



Girl Scout Gold Award

Guidelines for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors





Overview

Since 1916, Girl Scout's highest award has stood for excellence and leadership for girls everywhere. Soon, you will be joining the ranks of generations of young women who have made a difference in their communities and beyond.

As a Girl Scout, you are part of the sisterhood of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, a global movement comprised of more than ten million girls worldwide who are using their talents to positively impact their communities. With your talent and passion, you, too, can make changes in your community that can reach people around the world.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award that Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can earn. Fulfilling the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award starts with: 1) attending the **mandatory** Girl Scout Gold Award training “...And the Other’s Gold”, and 2) completing two Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journeys **-OR-** having earned the Girl Scout Silver Award and completing one Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journey. Each Journey you complete gives you the skills you need to plan and implement your Girl Scout Gold Award project.

After you have fulfilled the Journey(s) requirement, **80 hours** is the suggested minimum hours for the following steps:

1. Identify an issue.
2. Investigate.
3. Get help and build your team.
4. Create a plan.
5. Present your plan and get feedback. Submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal to the council and schedule first interview with the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee.
6. Put your plan into motion.
7. Educate and inspire others.
8. Submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to the council and schedule final interview with the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee.

The suggested minimum hours are not a rule; they are a guide for you to plan your time in achieving your goal.

The girl guidelines, tools, forms, and troop/group volunteer and project advisor guide are also available at [gswise.org](https://www.gswise.org).

Benefits of Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award:

- It's the highest award a girl can earn in Girl Scouting.
- An increasing number of colleges and universities have recognized Gold Awardees by providing scholarships.
- If you enter any of the U.S. military branches you will immediately rise one rank for earning your Girl Scout Gold Award. Your achievements will be recognized by many local, state, government, and nonprofit organizations.
- The project itself improves a community issue and betters the lives of others.
- Your accomplishments will reflect the leadership and citizenship skills that set you apart from others.

Standards of Excellence

When you decide to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, you are on your honor to uphold the *Standards of Excellence*. These standards set a high benchmark for everything you do and invite you to think deeply, explore opportunities, and challenge yourself. Following the *Standards of Excellence* challenges you to develop yourself as a leader, achieve the Girl Scout Leadership outcomes, and make a mark on your community that creates a lasting impact on the lives of others.

Refer to the *Standards of Excellence Rubric* supplement to see examples and ensure that your project meets the requirements throughout each of the seven steps of your project.



Standards of Excellence Rubric

When you decide to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, you are on your honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards set a high benchmark for everything you do and invite you to think deeply, explore opportunities, and challenge yourself. Following the Standards of Excellence challenges you to develop yourself as a leader, achieve the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes, and make a mark on your community that creates a lasting impact on the lives of others.

