

# The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Project Advisors

## What is the Gold Award?

The Gold Award is the highest award that a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout (grades 9–12) can earn. To become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a Girl Scout identifies an issue that's important to them, then develops and carries out an innovative and sustainable solution with measurable impact. Each solution/project must link to a national and/or global issue.

## What types of projects are Gold Award-eligible?

A Gold Award project must reflect the following: the Girl Scout has identified the root cause of a community issue they're passionate about, the action they take must address a real need and have long-term benefits, the Girl Scout must show leadership by guiding a team of volunteers, and the project must be sustainable and measurable with a national and/or global link.

## How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from the Girl Scout. The timeline is designed by the Girl Scout and enhanced with your input.

## Who can be a project advisor?

A project advisor is an adult who chooses to be on a Girl Scout's Gold Award team and is an expert on the issue the project addresses. Parents, caregivers, or troop leaders of Girl Scouts pursuing their Gold Award cannot be advisors. Adult siblings and family members like aunts and uncles can sometimes be advisors if they are experts on the issue the Girl Scout is exploring. However, we encourage Girl Scouts to branch outside of their families when possible.

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

## What is the role of a project advisor?

A project advisor offers a Girl Scout guidance and expertise as needed, during the planning and execution of their Gold Award project. Note that it's important that the project and its core ideas be the Girl Scout's own.

## How can I support a Girl Scout as they complete the Gold Award project?

Although the project advisor role is flexible, here are some ways you can show your support:

- Recognize that the Girl Scout's project is unique, so don't compare them—or their project—to other Gold Awards.
- Let the Girl Scout interview you to help them better understand the issue they're addressing.
- Refer the Girl Scout to colleagues or acquaintances of yours for interviews or advice.
- As the Girl Scout researches and plans the project, refer them to relevant books, web resources, and/or organizations.
- Offer to act as a sounding board for any questions that may come up over the course of the project.
- Help the Girl Scout brainstorm the metrics most useful in making sure their project has a measurable impact.
- Offer to review the Girl Scout's proposal or final report before it's submitted.