue, leadership and national/global link.
- ✓ Be there if you need them but you lead the way so you can find your own leadership style.
- ✓ Help you make the community connections that can lend insight, provide contacts and resources along the way.
- ✓ Let you be the communicator – with the council contact, her Project Advisor and team.
- ✓ Help you respond to the Gold Award Committee's feedback if necessary.
- ✓ Be your cheerleader! Celebrate your accomplishments, help you navigate any challenges along the way.

Troop Leaders: What is their role?

Their role is similar to your caregiver's role; they are an important source of support and guidance for you as you pursue your Gold Award. They can be there for you in the ways described for your caregiver. They may have been through the Bronze and Silver Award process with you and they would have played a very active role while you worked toward these awards. However, pursuing the Gold Award needs to be your own leadership experience.

- ✓ To ensure that your troop leader is familiar with the Girl Scout Gold Award we recommend that they read the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit and GSUSA Gold Award Guide for Leaders and watch the GSMW Gold Award training video so they are familiar with the Gold Award if you have questions. These are all on the [Gold Award page of our website](#).

Important note: Once you have completed your proposal you will send your troop leader an email from GoGold that will have a link to your proposal. Please have your troop leader proof read your proposal and then they will be able to endorse the completion of your prerequisite from this email.

Gold Award Project Advisor: What is their role?

A Gold Award Project Advisor provides one-on-one mentorship to a Girl Scout working toward her Gold Award. A Project Advisor is selected by you and has specific knowledge, skills or expertise related to the topic of your Gold Award project. The Project Advisor cannot be a Girl Scout volunteer or family member even if they have expertise on the topic.

The Gold Award Project Advisor will:

- ✓ Be a registered Girl Scout and complete a background check. Please email customercare@gsmw.org with questions or for assistance.
- ✓ Complete the GSMW Gold Award Project Advisor Agreement provided by you and email it to customercare@gsmw.org.
- ✓ Read the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit, GSUSA Your Guide to Going Gold and GSUSA Gold Award Guide for Project Advisors as well as watch the GSMW Gold Award training video so they are familiar with the Gold Award. These are all on the [Gold Award page of our website](#).
- ✓ Proofread and endorse your project proposal and final report through an email that you send them from GoGold.
- ✓ Share expertise, provide access to resources and other knowledge where appropriate.

Gold Award Committee: What is their role?

The Gold Award Committee is comprised of Girl Scout Volunteers and Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming staff committed to helping girls achieve great things. Many of the committee members have earned their Gold Award. The primary responsibilities of the Gold Award Committee is to review all Gold Award project proposals and provide positive feedback to the Gold Award applicant as well as ensure that the Gold Award standards and criteria are met. Think of your proposal as a professional application; complete everything and answer every question thoroughly. Their feedback will be sent to the email address that is on the project proposal paperwork. It is the responsibility of the Gold Award applicant to respond to all of their feedback, please respond in a timely manner and your project proposal is not approved until GSMW has notified you. The approval process can take up to 6-8 weeks to complete so make sure you submit your proposal in a timely manner. You will be notified that your project has been approved by email and a letter.

Gold Award FAQ

When is the deadline to finish my Gold Award?

The deadline to complete your project and submit your Final Report online through GoGold is September 30th of the year you graduate high school or until you turn 18 years old, whichever gives you the longest time to complete it.

Gold Award Standards of Excellence

The Gold Award Standards of Excellence are set by GSUSA as universal standards for all girls working toward the Gold Award. These standards invite you to think deeply, explore opportunities and challenge yourself. Refer to these as you develop your proposal and move through the stages of your project.

| Girl Scout Gold Award Step | Standards of Excellence |
|---|--|
| 1. Choose an issue. Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. • Demonstrate civic responsibility. |
| 2. Investigate. Research everything you can about the issue. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations. Remember to evaluate each source's reliability and accuracy. • Demonstrate courage as you investigate your issue, what you learn may challenge you. This is your time to put yourself outside your comfort zone. • Identify national and/or global links to your community issue. |
| 3. Get help. Invite others to support and take action with you. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out and recognize skills and strengths in others. • Respect different points of view and ways of working. • Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special skills to your Gold Award project. |
| 4. Create a plan. Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the planning of your Gold Award project. • Work collaboratively to develop a plan that creates lasting change. |
| 5. Present your plan. Sum up your project plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a project proposal that is concise, comprehensive, detailed and clear. • Describe your plan including the Girl Scout leadership outcomes you want to achieve and the impact you plan to make on yourself and the community. • Articulate your issue clearly and explain why it matters to you. • Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine and enhance your project. |
| 6. Take Action. Take the lead to carry out your plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so that your solution has measurable and sustainable impact. • Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for your Gold Award project. • Challenge yourself to try different ways to solve problems. • Use resources wisely. • Speak out and act on behalf of yourself and others. |
| 7. Educate and inspire. Share what you have experienced with others. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on what you have learned. • Summarize the effectiveness of your project and the impact it has had on you and your community. • Share the project beyond your local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities. |