STEPS	Does Not Meet Standard (DNM)		Needs Improvement (NI)		Meets Minimum Standard (MS)		Above Average (AA)		Exceeds Standards (candidate for Young Woman of Distinction) (YWD)											
	Project does not meet Girl Scout Gold Award Standards										Project achieves Girl Scout Gold Award standards									
	Definition	Example	Definition	Example	Definition	Example	Definition	Example	Definition	Example	Definition	Example								
Step 1: Identify an Issue - Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about																				
Project demonstrates civic responsibility by clearly identifying and addressing the root cause of a valid community need; Girl articulates issue clearly and explains why it matters to her and the community	The issue was selected because the girl is interested in the topic, but does not have any validation of research behind it and no root cause is explained	Teaching dance	The issue addresses some need in the community, but little or no research is evident and a small explanation is provided; No root cause is explained	Teaching dance because some cannot afford to take it	The issue addresses a commonly known need in the community; Some research has been conducted and presented in the project explanation; A root cause is explained	Teaching dance to help youth improve self-esteem	The issue addresses two aspects of a commonly known need in the community; Moderate research is shared in the explanation; A root cause is explained	Teaching dance to help youth improve self-esteem and physical fitness	The issue addresses three or more aspects of a need in the community; Thorough research is shared in the explanation; A root cause is explained	Developing and teaching a "Healthy You" course to underserved/at-risk youth to improve self-esteem, fitness and respect through										
Step 2: Investigate - Research everything you can about the issue																				
Research is conducted using a variety of sources (interview people, read books/articles, find professional organizations, etc.) and each source is evaluated for reliability and accuracy	No research has been done; The girl knows little about the background/implications of her project	N/A	Little research has been completed; Only utilized one source; Source's credibility has not been evaluated	Read an article online	Girl has used more than one credible source to acquire information on her project issue	Interviewed a local expert and found professional articles online	Research is thorough and demonstrates understanding of multiple aspects of the issue	Research is thorough and demonstrates understanding of multiple aspects of the issue	Research is thorough and demonstrates understanding of multiple aspects of the issue	Research is thorough and demonstrates understanding of multiple aspects of the issue	Research is thorough and demonstrates understanding of multiple aspects of the issue									
Target audience (those who will be involved and benefit from the project) is clearly identified	Only immediate network	Self, family, Girl Scout Troop	Immediate community	Church group, club, school	Local community organizations, businesses	20-50% of community	Multiple communities	More than 50% of current community	Engaging communities state-wide, nation-wide, or other countries											
Project explains a national or global connection	Local or regional connection	Teaching dance	National issue	Teaching dance	National connection is made in a general way	Lack of self-esteem among girls ages 9-15 is a national issue	Global or national connection is clearly identified and well documented	Global or national connection is clearly identified and well documented	The Girl Scout Research Institute has demonstrated that in North America dance is an activity that improves self-esteem in girls ages 9-15											
One or more show leadership skills	None engaged or engaged passively	Building a website, writing a booklet	Less than 20 people engaged	Building a website and creating a bulletin board or pamphlet	Engages 20-50 people in local community	Teaching kids to make quilting squares, then assembling them into quilts that will be used in homeless shelters	Engages 50-100 people with active engagement strategies	Booth with demonstrations at a community event	Engages 100 or more people	Interactive informational sessions at multiple community events/functions										
Connect with and utilize feedback from the volunteers on the Gold Award Mentor Committee prior to, during, and after the proposal interview	No response to mentor/mentor committee's initial contact	Girl does not respond to mentor's calls or emails	Contact made with mentor/mentor committee but feedback was not accepted; no further dialogue regarding refinement of project plan	Mentor gives suggestions to help refine project plan, but no changes made and no counter explanation presented	Girl accepts constructive suggestions and works with mentor to edit project plan in order to be fully prepared for her proposal interview	Mentor/mentor committee suggests adding components to project in order to expand the scope of people reached; Girl does so by editing her plan to include presentations at community events	Girl continually reaches out to mentor/mentor committee, accepts constructive suggestions, and works with mentor to edit her project plan in order to be fully prepared for her proposal interview	At first meeting mentor/mentor committee asks girl to adapt the project timeline; Girl adapts timeline and then contacts mentor again to verify that changes match with their recommendations	Girl reaches out to mentor before, during, and after interview; Accepts constructive suggestions and works with mentor to edit her project plan to incorporate all advice and feedback she is given	Girl received several suggestions for bettering her project and worked with her mentor to ensure that she incorporated them to expand the depth and scope of her project's impact and how it would address the root cause of her chosen issue										



Girl Scout Gold Award toolkit

Stay organized and keep track of your ideas, contact information, appointments, and plans with the Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit. This toolkit includes a Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet (at the end of the packet), tips, planning guides, and advice to help with each step of your Girl Scout Gold Award project. Utilize these tools—and don't forget that your Journey(s) include tools and ideas, too! You can also utilize GoGold online. Check out girlscouts.org/gogold for tools and resources to help you plan and carry out your project.

Step 1: Identify an issue

Use your values and skills to choose a community issue that you care about (outside of Girl Scouting). Check out the Decision-Making Tips in your toolkit. If you have more than one issue that you are passionate about, interview others to help you decide. Practice making your pitch and see how it feels. You can also make a 15-second video, write a bumper-sticker slogan, or come up with another fun way to sum up why this issue is important to you.

Decision-making tips

You are about to make a big decision that will have a significant impact on your life and may even change it forever. Take some time to reflect and get inspired. Start with yourself.

- What inspires you? Is it something in your school, community, country, or the world?
- What motivates you into action? Is it people, events, activities, places?
- What skills, talents, and strengths do you have to offer?
- How do you want to make a difference? As an advocate for justice? A promoter of environmental awareness? As a trainer, mentor, or coach? As an artist, actor, or musician? As an organizer of petitions or campaigns? As an entrepreneur? Can you think of another role?
- What motivates, inspires, and interests others? Can you build a team to support your idea?
- What would benefit the community both immediately and long-term?
- Check back through your Girl Scout leadership Journey(s). What interested you that you might be able to translate into an award project?



