

The Girl Scout Gold Award



The Girl Scout Gold Award



The
Highest Award
in Girl Scouts!

Earning your Gold Award shows you're a woman with leadership, passion, perseverance, courage, confidence and character!

The **Gold Award** Advantage

video: <https://vimeo.com/310797276>

The Gold Award – Course Overview

Introduction

Gold Award Timeline – From Start to Finish

What Makes a GREAT Take Action Project

Project Brainstorming, Questions & Answers

The Gold Award: The highest award in Girl Scouts!

Basic Requirements

- Register as a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout
- Must finish by Sept 30 after Senior year -or- the time you are 18 years old – whichever is later

The Girl Scout Gold Award =

Silver Award + 1 Journey + Take Action Project

-or-

2 Journeys + Take Action Project

Pretty straightforward, right?

Leadership Journeys

Journey: A coordinated series of activities grouped around a theme. Goal: To develop girl leadership.

It's Your World — Change It! (GIRLTopia / Advocacy)

It's Your Planet — Love It! (Sow What / Justice)

It's Your Story — Tell It! (Mission Sisterhood / Bliss)

Think Like an Engineer

Think Like a Programmer

Outdoor Journey

Discover – Connect – Take Action!

Gold Award Timeline

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 - Proposal
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 - Final Report
 - Final Interview
- **Celebration!**

Easy peasy, right?

Human Resources

Gold Award Mentor: ← assigned to you

- Trained in every aspect of the Gold Award
- Great at brainstorming!
- In touch with community organizations
- A great resource!

Gold Award Project Adviser: ← you choose

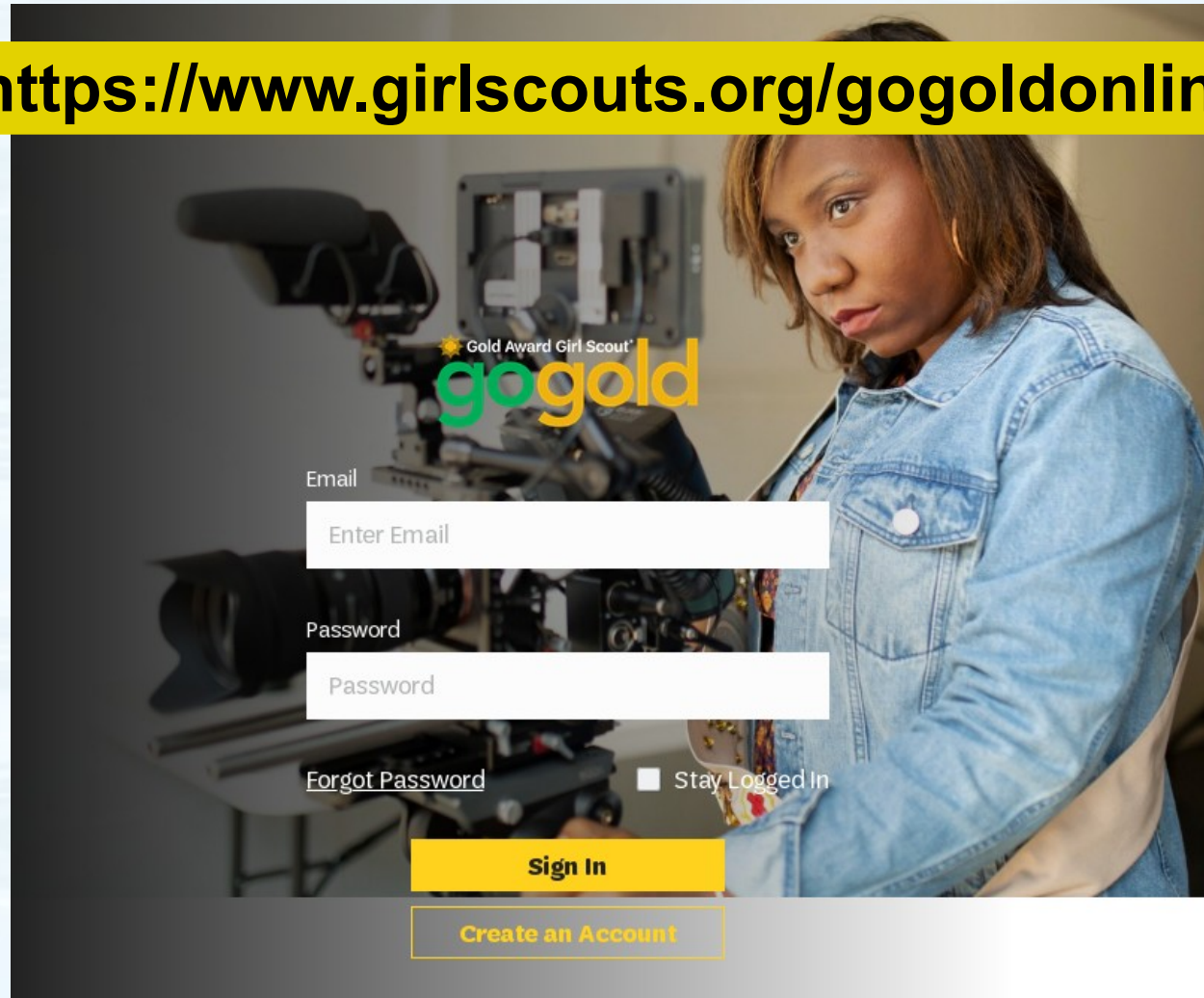
- Knows your subject
- May be connected with your target organization
- Familiar with your community
- May not be a parent or troop adviser
- A great resource!