Gold Award Project Proposal Examples

The following charts provides project examples. For each issue there are 3 example projects and for each issue, Project #1 does not meet the standard and would need enhancements. The Gold Award Committee would provide some ideas that can be used to make enhancements. Project #2 meets the standard and may need some enhancement depending upon the details presented in the proposal. Project #3 exceeds the standard and depending upon the details presented in the proposal, may need some questions be answered.

| Issue | Project Proposal #1 | Project Proposal #2 | Project Proposal #3 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Pet Care | A Gold Award applicant loves animals and plans to create New Pet Kits for families adopting animals at the local animal shelter. She asks the local animal shelter for advice on what to include in the kit. The kit will include pet care information, a grooming brush, a cat or dog food sample and a pet toy. She holds a community donation drive to make the kits. The kits will be donated to the local animal shelter for them to distribute. | A Gold Award applicant loves animals and she belongs to an after school club at her high school that volunteers at the local animal shelter. She researches needs in her community relating to pets as well as talks with the club advisor and identifies a need for a pet education workshop for people adopting an animal from the local shelter. She partners with the animal shelter and her after school club to plan and host a series of pet ownership workshops. During these workshops local vets will come and talk about pet health, spaying/neutering pets, training a dog. The after school club agrees to continue to host the workshops. | A Gold Award applicant loves animals and volunteers at her local animal shelter. After a conversation with the shelter manager she identifies a need for a pet food pantry in her community. She works with the manager of the local food pantry to establish a pet food pantry on their premises. She runs a collection drive to stock the pet food pantry with food for dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, fish etc. and then secures and develops a space in the food pantry, creates a distribution and donation policy and creates a community education campaign so that the pet pantry can be continually stocked. She also works with the local animal shelter to educate the pantry recipients about the importance of spaying/neutering clinics and how to find help for animal behavior problems to prevent people from bringing their animals to the animal shelter. |

| Issue | Project Proposal #1 | Project Proposal #2 | Project Proposal #3 |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Recycling | A Gold Award applicant notices that there are no recycling bins at her local park. She submits a proposal where she will work with her City Council and Parks and Recreation department to install recycling bins in all of the town's parks. She works with a local recycling company to make sure the bins are included on their pick up schedule. | A Gold Award applicant learns in her science class about waste reduction and its environmental impacts so she submits a proposal where she will establish a recycling program through her school district. She partners with the schools and sets up recycling stations at schools as well as composting stations in the cafeterias. She creates a recycling education campaign and holds a recycling challenge for schools to participate in to demonstrate what they have learned. | A Gold Award applicant is very interested in protecting the environment and "going green". She researches ideas that would address the fact that even though the town has recycling stations, the residents do not recycle much. She submits a proposal where she will host a "Go Green" workshop. She recruits local experts to present at the fair and address topics such as composting, green cleaning products for the home, repurposing everyday items, recycling and impacts that waste has on the global environment. She will also work with local radio stations to promote her event as well as record a series of PSAs about recycling and the environment. |
| Food Insecurity | A Gold Award applicant is researching ideas for her project. She talks to the local food pantry who mentions there is a need for cleaning and reorganizing the food storage space. She submits a proposal where she will spend a few weekends cleaning the space and reorganizing the shelves in a way the food pantry volunteers have identifies as the most accessible. | A Gold Award applicant understands the importance of healthy eating so she meets with her local food pantry manager to discuss healthy eating. The manager tells her that they don't have resources available for people who use the food pantry to educate them about healthy eating. She submits a proposal where she will run a healthy eating food drive as well as research inexpensive healthy recipes so she can make recipe cards. She will then box up the items and attach a recipe card to each box. She will also leave a stack of recipe cards and digital copies for future distribution. | A Gold Award applicant discovers that one of her friends often does not have enough to eat so she researches food insecurity in her community and region. She meets with the food pantry manager and learns they do not have enough fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution. She submits a proposal where she will organize a "Green the Pantry" event. At the event people can donate fresh foods, learn about gardening, healthy eating, and see cooking demonstrations. She will survey the attendees to measure what they learned. She also will create a guide so the food pantry can hold the event in the future. To create an ongoing campaign to ensure that the pantry has fresh food available she meets with local gardeners, restaurants and grocery stores who agree to donate their excess produce to the food pantry. |

