

The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Adults

What is the Gold Award?

The Gold Award is the highest award that Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn. It has a rich history of recognizing extraordinary efforts by extraordinary Girl Scouts. To earn a Gold Award, a Girl Scout identifies an issue they care about, then plans and carries out a project to address it, which will have a lasting impact in their community and beyond.

What are the prerequisites?

Girl Scouts must be registered Senior or Ambassador Girl Scouts. Before beginning the application, a Girl Scout must have completed the Girl Scout Silver Award, one Girl Scout Leadership Award, or one Senior/Ambassador Journey.

How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from Girl Scouts. The timeline is designed by each individual Girl Scout. A project might be completed over the course of a summer—or in the span of a year or more.

What should Girl Scouts consider in their decision to become a Gold Award Girl Scout?

They should consider the time commitment and decide for themselves whether they truly want to take it on. The decision to do so should be their own.

Who else is involved in a Girl Scout's Gold Award project?

Girl Scouts select a project advisor, who is an adult expert on their chosen issue. (Note: a Girl Scout's parent, caregiver, or troop leader can't hold this role.) The project advisor provides advice and expertise throughout the project. And because the Gold Award emphasizes leadership, Girl Scouts assemble a team of volunteers to help with their project. The volunteer pool is not limited to fellow Girl Scouts and can include anyone.

What are helpful ways for parents to support their Girl Scout as they become a Gold Award Girl Scout?

- **Get to know more about the Gold Award**, including the associated council's Gold Award process and its safety, insurance, and travel guidelines. The council's Gold Award page and girlscouts.org are both great resources.
- **Discussing project ideas** with them, to help identify their passions.
- **Encourage**—but don't pressure.
- **Help them develop a network of contacts** that can provide insight, skills, and resources.
- **Acknowledge that they are capable** and that they can assume leadership and responsibility in their own way.
- **Prompt them to take the lead** in working with their council, project advisor, and team.
- **Let them grow** by working through challenges they encounter along the way.
- **Recognize that their project is as unique as they are**, so don't compare them—or their project—to other Girl Scouts and their Gold Awards.
- **Be a cheerleader from the sidelines**, and help when asked.
- **Celebrate big-time** as they are honored as a Gold Award Girl Scout!

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 to let us know and we will work with you and your Girl Scout to make appropriate accommodations as necessary.