

Girl Scout Bronze Award



Guidelines for Adults

As a Girl Scout volunteer, you will work with and inspire a team of Girl Scout Juniors to make a difference in the Girl Scout or local community and help them achieve the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can earn—the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Your Girl Scouts and you will have fun along the way as you help bring their own unique creativity to all they do and achieve. This guide is designed as a companion for the Girl Scout Bronze Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Juniors, which can be found at www.gswise.org/bronzeaward.

Girl Scouts earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award by completing a Journey, and then creating a Girl Scout Bronze Award project based on their observations of a local issue. As they pursue their project, they put the Girl Scout Promise and Law into action. They also develop an understanding of sustainability and gain a wider perspective of the world by discussing how others may experience the same problem that their project helped resolve.

Earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award involves the time it takes to complete a Girl Scout Junior Journey, including the Take Action project, and a suggested minimum of **20 hours** for each Girl Scout to build their team, explore their community, choose and plan their project, put their plan in motion, and spread the word to educate and inspire others.

Here are the steps that Girl Scout Juniors will complete to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award:

1. Go on a Girl Scout Junior Journey (pre-requisite requirement).
2. Build your Girl Scout Junior team.
3. Explore your community.
4. Choose your Girl Scout Bronze Award project.
5. Make a plan.
6. Put your plan in motion.
7. Spread the word.
8. Submit one Girl Scout Bronze Award Final Report to the council per project.

Additional Resources at www.gswise.org/bronzeaward and in the Resources tab in the Council-Wide Groups and Events hub in Rallyhood. You can join the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast members-only Rallyhood platform at <https://rallyhood.com/61119>:

- Bronze Award Video Training (for Girl Scouts, adult volunteers, and parents/guardians)
- Volunteer Essentials
- *Girl Scout Safety Activity Checkpoints*
- Leadership Outcomes/Possible Indicators chart (page 14 of this guide)
- Final Report form
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Community Mapping Activity
- Press Kit for Highest Awards
- Volunteer Toolkit (adult guides for Journey)
- Project Ideas
- Optional Virtual Training

Step 1: Go on a Girl Scout Junior Journey

Girl Scouts choose and complete a Girl Scout Junior Journey. Help them reflect on what they have learned. Here are a few coaching tips.

Questions for Girl Scouts	Coaching Tips
1. How did you use the values of the Girl Scout Law during your Girl Scout Junior Journey?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss what the Girl Scouts did during the Journey that upheld the Girl Scout Promise and Law.• Discuss how Girl Scouts used resources wisely and how they took responsibility for what they said and did.
2. What did you discover about yourself?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage them to think about how they developed their sense of self and their abilities.
3. Who did you connect with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emphasize the value of working together to create healthy relationships.• Help the Girl Scouts recognize how cooperation contributes to a project's success.
4. How did you take action and what did you learn?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss how the Girl Scouts went from identifying community needs, creating timelines, and finding resources to implementing a creative action plan for their Journey Take Action project.

During the Journey, did Girl Scouts observe other ideas for making a difference for the people or places they care about? Or, did a new opportunity, stemming from their work on the Journey, inspire them to pursue a topic that they had not thought about before, but realize is important to them?



Some Girl Scouts might need additional support in going Bronze or may have other special factors that GSWISE's Highest Awards Team should be aware of as Girl Scouts pursue the Bronze Award. If this applies to your Girl Scout, please reach out to us at 800-565-4475 or customercare@gswise.org to let us know and we will work with you and your Girl Scout to make appropriate accommodations as necessary.

Step 2: Build your Girl Scout Junior Team

Going for the Girl Scout Bronze Award is a team experience for a troop or group of Girl Scout Juniors. If there are no Girl Scouts in their neighborhood, they can connect with other girls their age, including non-Girl Scouts who may want to join Girl Scouts.

Teambuilding skills are essential to leadership and for earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Playing games and doing activities as a team encourages cooperative learning, which shows Girl Scouts how to work through challenges and resolve conflicts as a group. Even though they may know each other, encourage and help them identify their individual and team strengths.

There are many teambuilding activities, so research which teambuilding activity games would work best for your Girl Scouts.. After each activity, have them discuss what they learned. Support them in creating their list of team agreements, which will serve as a reference for them as they pursue the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Also help them keep track of their individual hours from the start—each step counts.

In order for the Girl Scouts to choose an issue area that they care about, they need to identify and share their interests. Explore their interests with them and discuss how those might help when the team chooses a project. Guide them as they answer the questions in their guidelines and as they come up with suggestions for what they could do to be a great team.



Step 3: Explore your Community

Girl Scouts' communities may be their block, their neighborhood, their school, or beyond. By exploring, the Girl Scouts make observations about what they see and hear. Through investigation, they are able to think about possible project ideas that will make a difference.