Project Red Flags

GSMW wants you to be successful! You have just looked at some sample Gold Award project proposals to see the depth, components and elements that a Gold Award project should have. To help prevent frustrations and feelings of being overwhelmed, especially after the Gold Award Committee has provided their feedback, being equipped to start off is important. A Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Project is about creating the greatest impact and lasting change. Avoiding these traps will help you do just that!

What NOT to Do

Canned Projects – a canned project is pre-designed and implements someone else’s project. For example, a blood drive or annual clean-up or if you can find it being done somewhere else. A Gold Award project requires you to act in a leadership role by creating and designing your own sustainable project that you have carefully researched and implemented.

Collection Projects – collecting or making items to be donated to an organization does not elicit the leadership or creativity required by the Gold Award.

Fundraising Projects – Girl Scouts are not allowed to raise money for other organizations.

Girl Scout Inward-Focused Projects – While Gold Award projects can benefit the Girl Scout community, they also need to be outward-focused and include the community and beyond.

Community Service Projects – Gold Award projects are Take Action projects that require more depth than service hours.

Standalone Structure Projects – sustainability is not you continuing the project or hoping someone else will so a standalone structure such as a bench, sign, mural or garden will need more elements such as an educational piece built into the project to engage others.

Gold Award FAQ

Can I start working on my project before my project is approved?

No!

Your project needs to be approved by the Gold Award Committee before you start your project. The committee may ask you some questions or ask you to rework your proposal. Please make sure you respond to the committee. You will be notified when your project has been approved.

Key Elements of Your Gold Award Project

SUSTAINABILITY

Design a project that creates lasting change! Once you have done all your work to find an issue you will need to take measures to ensure your efforts are sustainable. Find a way to make sure things don't revert back to the way they were and make sure that the results of your project continues to live on in the future and your work has a lasting impact. This can be done in one or more of these ways:

- Create a permanent solution
- Educate and inspire
- Advocate to change a rule, regulation or law

MEASURABILITY

Your project proposal and final report will need to include how you are going to measure or evaluate your impact and the success of your project. There are various tools and ways you can demonstrate this.

- Using data you have found while researching your project
- Establishing targets/goals
- Using tools such as surveys and spreadsheets, social media clicks

TARGETING A ROOT CAUSE OF AN ISSUE

It's important that your Gold Award project addresses your issue's root cause or underlying issue. This is the "why" of the issue and how it became a problem in your community. Finding the root cause of your issue takes thought, research and time to talk to others. The same issue might exist in many communities but the root cause may be different.

Here are some examples of the root cause of an issue.

| Sample Community Issue | Possible Root Causes ("Why" this is an issue) |
|--|--|
| The parks in your community are often full of litter | People aren't invested in their community parks. No trash cans are available. People in the community aren't aware of the negative effects of littering on the environment. Recycling centers are not available to reduce trash. |
| The local food shelf is often low on food. | People in the community don't know how or where to donate food. People aren't aware of the need. |
| Bats are intruding on neighborhoods and homes. | New home construction has destroyed bat's natural habitat. People don't understand the important role bats play in the local ecosystem. There is a lack of knowledge in the community about how to provide or restore bats' homes. |

NATIONAL/GLOBAL LINK

Your project has a national and/or global link when you explain how it connects to an issue that is relevant nationally and/or globally. Remember local to global to local. National and global issues just don't happen "somewhere else". By addressing issues like food insecurity, literacy or climate change in your community, you are addressing a national/global issue. Your issue may be as local as saving trees in the town park. Now step back and look around. Ask yourself if this is happening in other regions, nationally or globally? Forests and trees across the country are being devastated by disease or cut down. Your issue is now linked!

LEADERSHIP

This is your time to shine and practice the leadership skills that you already have and expand your toolkit of skills that can be applied to future academic, professional, and personal endeavors. You will be connecting with others from your community to build the team that you will collaborate with, delegate tasks and motivate as you manage your project to bring it to life.

