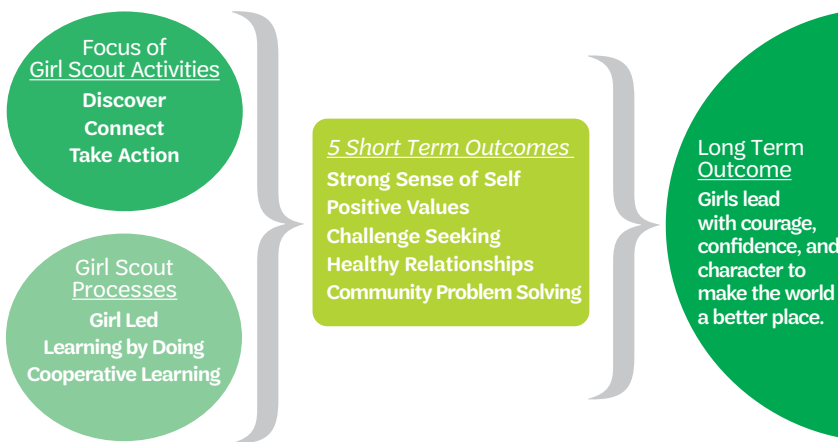


The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

When girls become Gold Award Girl Scouts, they hone leadership skills that they will carry into their futures. **The Girl Scout Leadership Experience** provides a framework for supporting girls as they learn to lead and drive thoughtful change in their communities. The framework can be broken down into **three actions** Girl Scouts take during their Gold Award projects, the **three processes** that they use to do so, and **five ways they benefit** a result.



Actions—what girls do:

When girls **discover**, **connect**, and **take action** they demonstrate leadership.

1. When girls **discover**, they better understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.
2. When girls **connect**, they support, inspire and partner with others, globally and locally.
3. And finally, when girls **take action**, they act to make the world a better place. They start by identifying the root cause of a problem, then they develop and execute a project that continues to address that problem after they've done their part.

Here's How You Can Help: Ask girls about the issues that matter most to them. Help them to identify their skills and brainstorm how they can use them for good. Assist them in locating resources to help them learn more about their chosen issue.

How girls do it:

1. Girls actively lead and shape their experiences. Gold Award projects that are **girl-led** find girls engaging their curiosity, creativity, and critical-thinking skills.
2. A **learning by doing** approach supports girls' hands-on learning and deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.
3. **Cooperative learning** empowers girls to learn and achieve even more through teamwork/collaboration.

Here's How You Can Help: Allow girls to take full ownership of their projects, even when they reach roadblocks. Encourage them to reflect on their experiences and ask them to share their discoveries with you. Introduce them to subject matter experts and volunteers they might learn from and partner with.

Outcomes

As girls **discover**, **connect**, and **take action** through Gold Award projects that are **girl-led** and involve **learning by doing** and **cooperative learning**, they benefit in five important ways.



Here's How You Can Help: Prompt girls to think about how they've grown over the course of their projects. Ask them what they've learned about leadership and teamwork. Discuss how they can continue applying those lessons once their projects are done.