As Girl Scouts explore their community, they may find that these ideas will help improve life for people in their neighborhood or local community. Encouraging them to observe what can be improved is a very important role you play. When they explore their block, neighborhood, or school, ask them to write down what they see and discuss it as a group. This will encourage Girl Scouts to think critically about what they see and come up with ideas for how they can create positive change in their community.

Guide Girl Scouts as they complete their **Observation List** in the girl guidelines.

The following are two examples of how an observation led to a Girl Scout Bronze Award project:

Example #1

Lucia and her Girl Scout Junior team were going after their Girl Scout Bronze Award, so they all agreed to be extra observant of everything going on around them. Here is what Lucia observed and how it turned into their Girl Scout Bronze Award project:

1. First, Lucia noticed that cars whizzed down the street near their school. This happened a few days in a row—it seemed to be a real problem.
2. Then, she heard on the news that in the last year there had actually been several accidents in that same area.
3. The Girl Scout Junior team asked their troop/group volunteer to help them find out how people in their community decided where stop signs were needed.
4. After a visit to both the police station and a local government office, here is what the Girl Scout Juniors did: They wrote a petition, asking for a new stop sign on the road near their school, got local residents to sign it, and then presented it to their local government officials. Result: A new stop sign, slower traffic, fewer accidents, and safer kids! Plus, a stop sign is a permanent solution!

Example #2

Tanya and her Girl Scout Junior team also decided to be extra observant for a week or two. When they got together to share what they observed, Tanya asked her friends, “Have you ever noticed how hard it is for older people or people with disabilities to get around the grocery store?” The team agreed that this was a problem that no one seemed to be addressing. It seemed like a good challenge for their team! Here is what they did:

1. First, they decided to visit the store together and just watch as people shopped. This convinced them that some people could use a little extra help.
2. Then they met as a team and brainstormed how they could help and how they could explain their project idea to the store manager.
3. Next, they met with the store manager. The girls got permission to team up during the peak holiday season and offer their assistance to shoppers. Sometimes they would take a person’s grocery list and go up and down the aisles to get products. Other times, they would walk around the store with people and help them fill their baskets. In both cases, they helped people get through the checkout line and out to their cars. To keep this project going, they wrote a tip sheet about how other youth and volunteer groups can do the same thing.



Step 4: Choose your Girl Scout Bronze Award Project

After the Girl Scouts are finished exploring, discuss the Observation List they created. Guide them as they select the group's top observations and ideas. It is a great way for them to see how a simple observation can lead to a Girl Scout Bronze Award project.

Brainstorm with the Girl Scouts where to get additional information for their top ideas. Encourage them to talk to people as well as search newspapers and magazines for information. Plan a trip to a community meeting or other community event where they can connect with people who might be able to help. Girl Scouts may choose to do their research online, if that is the case, discuss the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge (<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/footer/help/internet-safety-pledge.html>) and encourage them to commit to the pledge.

Hold practice interviews with the Girl Scouts if they are nervous about talking to grownups or other people they do not know. These interviews may make them feel more confident as they speak with others about their project. Promote a discussion about what they learn from their **Project Idea Chart** in the girl guidelines. It includes Girl Scouts' observations, who they talked to, what they learned, and possible projects they could do.

Before the Girl Scouts choose the issue they would like to address, help them answer these all-important questions:

- Why does this idea matter?
- Who will this idea help?
- What can we do to make a difference? Is that realistic?

Help them finalize their choice.

Girl Scouts are part of a worldwide community who are using their talents to positively impact their communities. Invite Girl Scouts to take some time to discuss how people in other parts of the world might address the problem they have chosen. Later, when they finish their project, they can share their experience with people outside of their community—maybe even long-distance neighbors, so that they too can learn about the project.

Step 5: Make a Plan

Guide Girl Scouts to continue taking the lead as they progress to planning out the specifics of their project. As they discuss the project, use the following tips to walk them through what they need to accomplish.