Need some inspiration? Search through these sites to see what others are doing to address issues in their community.

- **The Corporation for National and Community Service:** serve.gov
- **Global Citizen Corps:** globalcitizencorps.org
- **Global Youth Action Network:** youthlink.org
- **Global Youth Service Day:** gysd.org/share
- **Learn and Serve America:** learnandserve.gov
- **Prudential:** spirit.prudential.com
- **Taking IT Global:** tigweb.org
- **United Nations Millennium Development Goals:** un.org/millenniumgoals
- **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts:** waggggs.org
- **Youth Venture:** genv.net

Interview tips

Find out what you need to prepare and conduct an interview.

1. **Making arrangements:** Deciding who you would like to interview, contacting the person, and setting up a date and time.
2. **Preparation:** Gathering research and background information to help you formulate questions to ask the interview subject(s). Use these sample interview questions to get you started, and then add some of your own. If you need help choosing an issue, you will want to ask the following types of questions:
 - What are the biggest challenges/problems that you have faced or are facing?
 - What do you think is the root cause of these issues?
 - What will it take to address these issues?
 - Are there any resources available to do that?
 - What do you consider to be the strengths of the community?

If, on the other hand, you have already chosen an issue, move ahead to the interview.

3. **Conducting the interview:** Bring a notebook to take notes. Here are some tips:

- Find a quiet place where you will have each others' full attention, and agree to turn off your cell phones.
- Start by thanking the interviewee for her/his time and then briefly describe your project.
- Keep questions simple and related to the issue at hand. Do your research. Preparation is key!
- Ask the person you interview if she or he would like to hear more about your project as it develops.
- Send a thank you note to everyone you interview within a week of the interview. Mention the possibility of a follow-up interview.

4. **Reviewing information and setting up a possible follow up interview:** Your interview is over. Now what? You have to sift through to find the information that's relevant to what you are working on. If there are some gaps that you need to fill, contact your interview subject(s) to get more information and to find out whether or not you have your facts correct. Remember to check and recheck your facts!

Making your pitch

You've seen the advertisements and most times you even remember the slogans. What makes them memorable? It could be because they are clever or catchy or funny. Now that you have chosen your issue, think of a way that you can let people know about it. You should be able to describe the issue you have chosen in about 15 seconds. Here are some tips to help you do that.

- **Make it memorable:** Develop a slogan. What makes you remember the slogan in those commercials on TV? How can you incorporate that into your pitch?
- **Target your audience:** Who are you trying to reach? If you are aiming for kids, think of a story or riddle that would relate this to them. Young kids love to rhyme. If you are reaching out to adults, no cute stories! Think about your audience and try to tailor your pitch so that it connects with them.
- **How you will help:** You have gotten their attention with your story. Now tell them what your project will do to make their lives better.
- **Personalize it:** Why this project? Why this target audience? How will doing this make you a better person?
- **Do it:** Put it all together. Explain your idea in a short and motivating way that clarifies it for you, your potential team, target audience, and supporters. Remember, 15 seconds. Go!

Step 2: Investigate

Use your sleuthing skills to learn everything you can about the issue you have identified. Zoom in on your issue to identify a specific aspect of it that you would like to address, because focused effort has more impact than a big idea that is scattered.

- **Log on:** Check news sites and the sites of organizations related to your issue. Explore how the media in other countries cover your issue. **Note:** Before doing your online research, take the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge at [girlscouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp](https://www.girlscouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp).
- **Go to the library:** Find books that offer in-depth analysis about your issue, read your local newspaper, and look for magazine articles that offer different perspectives on your issue.
- **Interview people:** Talk to your friends, neighbors, teachers, business owners, and others who can offer information or insights about the issue you have chosen.