SMART Goals: What Are They?

S = Specific: Your project goals should be written in a way that anyone can understand the project even if they aren't part of your team. Specific goals help the Gold Award Committee envision your project. These goals should address who, what, where, when, why and how.

- **What** are you going to do? Use action words such as direct, develop, organize, coordinate, lead, build.
- **Who** will be my target audience?
- **Where** am I going to do my project?
- **Why** is this important to do at this time? What do you want to ultimately accomplish?
- **How** are you going to do it?

M = Measurable: It's not enough to say my project is completed and I think it was a success. You need facts and figures to demonstrate the success of your project not just observations. Ask questions like: How many? How much? Did my audience learn what I wanted them to learn? Establish concrete criteria and tools for measuring your impact like monitoring the number of clicks, conducting surveys, making goals on how many people you would like to reach/impact, using spreadsheets, skill assessments and interviews to learn more.


A = Achievable/Attainable: Your goals should neither be too easy or too difficult to reach. When you identify goals that are important to you and your project you begin to figure out ways that you can make them come true. You will develop abilities, skills and attitudes to reach those goals. A goal needs to stretch you slightly so you feel that you can achieve it and stay committed to the cause. The feeling of success will keep you motivated.

R = Relevant: It is essential to pick a project that matters. Ask yourself, does this seem worthwhile? Is this something I care about? Is this something that others care about?

T = Timely: Your goals must have end dates. Deadline and timeframes help to focus your planning. It is important to set an overall deadline as well as smaller ones throughout your project.

GoGold

Ready to get started? The GoGold platform can be found at www.girlscouts.org/gogoldonline. You can create a GoGold account as soon as you turn 13, you do not need to have a project idea to get started. After you have created your profile, steps 1 and 2 are perfect tools to use if you aren't sure what you would like to do. You can explore and discover topics that interest you as well as use the mind mapping to help you investigate and dig deeper to find root causes of the issue you are passionate about. GSMW does not require you to complete steps 1 and 2 but highly recommends these tools even if you know what you would like to do.

GoGold provides coaching tools along the way to help write your proposal ensuring that you have the depth and components as well as address the key elements so your project meets the Gold Award Standards of Excellence. Wherever you see this symbol  you can click on it for more information. GoGold is mobile friendly and auto saves your work and helps you track what you have completed.

Once you have completed your project proposal, but before you submit it to GSMW for approval, GoGold will ask you to email your proposal to your Troop Leader and Project Advisor for their endorsement. This step is done from GoGold. After each person has reviewed your proposal and endorsed it, you will be able to submit it to GSMW.

When your proposal has been approved you can start your project and use GoGold to track your hours, income and expenses as well as make notes and upload pictures, videos and files. At the completion of your final report you will be required to email it to your Project Advisor from GoGold so they can endorse and support your final report and completed project.

Using GoGold to submit your Gold Award project is the only way GSMW can consider your Gold Award project for the GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship. When you are eligible to apply, GSMW will send information.

GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship

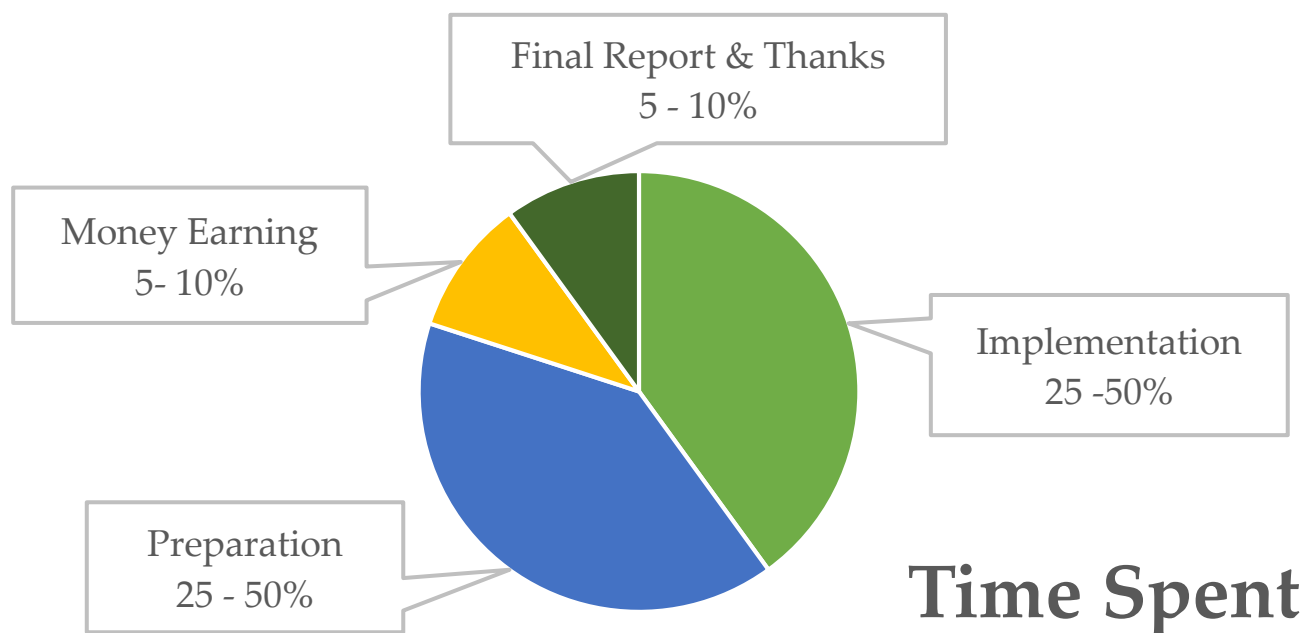
Every year, GSMW recognizes one Gold Award Girl Scout with a GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship. GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship recipients demonstrate extraordinary leadership, address a local challenge related to a national and/or global issue of significance, and had measurable and sustainable impact. The scholarship can be applied to tuition, fees, books, and supplies required for coursework at accredited institutions in the United States and abroad. These institutions include two-year and four-year colleges, vocational schools, and technical schools. GSMW can only consider projects submitted through GoGold. Girls who are high school seniors or recent high school graduates will be eligible to apply. Every Gold Award Girl Scout who meets the eligibility cycle will receive information and guidance from GSMW on how to apply.

Project Hours Breakdown

How much time does it take to do my Gold Award project?

Plan to spend at least 80 hours on your Gold Award project. You'll keep track of your time log in GoGold and you should do this as you go along. Hours your volunteers donate to your project, or time spent driving, getting gas, picking up volunteers, attending training and other secondary activities do not count.

Use this chart to guide you in how you will spend your project time.



Preparation is the process of researching your issue, formulating your project plan, contacting community partners and building your team. Don't start implementing your project until your project is approved by GSMW's Gold Award Committee.

Implementation is the process of leading and executing your project plan as defined in the proposal and making changes, when necessary, to achieve the project's goal.

Gold Award FAQ

Should someone edit and review my proposal?

YES!

Consider asking more than one person. You might ask one person to edit for grammar, spelling and structure and another for content, checking for complete answers and details as well as ask them if they can envision your plan.

Financing Your Gold Award Project

Your Gold Award project doesn't have to cost anything. If your project will cost money to carry out, make sure you are following all Girl Scout guidelines for money earning and donations. You will also need to submit an estimated budget with your proposal and a final budget with your final report so be sure to keep track of everything. Here are many ways to fund your project as well.

Donations

You may ask for donations of money or in-kind donations of supplies, services or volunteer time. You must also get council approval prior to seeking monetary donations for Highest Awards. If you receive an individual donation that is \$250 or more, please contact customercare@gsmw.org for further directions.

Troop Funds or Juliette Funds

You may use money from your troop account or Juliette Funds (submit a Juliette Funds Request form along with your receipts for reimbursement) but the decision to use troop funds for a Gold Award project needs to be approved by the whole troop.

Personal and Family Contributions

You and/or your family are welcome to make personal contributions to carry out your project.

Additional Money-Earning Activities

Please read the Money Earning Activity guidelines found at www.gsmw.org and submit a request for approval at least 2 weeks in advance of the additional money-earning activity.

Grants

If you would like to pursue a grant for your project, please contact customercare@gsmw.org.

Event Fees

If you are hosting an event to raise funds for your project costs please include that in your project proposal. Please also submit a Money Earning Activity request found at www.gsmw.org

Money Don'ts

If you have any questions about money and your Gold Award project please contact customercare@gsmw.org with any questions.

