



## Ways Parent /Guardians Can Support Girls Working on Girl Scout Silver Awards

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting that girls 11-14 can earn. It represents a girl's commitment to herself and to her community, as she focuses on leadership, career exploration, personal challenges and completing a project that will benefit her community. It takes many hours of preparation, planning and work to accomplish the goals a girl has set for herself.

Parents/guardians play a significant role in supporting a girl's path to the Girl Scout Silver Award. As a parent you may be called upon to be coach, mentor, cheerleader, sounding board and chauffeur.

As a parent, you are not expected to be a taskmaster — this is the girl's project. However, you can assist a girl by:

- Reading through the materials provided to girls regarding these awards so that you feel comfortable offering support.
- Encouraging and supporting her, but not pressuring her. "Going for the Silver" is something that a girl has to want to do herself.
- Helping her choose a topic that will become the basis for her project if she asks for ideas. Remember, however, that the topic is based on her passions, not yours.
- Aiding her in accessing a network of adults who can lend insight, provide contacts, and point to resources. You may work with someone who has just the skill set your daughter needs in an advisor, or someone who belongs to a service club that your daughter and her advisor can approach for financial assistance.
- Supporting a girl in following any Girl Scout safety or money earning guidelines during her path to the Girl Scout Silver Award. This is important to assure the safety of your daughter and the integrity of the Girl Scout program.
- Allowing your daughter to stumble and learn the lessons that come with the Girl Scout Silver Award project. She will have a Girl Scout Silver Award project advisor, an adult who has been trained to assist her in partnership.
- Realizing that your daughter is capable, competent and worthy of respect as she assumes more responsibilities within her community. Provide her with positive and constructive support on this journey.
- Attending the event if it is appropriate, and joining in the celebration as your daughter is honored for her accomplishments.