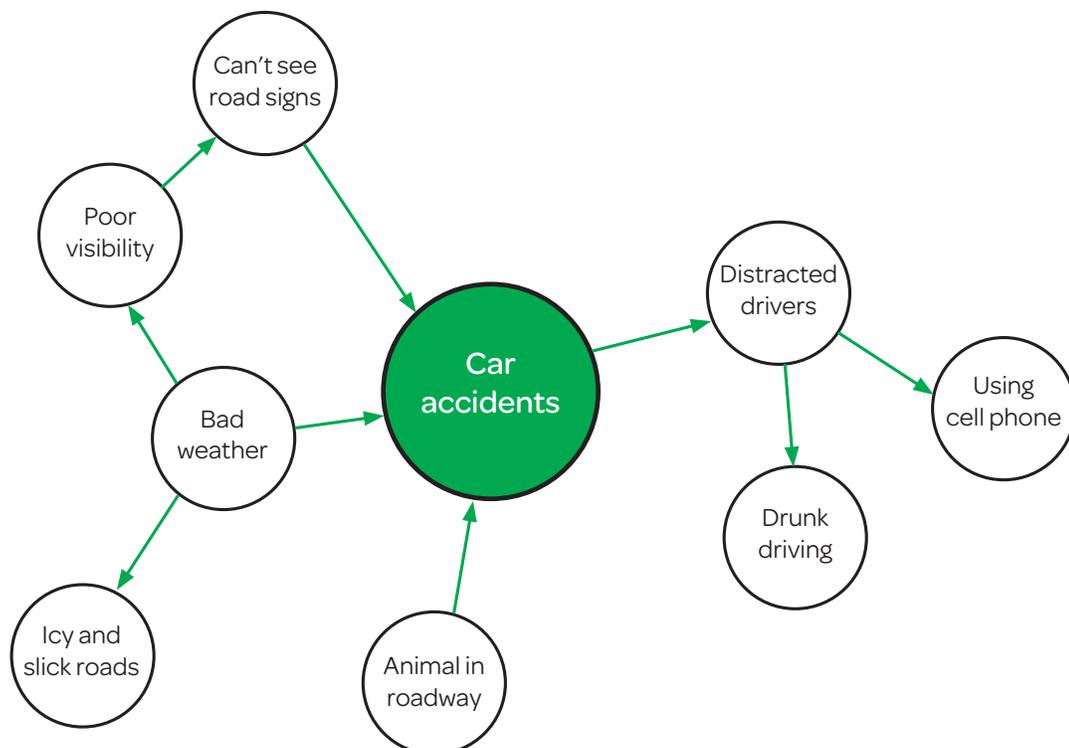
Knowing the various causes of a problem enables you to figure out unique ways to solve it. Use the Mind Mapping Tool to create a diagram that tracks a problem and its possible causes.

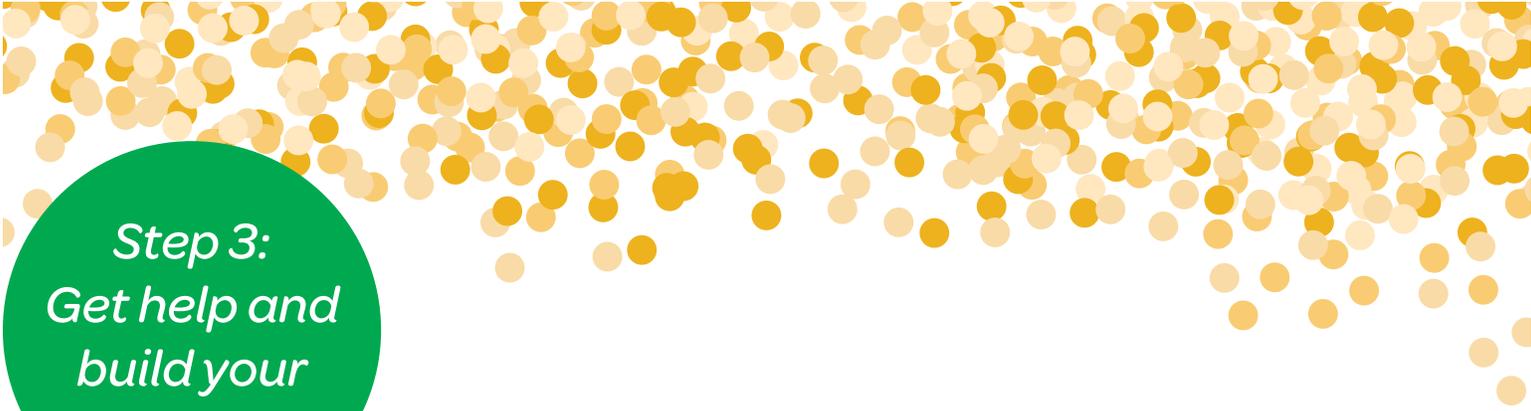
Mind-mapping tool

Create your own mind-mapping diagram like the one shown on the left, using one of the issues facing your community. Follow these instructions:

- Write the community issue in the middle of the paper or anywhere that works for you.
- Think about what some of the causes of this issue could be. In this example, one of the main causes of car accidents is bad weather. Notice how many different causes connect from bad weather.
- Now, try connecting the different causes you come up with to each other and to the main issue. How do the causes connect to each other?
- Do you see a pattern?