- Don't use a donation or tip jar.
- Gold Award projects cannot make a profit or raise funds for other organizations. Your income and expenses should match.



Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor Agreement Form

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador can earn. It represents a process and commitment to developing and understanding leadership skills to affect a positive, lasting change in a girl's community. By agreeing to act as a project advisor, you are taking steps towards helping a young woman become an asset to her community.

The volunteer experience involves a commitment of time and a mentoring relationship to help a girl succeed in her goal-setting, planning and the actual fulfillment of her project. Please review the GSUSA Guide for Project Advisors and Your Guide to Going Gold and the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit that have been provided for you by either the Gold Award applicant or GSMW. GSMW requires that all its volunteers working with girls become a registered Girl Scout and complete a background check. Please submit any questions you may have or for assistance completing your membership and/or background check to the council's Highest Awards Coordinator by sending an email to customercare@gsmw.org or calling 406-252-0488.

Girl Scout Gold Award Applicant Name: _____

Project Advisor Name: _____

Organization: _____

Advisor Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

I have reviewed the process involved in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award and I have met with the applicant listed above to begin the process of planning for her success. I agree to act as her Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor and to be a member of Girl Scouts and complete a background check. I agree to endorse her project proposal and final report prior to her submitting it to GSMW and understand these will come to me by email from GoGold, the online Gold Award submission portal. I also agree to assist her with proofreading her proposal and final report. I understand that her project requires approval from GSMW before she can move forward and that I will receive notification by email when her project has been approved.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please email this form to GSMW at customercare@gsmw.org.



Gold Award Project Proposal Rubric

| | | Does Not Meet Standards | Needs Improvement | Meets Standards |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Prerequisite | | | | |
| <i>Related question in proposal: Prerequisite chart</i> | | | | |
| A | Completion of Prerequisite | <input type="checkbox"/> Is not a registered Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout; not in grades 9–12 <input type="checkbox"/> Has not completed the Silver Award, a Senior/Ambassador Leadership Award, or Senior/Ambassador Journey | | <input type="checkbox"/> Is a registered Girl Scout in grades 9–12 <input type="checkbox"/> Has completed the Silver Award, a Senior/Ambassador Leadership Award, or Senior/Ambassador Journey |
| B | Gold Award Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Has not completed Gold Award training | | <input type="checkbox"/> Has completed Gold Award training |
| Step 1: Choose an issue | | | | |
| <i>Related questions in proposal: My Gold Award aims to address this issue</i> | | | | |
| C | Project identifies a credible community need | <input type="checkbox"/> Identified issue is based on Girl Scout's interests only and not on credible community need or <input type="checkbox"/> Identified issue is already being fulfilled by the community the Girl Scout intends to serve | | <input type="checkbox"/> Identified issue is based on credible community need |
| <i>Related question in proposal: The root cause of my issue is</i> | | | | |
| D | Project identifies a root cause of that community need and plan addresses that root cause | <input type="checkbox"/> Did not identify root cause <input type="checkbox"/> Project addresses an immediate need with a short-term/one-off solution | <input type="checkbox"/> Identified root cause <input type="checkbox"/> Project plan does not address it | <input type="checkbox"/> Identified root cause <input type="checkbox"/> Project plan shows well-constructed approach to address it |
| <i>Related question in proposal: The target audience(s) for my Gold Award project is/are</i> | | | | |
| E | Target audience is clearly identified and engaged in project | <input type="checkbox"/> Target audience is not part of the community affected by the issue <input type="checkbox"/> Project plan is designed FOR the target audience versus WITH | <input type="checkbox"/> Target audience is part of the community affected by the issue <input type="checkbox"/> Project plan marginally benefits the target audience | <input type="checkbox"/> Target audience is clearly identified members of the community affected by the issue <input type="checkbox"/> Project plan engages appropriate community members in the solution and demonstrates benefit to the target audience |

