

## Guidelines for Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards at a Glance

AWARDS	GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD®	GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD®	GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD®
WHO CAN EARN	Girls must be in 4 <sup>th</sup> or 5 <sup>th</sup> grade and a registered Girl Scout Junior	Girls must be in 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , or 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and a registered Girl Scout Cadette	Girls must be in 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , or 12 <sup>th</sup> grade and a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador
OVERVIEW OF STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Complete a Junior Journey</li> <li>✓ Be part of a troop or group where girls take the lead</li> <li>✓ Take action on a community issue the troop or group cares about</li> <li>✓ Help and guidance provided by troop/group volunteer</li> <li>✓ Council approval needed for any money earning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Complete a Cadette Journey</li> <li>✓ Work as an individual or in a small group (3-4 girls) where girls take the lead</li> <li>✓ Take action on a community issue that the girls care about</li> <li>✓ Help and guidance provided by troop/group volunteer</li> <li>✓ Help and guidance by a Project Advisor is optional</li> <li>✓ Council approval needed for any money earning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Complete two Journeys (Senior or Ambassador) <b>or</b> Earn the Silver Award and complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey</li> <li>✓ Individually girl led; girl selects and recruits Project Advisor</li> <li>✓ Take action on a community issue the girl cares about</li> <li>✓ Help and guidance for project provided by Project Advisor</li> <li>✓ Council approval needed for any money earning</li> </ul>
GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Troop/Group Volunteer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Troop/Group Volunteer <b>who is not related to the girl</b></li> <li>✓ (Optional) Project Advisor who is not related to girl and not a member of the troop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Troop/Group Volunteer <b>who is not related to the girl</b></li> <li>✓ Project Advisor who is not related to girl and not a member of the troop</li> </ul>
TAKE ACTION PROJECT	<p>Group Take Action Project focuses on something the girls care about that they would like to improve within their Girl Scout or local community. 20 minimum hours required for project.</p> <p>Puts the Promise and Law into action</p>	<p>Individual or small group Take Action Project that makes the local neighborhood or community better. 50 minimum hours required for project.</p> <p>Puts the Promise and Law into action</p>	<p>Individual Take Action Project that makes a lasting difference in the local community, region, or beyond. 80 hours minimum required for project.</p> <p>Puts the Promise and Law into action</p>
SUSTAINABLE	After the project is complete, girls develop an understanding of sustainability by talking together about how solutions can be lasting.	Girls demonstrate an understanding of sustainability in the project plan and implementation.	Take Action Project includes provisions to ensure sustainability.
GLOBAL	After the project is complete, girls develop an understanding of the wider world by talking together about how others may experience the same problem that their project helped resolve.	Girls connect with new friends outside their immediate community, learn how others have solved similar problems and determine if the ideas of others can help with their plan.	Girls identify national and/or global links to their selected issue. They learn from others and develop a plan to share the results of their project beyond the local community.
PROJECT APPROVAL	Project approved by Troop/Group Volunteer	Project report approved by GSGST Gold & Silver Award Advisory Committee	Project proposal and report approved by GSGST Gold & Silver Award Advisory Committee
RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junior Journey</li> <li>• Junior Journey Facilitator guide</li> <li>• Bronze Award girl guide on GSGST Web site</li> <li>• Adult guide on GSGST Web site</li> <li>• GSGST Staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cadette Journey</li> <li>• Cadette Journey Facilitator guide</li> <li>• Silver Award girl guide on GSGST Web site</li> <li>• Adult guide on GSGST Web site</li> <li>• Council Workshops</li> <li>• GSGST Staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior and/or Ambassador Journeys</li> <li>• Senior/Amb Journey Facilitator Guides</li> <li>• Gold Award girl guide on GSGST Web site</li> <li>• Adult guide on GSGST Web site</li> <li>• Council Workshops</li> <li>• GSGST Staff</li> </ul>

\*Adhere to guidelines in the Volunteer Packet and *Safety-Wise*

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Q: What if a girl started working toward her award using the “old” standards? Does she need to start over?**

**A:** No. Girls are welcome to change to the new requirements if they like, but girls who began working toward their awards using the 2004-09 requirements may finish her project according to those guidelines. Please refer to those guidelines for information regarding deadlines and steps to completion. If you need documents from the 2004-09 guidelines, please contact the GSGST Program Services Coordinator.

**2. Q. Why are journeys prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?**

**A:** The journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action project.

**3. 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.

**4. 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 Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. Girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action project.