This activity will help you come up with different ways to approach a problem, as well as different ways you might go about addressing it.





Step 3: Get help and build your team

Invite other people to join your team to support your efforts and help you take action. Consider reaching out to classmates, teachers, friends, and experts from organizations and businesses. Networking with people can make you a more effective leader. Also, the more people you have behind you, the more likely you will positively influence your community. You are the leader of your team – plan your project, motivate your team, learn from others.

Note: *The Girl Scout Gold Award is designed to be completed by an individual Girl Scout (no group projects). However, girls should use other resources as described above and in the Teaming Tips.*

Choose a project advisor, a person with expertise in the topic of your Girl Scout Gold Award project. An advisor can help you identify resources, provide insights, solve problems, and provide additional background information on your chosen issue.

Teaming tips

Think about the people who might help you put your Girl Scout Gold Award project into action. Choose people who will stick it out until the project is complete. You don't have to limit your team to people your age or just Girl Scouts.

Leading a group will help you make a bigger impact and cover more ground than you would on your own. It might be challenging at times, but remember to always be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, and responsible for what you say and do. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you build your team:

- Promote a sense of trust and belonging
- Share ownership
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Communicate regularly and openly
- Respect diversity
- Have fun and be creative
- Be open to new ideas and different ways of working
- Keep learning and growing

Project advisor tips

Choose a Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor to help you plan and implement your project. Your project advisor should be an **expert** about your issue (this person cannot be a troop/group volunteer or troop parent). Here you'll find tips for selecting and working with your project advisor.

- **Reach out:** You have figured out the issue you are going to address with your project. Now it is time to find an expert to help along the way and give you advice and suggestions. Ask your troop/group volunteer or your council for suggestions. Then, select a few people related to your issue area with whom you would like to work.
- **Safety first:** Before you meet with new people, talk to your troop/group regarding safety tips. Make sure your family know who you are talking to and meeting with.
- **Ask:** Start with your first choice and, if she or he cannot help, go to your next choice. (Hint: There may be many others who are willing to help!) Approach the people you selected one at a time. Introduce yourself by sending a brief letter or e-mail, explaining what you are working on and the advice you would like. Give some background. Give estimated time commitments and ask which way would be best to communicate.
- **Say thanks:** When an individual accepts, send her or him a thank you note, along with a brief description of your project and a list of areas where you think you will need the most help. Be sure to also give your project advisor a copy of the Girl Scout Gold Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors and Troop/Group Volunteer and Project Advisor Guide.
- **Think ahead when asking for help:** Before you compose an e-mail or call your project advisor, think about how you can simplify a problem you are having so that she or he can offer quick suggestions.
- **Share your progress:** Make sure to tell your project advisor (in a quick e-mail or phone call) about your progress and how her or his help is making your project better, easier, and so on.
- **Celebrate together:** After your Girl Scout Gold Award project is completed, invite her or him to the Girl Scout Recognition Event and/or your own celebration. Do not forget to send a thank you note!

Step 4: Create a plan

Going for the Girl Scout Gold Award requires you to address the root cause of an issue which will make a lasting impact in your community—take a look at the Sustainability Tips on page 10. Create a plan that outlines the best use of your time and talent, your resources, and your team’s talents, making the most with what you have – that’s your challenge!

Project planner

A Girl Scout Gold Award project addresses the **root cause** of an issue, produces impact that is **measurable** and **sustainable**, and is a local project that links to a national and/or global issue. Remember, your project needs to make a difference outside of Girl Scouting and Girl Scouts are not allowed to raise money on behalf of other organizations. Here are a few tips to help you lay out your project plan:

- **Set project goals:**

What is your project?

Why does it matter?

Who will it help?

What difference do you intend to make in the world?