Questions for Girls	Coaching Tips
1. What is our goal for the project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the results the Girl Scouts hope to achieve with the project. Ask specifically what they hope to achieve/accomplish.
2. What steps do we need to take to reach our goal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how each Girl Scout can pitch in to help the team reach its goal.
3. What special talents can each Girl Scout use to help make the project a success?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage them to think about the special skills that they possess and can contribute to the team's project.
4. What did we learn when we did our Girl Scout Junior Journey that will help make this project run more smoothly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask them to think about how they approached the plan for their Journey project. • Discuss what worked and what did not, and how they might approach things differently for this project.
5. Who can we ask for help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the Girl Scouts to make a list of people who they think would help with their project.
6. How can we get other people involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest that Girl Scouts contact people they met during their community exploration. Each Girl Scout can contact one person.
7. What supplies will we need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest starting with a list of supplies the team already has.
8. Do we need to earn money for our project or can we get donations from people? (Can we use the money from our Fall Product Program and Girl Scout Cookie Program to fund our project?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to find and use resources that do not require earning money. • Adhere to the guidelines in your Volunteer Packet and <i>Girl Scout Safety Activity Checkpoints</i>, available at www.gswise.org. • Suggest they complete the Budget Sheet.
9. How much time do we need to finish our project? Is that realistic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend that the Girl Scouts create a timeline and a task list to figure out how long everything will take to complete. • If they get stuck, coach them by asking guiding questions. (For example, which part of the project do you think will take the most/least time?)

Once Girl Scouts have an idea of their plan, encourage them to think about what they can add that would help make a difference even after the project ends. Discuss how others might be able to continue the project. Encourage them to go over the plan one last time to make sure that it is realistic. Make suggestions on where they can make adjustments to the plan.

Before the team moves to the next step, go over the plan. Use the checklist below to make certain the team's plan covers all the bases. The answer to all of these questions should be "yes" in order for you to approve the project. If you find any "no" answers, encourage the Girl Scouts to go back and re-think the plan a little more.

- Do they care about the issue? Are they excited about the plan?
- Has the team set their goals for the project? Can they say what they want to do and why it matters to them?
- Have the Girl Scouts thought about how they will get the supplies/resources and any money earning to complete their project? Have money-earning projects been approved by the council? (Refer to *Girl Scout Safety Activity Checkpoints*, available at gswise.org for information about money earning.)
- Have the Girl Scouts created a timeline for the project?
- Does the project address a need in the Girl Scout or local community?
- Does the project challenge the Girl Scouts' abilities and interests?

If Girl Scouts are clear on what needs to be done, they will be ready to get started. If not, help them talk about their project by using these open ended sentences:

We will make a difference by _____.

We hope our project will help _____.

When we are done, we will know we made a difference because _____.



Step 6: Put your Plan in Motion

Girl Scout Bronze Award projects are approved by your troop leadership. You do not need to seek council approval.

Encourage the Girl Scouts to take pride in their plan, and get to it—having fun as they go! As the plan unfolds, you might coach them to live the Girl Scout Promise and Law by listening to others' ideas, rotating tasks, developing shared goals, working cooperatively to resolve conflicts, reaching their goals, and finding out what roles they each can play in their communities. Guide Girl Scouts as they use their **Planning Chart** to map out their action plan. The **Planning Chart** (located in the girl guidelines) includes the tasks the Girl Scouts need to complete for their project, when and how the tasks will be done, and which team member will complete each task.

Encourage the team to take pictures, shoot video, or draw pictures along the way. This will help when they share their story later.

Tips: Things did not go as planned? That is okay. What did we learn? How can we adjust our plan a little? Putting the plan into motion can be the most exciting part of earning the award, although sometimes roadblocks can make Girl Scouts feel discouraged. Encourage them to work as a team and help them see how persistence and follow-through can produce positive results.



Step 7: Spread the Word

When Girl Scouts talk about their project, they are able to educate others and inspire them to take on the challenge to make the world a better place. Answering the reflection questions in their award guidelines will help them gain insight into why their project matters, what they learned, and what impact it has made on them, their team, and the community.

The Girl Scouts can share their experience in the form of a photo collage, scrapbook, short film, play, or any other medium that works for the team. Encourage them to be as creative as possible.

During this step, Girl Scouts say thanks to all the people who helped them along the way. You can coach them as they write handwritten thank you notes. Each Girl Scout can choose one person to thank.

Here are some tips to help Girl Scouts reflect on their experience, what they learned, and use their new insights to go on and inspire others by sharing their project.

Questions for Girl Scouts	Coaching Tips
1. How did you decide what was needed in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage Girl Scouts to think about the community exploration and planning stages of their project.• Review how they built their team, talked to others in the community, and considered how their issue might occur and affect people in other places.
2. What did you discover about yourself from this experience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss their goals and how they went about reaching them. If they did not reach their goals, discuss how they might have done something differently in order to do so.
3. How did your team work together?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask Girl Scouts about the activities that brought the team together.
4. What problems came up? How did you solve them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss whether the observation chart and planning chart helped avoid or solve problems.
5. What leadership skills did you use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss how Girl Scouts think they have changed from the start of the project to the end.
6. What did you do to inspire others to act?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage them to talk about their experience and what it meant to them.
7. How do you feel you and your team have made the world a better place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the impact of the project. How many people were helped?• Discuss what would make the project impact lasting. Can the project be replicated somewhere else?
8. How did you live out the Girl Scout Promise and Law?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Were Girl Scouts honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong? Did they show respect to themselves and others, and to authority? Did they use resources wisely? Did they take responsibility for what they said and did?