| Step 2 Investigate | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <i>Related question in proposal: The reasons I selected my issue are</i> | | | | |
| F | Research sources are cited and thoroughly investigated | <input type="checkbox"/> No validation or research conducted to help shape project | <input type="checkbox"/> Research is implied, but no sources provided | <input type="checkbox"/> Some research has been conducted and 1–2 sources are referenced |
| G | Project identifies national or global link to issue | <input type="checkbox"/> No connection to national and/or global issue | <input type="checkbox"/> Some research or evidence suggests limited connection to national or global issue | <input type="checkbox"/> Includes broad research and evidence connecting project specifically to a larger national and/or global issue; solution contributes to addressing that issue |
| Step 3: Get help | | | | |
| <i>Related question in proposal: List the names of individuals and organizations you plan to work with on your Gold Award project</i> | | | | |
| H | Team members are identified | <input type="checkbox"/> Self and family only | <input type="checkbox"/> Self, family, and Girl Scouts only OR less than 3 team members | <input type="checkbox"/> 3–5 team members, beyond Girl Scout community and family, with skills and knowledge related to the issue, including members of the community impacted by issue |
| <i>Related question in proposal: Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor information</i> | | | | |
| I | Project Advisor is identified and is an expert | <input type="checkbox"/> None selected | <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor is family member or troop leader/volunteer OR does not have knowledge of selected issue | <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor has expertise in one or more areas of the selected issue |
| Step 4: Create a plan | | | | |
| <i>Related question in proposal: I will address the root cause by</i> | | | | |
| J | Clear project description | <input type="checkbox"/> Project is not at all described; there is no explanation of what will be done | <input type="checkbox"/> Project is vaguely described; it is unclear what will be done | <input type="checkbox"/> Project is clearly described and shows a well-constructed approach on how the root cause of the issue will be addressed |
| <i>Related questions in proposal: The skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes my target audience will gain are; I will know that my audience has gained the desired skills/knowledge because; Measurement of my project's success chart</i> | | | | |
| K | Project will have a measurable impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Impact does not relate to issue OR is not defined | <input type="checkbox"/> Impact is a vague impression OR not realistically measurable | <input type="checkbox"/> Impact is clearly defined and measurable; there is a clear measurement tool defined |
| <i>Related question in proposal: My Gold Award project goals are</i> | | | | |
| L | Project goals are clearly defined and realistic | <input type="checkbox"/> No goals identified | <input type="checkbox"/> Goals lack detail and are not clearly connected to planned project impact | <input type="checkbox"/> At least one goal is clearly defined and connected to project impact |
| <i>Related question in proposal: My Gold Award will be sustained by</i> | | | | |
| M | Project plan will ensure sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> No plan for project to be continued OR the solution can't be maintained following the project (it's a service project) | <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear idea of how the project will continue OR <i>hoping</i> someone else will sustain | <input type="checkbox"/> Clear, thoughtful plan that leads to sustainability beyond the Girl Scout's involvement |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| <i>Related question in proposal: I will put my plan in to action by</i> | | | | |
| N | Timeline is realistic and appropriate | <input type="checkbox"/> Confusing or unrealistic plan that is missing key steps and is less than 80 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete project plan that highlights only a few steps and is less than 80 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive and realistic project plan that highlights all major steps in project and is about or over 80 hours |
| O | Active leadership role planned and defined | <input type="checkbox"/> No strategy to lead a team or engage others to help with the project OR project appears driven by an adult | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy to engage teammates is limited, includes only assigning minor roles/peripheral tasks | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy to engage teammates is comprehensive, outlines specific roles and responsibilities |
| <i>Related question in proposal: Estimate your project expenses and how you plan to meet those costs</i> | | | | |
| P | Budget is realistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Provides incomplete information about project costs or how those costs will be met <input type="checkbox"/> Plans to raise money/fundraise for another organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Provides vague description of project costs; it is unclear how those costs will be met and/or the supplies listed appear inappropriate for the scope of the project | <input type="checkbox"/> Provides detailed description of project costs and clear explanation of how costs will be met |
| Q | Income and money-earning activity explanations | <input type="checkbox"/> No explanation OR disregards money-earning policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but unclear if following money-earning policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, follows all money-earning policies |
| <i>Related question in proposal: The strengths, talents and skills I currently have and will put into action are; The skills I plan to develop as I work towards earning my Gold Award are</i> | | | | |
| R | Leadership development | <input type="checkbox"/> Does not include information about leadership or personal strengths; does not identify a goal for developing a new skill | <input type="checkbox"/> Provides incomplete information about leadership and personal strengths; partially sets goal to develop new leadership skill | <input type="checkbox"/> Describes new skills to be developed |
| <i>Related question in proposal: I will let others know about my Gold Award by promoting via</i> | | | | |
| S | Tell the World: Plan to actively share project | <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete information | | <input type="checkbox"/> Identifies the methods to be used for sharing the Gold Award project |