- **Steps to meet the goals:** List step-by-step what it will take to reach your goal. **Be as specific as possible**, so that you can put together a timeline and draw on your team to help you reach your goals.
- **Develop a timeline:** This will help you determine how much time should be allotted to each part of your project.
- **Think about money earning:** Brainstorm ways to finance your project. If needed, speak with your Girl Scout troop/group volunteer to make sure that your ideas are in line with the Girl Scout policies. All money-earning projects or solicited monetary donations need to have Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast approval. Is there a grant you can apply for? For additional information on money-earning, go to gswise.org or girlscouts.org. Remember, you can make an impact without spending money by influencing policy and so on.
- **Establish a global link:** Consider how to connect your project to an issue that affects people in other parts of the country or the world.

Use the following questions to help you determine what you need and what you need to do.

- What is the goal you would like to achieve with your project?
- How do you plan to achieve this project goal?
- What are the foreseeable obstacles?
- Aside from your team, troop/group volunteer, and project advisor, do you need anyone else to help with your project?
- What supplies will you need?
- If necessary, how will you earn money or solicit monetary donations or donations of items?
- How will you measure your success as you go?
- How will your project create lasting change?



Sustainability tips

Girl Scout Gold Award projects are not one shot—they create lasting change. You can ensure a lasting project by setting clear timelines, collaborating with community organizations, building alliances with adults and mentors, and keeping good records. Sustainability often involves influencing others to pitch in. Here are some examples of sustainable projects.

Example #1

Community issue: Food waste from school lunches poses a danger to the environment.

Root cause: No community composting or recycling program.

Take action: Create a food waste composting program for the school.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Work with school officials to find biodegradable plates and cups to use in the cafeteria.
- Work with town/state food waste officials to ensure the system is in place.
- Implement a plan in your school to separate their cafeteria waste into composting, recycling, and trash bins. (Farmers can use the compost to fertilize crops, improve the quality of the soil, decrease soil runoff, and so on.)
- Get a commitment from school administrators to carry on when your project is complete.

Making your project bigger (national and/or global link):

Recruit students at schools in the area to develop the program for their schools and/or contact local and state officials about adopting the program.

Global link: Find out how people in other parts of the world deal with food waste in schools. What kinds of programs do they have in place? How can you learn from this?

Example #2

Community issue: Teen suicide.

Root cause: Lack of awareness and prevention.

Take action: Establish an awareness and prevention program.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Produce a short video that can be used in other communities with an online brochure outlining the steps to an awareness and prevention program.
- Share the video and online brochure with schools and community organizations.

Making your project bigger (national and/or global link):

Share the program with local youth groups, health/human services agencies, community centers, church/synagogue/mosque, community centers, or school district.



**Step 5:
Present your
plan and get
feedback**

Fill out the Project Planning Checklist in your toolkit to organize your thoughts and make sure you have everything you need before you hand in your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal (available at gswise.org) to your Girl Scout council for approval through an interview process. Include what you have learned, why your project idea matters, with whom you are teaming, and your plan for making your project sustainable. Ensure your project addresses an issue outside of Girl Scouting.

Girl Scout Council approval is required before you can continue working on your project. Once your project is approved, take a look at your Project Planner tools from step 4. Do you have everything you need?

Project planning checklist

The answers to all of the questions below need to be yes before you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal for council approval.

- Will your project demonstrate your leadership skills?
- Have you set your project goals and identified what you would like to learn?
- Have you chosen your Girl Scout Gold Award team?
Have you discussed the project with them?
- Have you created a budget for the project?
- Have you created a plan to raise funds, if necessary?
- Have you made a timeline for your project?
- Does your project address a need in the local community and have you found national and/or global links?
- Can your project be sustainable?
- Does your project challenge your abilities and your interests?

Once you answer yes to all the items on this checklist, you are ready to submit your (*Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal*) to the council and schedule your first interview with the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee.

Important Note: Your proposal is due three weeks before the prescheduled interview date you wish to attend. For upcoming interview dates, go to gswise.org or call 800-565-4475. **You need to receive council approval before you begin your project.**

Once you receive council approval, start working on your project!



Step 6: Put your plan in motion

Lead your team, carry out your plan. Use the tools you have developed in the previous steps and remember to check your Journey(s) for tips. If you hit a speed bump along the way, learn from it and find ways to adjust your plan.