Remember that it is your job to reach out to your mentor and project adviser for help and advice!

Every great achiever is inspired by a great mentor. – Lailah Akita

Go Gold Online!

<https://www.girlscouts.org/gogoldonline>



Gold Award Girl Scout®
gogold

Email
Enter Email

Password
Password

[Forgot Password](#) Stay Logged In

Sign In

[Create an Account](#)

Money and your Gold Project

- There are lots of ways to fund your project:
Earn it, donations (in-kind or \$), grants, CrowdRise...
- Can't raise money for another organization
- All monies must go through Girl Scout account
Never mix Girl Scout money and personal money!
- Money earning must be through troop
An adult must help if you request any donations
- Special rules for donations over \$250

People will help—if you only ask!

Gold Award Take Action Projects

- 80 hours suggested minimum
- Benefits the community – community can be Girl Scouts
- Uses your leadership skills to gather and coordinate a team to build, grow, carry out, and continue your project
- Projects must be NEW and NEEDED
- Projects may have several components
- No group projects
- Your first step: Research!

*What does your community need? What are your passions?
Merge the two to discover your topic!*

Gold Take Action Project Steps

- Choose community, investigate and research
- Talk to your Gold Award Mentor ... Choose topic ...
Gather team ... Select Project Adviser ... GoGold Online
- Submit Gold Award Project Proposal, Initial Interview
- Take Action!
- Evaluate, Educate, and Inspire others to continue your mission
- Submit “Gold Award Final Report,” Final Interview

*What does your community need? What are your passions?
Merge the two to discover your topic!*

Present Your Proposal

Prepare, then submit your Proposal on GoGold.

We will email you to schedule an interview time and place.

Interviews are held twice monthly (1st Thurs and 3rd Mon)

Zoom Meeting interviews can be held if needed.

Submit your Project Proposal one week prior.

Please bring your notebook to the interview.

Our Gold Award Team (goldaward@girlscoutsaz.org)

Mission #1: To uphold the standards of the Gold Award

Mission #2: To help girls achieve their Gold Award

Your Final Interview

Prepare your Gold Award Final Report on GoGold.

Then, submit your Final Report.

Same as with your Initial Interview, we will automatically email you to schedule your interview when you submit your Final Report.

Interviews are held twice monthly (1st Thurs and 3rd Mon).

Bring your completed Gold Award notebook and your Project Adviser and/or Gold Mentor if you like.

This is your chance to brag about your project!

Gold Award Recognitions

Gold Award Celebration

- Usually held on the last Saturday in March
- Invite family, friends, and Project Adviser!
- Must have Final Interview and be approved by the last interview date in January to participate

Gold Award Scholarship

- Application info is sent to graduating Seniors (or college Freshmen) in Dec/Jan

Educate and Inspire!

Share your passion by showing your project to others at the Gold Celebration and Annual Council Meeting. Inspire them to take action, too!

Gold Award Notebook (detailed project log)

- Be creative! Include research, pictures, letters, time log, budget, team list, etc.



Gold Award Project Board (a display of your project)

- Highlight problem, root cause and your solution

Summary

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Your Gold Award Project is a Take Action Project

“A **Take Action** project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works **with her community** to address the **root cause** of a **community issue or problem**, and creates a **long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit** to her community.”

(Take Action “Elevator Speech”)

Communities

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her **community** to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

School Latinos Debate Team Girl Scouts
Neighborhood Soccer Players Homeless
Robotics Women Band Seniors The Deaf
Hikers/Outdoor Enthusiasts Gamers Church
City Fine Arts Cancer Survivors Math Geeks
Theater Low Income Science Nerds Diabetics

How many different communities do you belong to?

Some Possible Community Issues

environment

animals

hunger

equality

safety

**CHOOSE
to MAKE a
DIFFERENCE!**

literacy

tolerance

disease

disability

kids

peace

elders

justice

education

homelessness

rights

Finding Your Community's Issues

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a **community issue or problem**, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

Tools to help you choose your project:

- Explore your community and research it
- List community issues
- Talk to others, including partner organizations
- Consider your skills and resources
- Community mapping exercise

What communities mean most to you? What are their issues?

A Community Mapping Example



Places of worship:
start a ministry?
lots of people to help!