**5. Q: What is happening with the prerequisites for the “old” awards (i.e. the signs, interest patches, career and leadership awards)?**

**A:** These awards will no longer be prerequisites under the new guidelines. However, girls can continue to earn these awards.

**6. Q: Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) from one Girl Scout level to the next?**

**A:** Yes. Girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer.

**7. 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.

**8. Q. Who are the adult guides 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, including the troop volunteer and the Project Advisor (for Girl Scout Silver and Gold Awards).

**9. Q: Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?**

**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.

**10. Q. Can a girl earn her Bronze Award on her own?**

**A:** The Bronze Award is a team-based project earned by a group of Girl Scouts. Contact your GSGST staff for information on how to locate Girl Scout Juniors to work as a team if there is an individual girl who is ready to work on her Bronze Award.

**11. Q: What is the difference between a troop/group volunteer and a project advisor in the Girl Scout Gold and Silver Award process? Do girls need both?**

**A:** A **Troop/Group Volunteer** is the adult who works with an ongoing troop or group, who is or becomes familiar with the Girl Scout guidelines for the awards. Once a girl identifies her issue, the troop/group volunteer might help her identify a person in the community who could be a great project advisor.

A **project advisor** is a volunteer that guides a girl as she takes her project from the planning stage to implementation. The project advisor is not a girl's parent or a Girl Scout troop/group volunteer. The project advisor is typically someone from the community who is knowledgeable about the issue and who can provide guidance, experience and expertise along the way.

Girls need to have a Troop/Group Volunteer and a Project Advisor while working toward the Gold Award. The Project Advisor is an optional guide for girls working toward their Silver Award.

**12. Q: Why can't a parent be a Girl Scout Silver or Gold Award Troop/Group Volunteer or Project Advisor?**

**A:** Girls are encouraged to connect with their community when earning the highest awards in Girl Scouts. That means working with a volunteer and project advisor who is not their parent or related to them. It also means that girls should identify a project advisor who is not a member of their troop.

**13. Q: At what point should a Girl Scout Silver or Gold Award project advisor be identified?**

**A:** The Girl Scout Silver Award project advisor is recommended but not required. The advisor should be identified in the planning phase of the project, so that the girl has guidance while planning a successful Take Action project. The Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor should be identified in the planning phase before the Project Proposal is turned in to the council. The project advisor expands the network of adults and provides expertise for a girl's project. If a girl has an idea before she starts any work on her Girl Scout Gold Award, she might want to identify her project advisor from the very beginning.

**20. Q: What is the role of the council's Girl Scout Gold & Silver Award committee?**

**A:** **GSGST's Girl Scout Gold & Silver Award Committee** exists to support Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors as they go through the process of earning their Girl Scout Gold or Silver Award. The Girl Scout Gold & Silver Award Committee is typically comprised of community members, educators, key volunteers and young women who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award. The Committee works with designated council staff.

The committee's role is to ensure that girls' projects meet the national guidelines. The committee reviews Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposals, Gold Award Final Reports, and Silver Award Project Reports, makes recommendations for project development and resources, and makes the decision on whether to approve the project proposals and project reports. If a girl's project has not yet achieved its goals, the committee provides suggestions and tips to help her develop a high quality Take Action project.

**21. Q. What does it mean to have a sustainable project?**

**A:** A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girl's involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl's involvement.

**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.

**23. Q: Can a girl earn the Girl Scout Gold Award even if she hasn't been in Girl Scouts very long?**

**A:** Yes! She just needs to be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador to begin her Gold Award project.

**24. Q: What if a girl is 18 and graduating? Can she complete her project when she is in college?**

**A:** A girl has until she turns 18 or until the end of the Girl Scout membership year (September 30<sup>th</sup>) when she is a senior in high school.

**25. Q: What if a girl graduates and is 18 and doesn't have her project completed?**

**A:** In this case the girl would have until September 30 of the year she graduates.

**26. Q: When will a girl be recognized after she has completed her award?**

**A:** At each Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas Annual Meeting (in February or March of each year), Girl Scout Silver and Gold Award recipients from the previous membership year are honored. For example, if a girl earns her award during the 2010-2011 membership year, she will be invited to be honored at the Annual Meeting in Spring of 2012.

Each spring, invitations are sent out to attend the Texas Statewide Gold Award Ceremony to girls who have completed their awards within that year. Recipients who complete their award after the invitations have been sent out (usually in March or April), will be invited to attend the following year.