Project tips

- Ensure your Girl Scout membership remains current while you are working on all steps of the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Consult GSUSA *Safety Activity Checkpoints*, and *Volunteer Essentials* (both available at gswise.org) for potential safety issues and program standards regarding every aspect of the project including, but not limited to: adult/child ratios, first aid or CPR-certified adults, and money earning.
- All money-earning projects or solicited monetary donations need to have Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast's approval. For council money-earning guidelines, refer to gswise.org. For approval, complete the Money Earning Notification form, available at gswise.org, *Forms* section.
- Do not forget to take pictures throughout your project and submit completed Photo Release Forms, available at gswise.org, *Forms* section.
- Inform the council before issuing a press release or reaching out to the media.
- Only the CEO or designee can sign agreements or contracts on behalf of Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast.
- You must purchase Plan 2 Insurance for non-registered Girl Scouts involved in your project. Complete the Mutual of Omaha Plan 2 Enrollment Form and submit with payment at least two weeks prior to your event or activity, available at gswise.org, *Forms* section.
- Submit a **Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal** to obtain council approval for your project. Upon project completion, complete a **Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report**. Forms available at gswise.org.
- Final Reports need to be received by February 1 to be recognized at that spring's Girl Scout Recognition Event. After that date, girls will be recognized the following spring.

Step 7: Educate and inspire others

Tell your story and share your results. You can inspire someone who has never considered taking action to do something! Use the Reflection Tool on page 14 to identify how this experience has affected you and how your views may have changed.

Finally, complete your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, (available at gswise.org) which is a comprehensive account of what you have done, with whom you have connected, the lasting impact you have made, and what this experience has meant to you.

Sharing tips

Your project is complete. It is time to tell others about what you did, what you have learned, and the impact you hope your project will have on its intended audience. Your story may inspire others to take action to do something to make their community better! Here are a few suggestions for how you can demonstrate your project achievements and share what you learned:

- Create a website or blog, or join a social networking site (Facebook, MySpace, and so on) to post updates and details about your project and its impact on the national and/or global community.
- Log on to some websites where you can share your story:
 - Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast:** gswise.org
 - World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts:** waggggs.org/en/projects
 - Taking IT Global:** tigweb.org
 - Global Youth Service Day:** globalyouthserviceday.org
- Create a campaign that showcases your cause. Make buttons, posters, and flyers to let people know about your cause.
- Present what you have learned and what your project will do for the community at a workshop for community members.
- Make a video about the effects of your project. Post it online. Invite friends, community leaders, and people from organizations who are tackling the same or a similar issue to take a look at it.
- Write an article for your local newspaper or create a newsletter about your project.

Reflection tool

Reflection is more than talking about your feelings; it is about thinking critically, solving problems, and interpreting and analyzing the results of your experiences so you can gain a better understanding of who you are. After you complete your project, take some time to assess yourself.

- Which values from the Girl Scout Promise and Law did you employ?
- Which new leadership skills have you developed?
- How are you better able to advocate for yourself and others?
- How has your access to community resources and relationships with adults changed as a result of this experience?
- How important has cooperation and teambuilding been in developing your leadership skills?
- What changes would you make if you were to do this project again?
- Has this helped you get an idea of what your future career might be?
- Now that you have planned, developed, and taken action on your project, how are you better equipped to pursue future/life goals?

When your Girl Scout Gold Award project is complete **submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report** to the council and schedule your final interview. Note: Your final report is due three weeks before the prescheduled interview date you wish to attend. For upcoming interview dates, go to gswise.org or call 800-565-4475.

Congratulations! Celebrate! Be sure to thank your project advisor, your team, and all the other people who helped you along the way.

Girls earn their Gold Award at the time the project is completed and approved by the council. An optional Highest Award Celebration event is held annually for girls who have earned this award. Girls must be current members during the membership year of the council's celebration to attend. Final Reports are due February 1 to be recognized at that year's celebration.

Standards of Excellence tracking sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
<p>1. Identify an issue</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. • Demonstrate civic responsibility.
<p>2. Investigate</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source’s reliability and accuracy. • Demonstrate courage as you investigate your issue, knowing that what you learn may challenge your own and others’ beliefs. • Identify national and/or global links to your community issue.
<p>3. Get help and build your team</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of 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 Girl Scout Gold Award project.
<p>4. Create a plan</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the planning of your Girl Scout Gold Award project. • Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.

Standards of Excellence tracking sheet (continued)

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
<p>5. Present your plan and get feedback</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive, and clear. You will be assigned a Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee member liaison who will help you prepare for your first interview. • 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 your project. • Get project approval from your council before you proceed.
<p>6. Put your plan into motion</p>		<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 Girl Scout 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.
<p>7. Educate and inspire others</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on what you have learned when you present your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to your council and in your final interview with the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee. • 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.



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