My School:
bullying
literacy & Art, STEM Theater!
Music cuts!
get little kids excited about band!
band director
we need ASL classes!!



accidents on forest street
need signal or pedestrian bridge?
*is lilly's dad city council?



pesticides filter into drinking water
honeybee death
nutrition
fitness

Seniors:
- isolation
- internet scams



Veterans:
how to honor them?
help disabled vets how??

why do kids drop out of school??
what subject is hardest?
**math tutoring?

teen suicide
bullying
relationships



trash in graveyard, unmarked graves

trash in park
*need more picnic areas & trash bins!
*playground equipment for disabled children?



Homeless pets:
*spay neuter
*adopt a mutt!
humane society
local shelters?



TOLERANCE
religious, lgbtq, racial
*community pride day to bring everyone together?

who will help me? -->



people can't get jobs after prison



my neighborhood

Environment
habitat loss: owls
audobon society?
non native species
pollution
more recycling?
invasive species
help the bees!
butterflies
reduce pesticides?

homelessness
poverty
** tiny houses?
habitat for humanity
job skills money skills?
drug/alcohol abuse
teen runaways
human trafficking
mental illness
healthy living!
healthy decisions
healthy relationships



resources here^^

Recycling: can we do more?
upcycling
electronics recycling
reduce plastic



Working With the Community

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

Work with the community, not for the community!

- Collaborate with people and organizations
- Community partners will be invested in your project's success
- Use resources wisely – don't reinvent the wheel!

Can you find others working toward the same goals?

Lead Others

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

How can you use your leadership skills?

- More people involved = more community benefit!
- Inspire others. They can continue/expand your work.
- Gather your team, then

Lead your project!

Work collaboratively, actively seek partnerships!

Make it Sustainable!

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, **sustainable**, measurable benefit to her community.”

Sustainable:

- Work with the community
- Partner with community leaders / organizations
- Build alliances with mentors
- Educate the public

How will you create lasting change?

Make it Measurable!

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

Measurable:

- The number of people the project helps
- The reduction in the community need
- Must be concrete numbers
- Each project may be measured a different way

How will you measure how your project helps?

Address the Root Cause

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

Root Cause = what ultimately causes the problem

Short-Term Projects (“Service Project”): address an immediate need, one-time effort, short-term impact

Take Action Projects address the root cause: reduce long-term need, extended effort, long-term impact

We can improve our communities, one project at a time!

Take Action!

“A **Take Action** project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

- Addresses the root cause of problem
- Has long-term, measurable benefits
- Ensures sustainability
- Works with the community, not for the community.

Step up your game. Don't just do service, Take Action!

activity and break



Is it a Take Action Project?

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

"Socks for the Homeless"

Sarah noted that there were many homeless people in her local park, and that they had no socks. She started a collection at her school to collect socks and give them to the homeless.



Is it a Take Action Project?

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Socks for the Homeless:

only a short-term solution: a “band-aid”

Root cause = Homelessness!

But why? How could you address the root cause, expand the project, and turn this into a Take Action Project?



Short Term vs. Take Action??

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Finding Your Project: from Passion to Project

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable **benefit to her community.**”

- What different communities do you belong to?
- Which communities do you care most about?
- What problems or issues are affecting your communities?
- What are possible root causes of those problems?
- Can you think of possible solutions to the problems?
- Who might you partner with? Who's also working on a solution?

Research and ask community members for suggestions!

Planning your Project: Questions

“A Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

- What community problem does the project address?
- What is the root cause of the problem?
- How did you determine the root cause? Research it!
- What is your project's goal? How will you measure success?
- Why does the project matter? Who will it help?
- What community partners will you work with? Who will help?
- How will your project live on and grow?

Make a long-term change in your community!

Make It Last – Make it Sustainable!

- Spread your passion to your team
- Educate others
- Create a group to continue your project
- Help another organization succeed
- Inspire others to carry your work on
- Tell the world about it

More people, more enthusiasm → wider effect.

Gold Award Take Action Projects

A few reminders:

- Find your Issue/Problem first. Research it.
Then design your project.
- No group projects. Each project must stand alone
- Projects may have several parts
- Collections: 20 hours maximum

Discover... connect... Take Action!

Gold Award Take Action Projects

Summary

“Take Action project in Girl Scouting is where a girl works with her community to address the root cause of a community issue or problem, and creates a long-term, sustainable, measurable benefit to her community.”

- Address the root cause (not just a band-aid)
- Use your leadership (more people involved=bigger benefit)
- Are sustainable (lasting change in you and the community)
- Are measurable (impact can be determined)
- Use resources wisely (partner, don't reinvent the wheel)
- Inspire others (share beyond your local community)

Take Action—and change our world!

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Why Earn Your Gold Award?

It's a lot of work... a lot of time!

Benefits:

- Recognized by colleges, universities, businesses
- Gold Awardees start one rank higher in the military
- College scholarships available
- Personal Growth
- Helping your Community: Make the World a Better Place
- Role modeling for younger girls

Earning your Gold Award shows you're a woman with leadership, passion, perseverance, courage, confidence and character!

The Gold Award



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