What Girl Scouts can include when they spread the word about their project:

- What their project accomplished
- Their reasons for choosing their project and what it meant to them
- What they learned
- The talents, skills, and strengths they put into action
- The tools and resources they used
- The people who helped them achieve their project goals

Once the project is complete, Girl Scouts need to submit one *Girl Scout Bronze Award Final Report* to the council for their project. Find the online report at www.gswise.org/bronzeaward. You have helped Girl Scouts become leaders. Celebrate the accomplishment! Congratulations!

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

Project Tips for Girl Scouts and Troop/Group Volunteers

- Ensure Girl Scout memberships remain current while Girl Scouts are working on all steps of the Girl Scout Bronze Award.
- Consult *Girl Scout Safety Activity Checkpoints*, 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.
- Girl Scouts are not allowed to solicit money on behalf of another organization.
- All money-earning activities need to have Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast approval. For council money earning guidelines, refer to the Resources tab in the Council-Wide Groups and Events hub in Rallyhood. You can join the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast members-only Rallyhood platform at <https://rallyhood.com/61119>. For approval, complete the Group Money-Earning Application, available in the Resources tab in the Council-Wide Groups and Events hub in Rallyhood.
- Inform Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast of the project before seeking attention from the media and work with Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast regarding press releases.
- Only the CEO or designee can sign agreements or contracts on behalf of Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast.
- You need to 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 www.gswise.org/resources.
- Upon project completion, complete one *Girl Scout Bronze Award Final Report* for the Girl Scout Junior team, available at www.gswise.org/bronzeaward.
- Purchase recognitions at your local Resource Center and celebrate.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

In Girl Scouting, Discover + Connect + Take Action = Leadership. The entire Girl Scout program, regardless of the exact topic, is designed to pursue leadership outcomes (or benefits) that stem from these three keys to leadership:

- **Discover:** Girl Scouts will understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.
- **Connect:** Girl Scouts care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.
- **Take Action:** Girl Scouts act to make the world a better place.

It is not only about the activities they do, but the processes they use to do them that builds leadership. The Girl Scout processes promote the fun and friendship that have always been so integral to Girl Scouting.

- **Girl-led:** Girl Scouts play an active part in figuring out the what, where, when, how, and why of their activities.
- **Learning by doing:** Girl Scouts use a hands-on learning process that engages them in continuous cycles of action and reflection that result in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.
- **Cooperative learning:** Through cooperative learning, Girl Scouts work together toward goals that can be accomplished only with the help of others, in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration.

When Discover, Connect, and Take Action activities are girl-led and involve learning by doing and cooperative learning, Girl Scouts achieve the desired and expected short-term outcomes. This ultimately results in Girl Scouting achieving its mission of building “girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.”

Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Girl Scouts gain specific knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors, and values in Girl Scouting. Help them reflect on the experience and the impact they have had and how the experience has helped to strengthen their leadership skills. Use the five outcomes on the next page as a springboard.

For more about The Girl Scout Leadership Experience, including the leadership outcomes on the next page, go to <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/discover/about-us/what-girl-scouts-do/leadership-experience.html>.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Girl Scouts prepare for fun, friendship, and new adventures while making the world a better place. Girl Scouts look at our world and take action to change it for the better. They make friends, challenge themselves with new experiences, write their own stories, and develop the skills and confidence to say, “I know I can do this!”

So how do we do it? It’s all part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, and it’s what makes Girl Scouting a unique experience for girls.



Girl-led

Girl Scouts follow their own lead, no matter their age. From selecting the badges they’ll pursue to how they’ll organize an activity, Girl Scouts have the chance to follow their dreams and grow their skills—and the confidence that comes with that.



Learning by Doing

Hands-on activities are fun for Girl Scouts of any age, but they also help them feel empowered to shape their own experience. Girl Scouts unlock their “I got this” attitude as they discover they can always dust themselves off and try again when things don’t go according to plan.



Cooperative Learning

There’s power in having a tight-knit group of friends who will learn with you, grow with you, and always cheer you on. Girl Scouts see firsthand that teamwork, respect, and collaboration can fuel them through any challenge that comes their way.

By participating in fun activities through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Girl Scouts:



Discover

They’ll find out who they are, what they care about, and how to best use their unique talents.



Connect

They’ll collaborate with others, both locally and globally, to learn and expand their horizons.



Take Action

They’ll do what Girl Scouts always do: make the world a better place.

Notes:

Notes: