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Your Guide to Going Gold

How to Become a Gold Award Girl Scout

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable. Through pursuing the Gold Award, Girl Scouts change the world by tackling issues they are passionate about to drive lasting change in their communities and beyond while they learn essential skills that will prepare them for all aspects of life. As a bonus, the Gold Award opens doors to a variety of scholarships, preferred admission tracks for college, strong networking and amazing career opportunities, and much more.

This guide offers a comprehensive overview of everything from planning to proposals and teamwork to time logs. So, whether you've been dreaming of your Gold Award since you were a Daisy or you're a new member in high school looking to make a difference, this guide is for you. Let's get going and let's Go Gold!

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Part 1: The Gold Award Defined

Curious about the Gold Award? Read on to learn more about what it means and how you'll lead lasting change in your community.

The benefits of becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout

When you become a Gold Award Girl Scout, you delve deep into your passions, flex your problem-solving muscle, stand up for what you believe in, inspire others, and make a difference. It's an opportunity to do something more and to set your sights on true leadership.

Here are a few other reasons to Go Gold:

- Grow professional skills. Gold Award Girl Scouts become pros in team building, problem solving, project planning, and time management. These are invaluable skills that all professionals need—and all people value. You can highlight these experiences as you apply to schools, jobs, internships, and other opportunities.
- Earn scholarships. Many universities and colleges award [scholarships](#) to Gold Award Girl Scouts.
- Build your network. Gold Award Girl Scouts recruit and lead teams to do amazing things! This experience will give you a network of supporters that lasts a lifetime.
- Enlist at a higher pay grade when you join the military.



SOMETHING TO REMEMBER:

Do this for you—not for anyone else! This isn't your parent's or troop leader's project. The Gold Award is an opportunity to harness your passion and put your ideas into motion. It's challenging. It's immensely rewarding. And it's entirely up to you.



SOMETHING TO REMEMBER:

Once you've earned the Gold Award, you can proudly claim your Gold Award digital credential from Credly, our verification partner! You can display it on your social media profiles, including LinkedIn. This allows prospective employers, universities/colleges, military academies, and others to verify your achievement simply by viewing your profile.

Key elements of the Gold Award

The Girl Scout Gold Award is a **Take Action project** that must include **five elements**. Your project must (1) address a **root cause** of an issue that you feel passionate about that has a (2) **national and/or global link**. Through your actions, you must demonstrate (3) **leadership** while also creating (4) **sustainable** and (5) **measurable** impact.

What does “take action” really mean?

Taking action means working to understand the root cause of a problem so that you can develop a solution that continues to address that issue—even after your Gold Award project has been completed. Simply put, taking action goes beyond community service.

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND A TAKE ACTION PROJECT?

Take Action and community service projects are different, and both are essential to Girl Scouting. When you earn the Gold Award, you are transformed from living the Girl Scout Law to bringing it to life!

Community service projects are acts of kindness and important ways to help something or someone right now. They are commonly “one and done” activities. Performing community service almost always multiplies efforts that are already in place. Examples include collecting food for an existing food pantry, providing clothing or toiletries to people who have suffered a disaster, cleaning up a run-down playground, or picking up trash at a park, forest, or beach.

Girl Scout Take Action projects address an issue by tackling the factors that cause or contribute to it. As you may expect, these projects have a far-reaching impact. They are designed to change something for the better—forever.

Use this table to help determine whether an idea is a community service or Take Action project.

Community Service	Take Action
A short-term effort that helps something or someone fulfill an immediate need	A long-term project with sustainable and ongoing impact that addresses a root cause of an issue
Done FOR the community	Done WITH the community
Joining an existing effort to solve a problem	Creating a unique initiative to address an issue
Done as part of an existing team (usually as a volunteer)	Creating and leading your own team of volunteers
Working towards a goal that’s set by others	Setting the goals and leading a team to achieve them



SOMETHING TO REMEMBER: Collecting, beautifying, decorating, and cleaning can be part of a Take Action project; however, these activities are not stand-alone Gold Award projects. Stay focused on unique solutions with long-term relief.

What is a root cause?

Root causes are an issue's trigger—they identify *why* an issue is happening. Often, you'll have to look for the *why* in a lot of places in order to get to the root causes. Once you've identified your issue, you can create a "mind map" in GoGold, the Gold Award web app (learn more about [GoGold](#)). This will help you find its root causes. A mind map can help you understand what triggers your issue and will help you look further to find the root causes of those triggers.

ROOT CAUSE EXAMPLE: *Rachel is passionate about ocean conservation. She asks why ocean pollution happens and lists several causes, including acid rain, soil runoff, and oil spills. She remembers witnessing the harmful impact of a major oil spill in her local ecosystem and decides to learn more about why oil spills happen. Rachel reaches out to experts and, after additional research, learns that a lack of safety protocols for oil storage is one of the root causes. She chooses to create a project that addresses how oil storage can be made safer to prevent spills.*

[Step 2: Investigate](#) will walk you through how to use a mind map and then research your issue's root causes. When you're ready, visit [Step 2 of GoGold](#) to do it yourself!

How do I include a national and/or global link in my project?

Identifying a national and/or global link doesn't mean you need to travel or expand your project across the globe. It's likely that the issue you've been working towards addressing is relevant worldwide—it can be found in your own local, regional, or national community and across the globe, whether it's poverty, hunger, illiteracy, homelessness, or pollution.

Research how other areas, communities, or countries address your issue. Seeing how other people and places implement solutions might inspire your actions and will absolutely show you a national or global connection. Consider reaching out, explaining your ideas, and asking for their advice, ideas, and even collaboration. You can use what you learn to inform your project. Plus, these kinds of partnerships can be excellent ways to ensure your project's sustainability.

NATIONAL AND/OR GLOBAL LINK EXAMPLE: *For the past four years, Maria has volunteered at a local animal rescue group. It regularly operates at its maximum capacity and is unable to take in additional animals. Maria decides to tackle one of the root causes of this issue for her Gold Award. As she begins her research, she learns that animal rescue groups across the country share similar challenges and discovers various perspectives on animal welfare across the globe. Then, she reaches out to relevant animal welfare organizations to better understand the issue and to access the research that they have available. She decides to focus on a solution that she can implement at animal rescue groups in her community and share widely.*

Visit [Step 4 of GoGold](#) to identify your issue's national and/or global link. Be sure to include research that backs it up!

How do I show leadership in my project?

It isn't a leader's job to do everything; rather, it's the leader's job to make sure everything gets done. You will demonstrate leadership by recruiting and engaging a diverse team of volunteers from your network and around the community. Share your vision to help align your team—you can also map out activities, set schedules, create a communication plan, and solve challenges if they arise.

Take Action projects require partnering with the community you're serving, so be sure to enlist appropriate individuals, groups, or organizations before, during, and after your project to ensure they are engaged with and benefit from your project. Ideally, your project will provide the community you serve with a much-needed solution, so they will help sustain your project.

LEADERSHIP EXAMPLE: *Caitlin elevated her passion for theater to raise awareness about substance abuse issues among high school students. She reached out to her high school's drama club for volunteer actors and backstage crew members. She found volunteers within her Girl Scout troop to design and distribute promotional materials for performances.*

At a local drug abuse education nonprofit, Caitlin learned about the extent of substance abuse in her town and found her project advisor. Her advisor connected her with volunteer educators who informed the educational components of Caitlin's project and hosted talk-backs after performances. Finally, Caitlin engaged other high school drama clubs to ensure that the program continued to reach her target audience.

Step 3: Get Help features important members of your team and the roles they might play. When you're ready, visit **Step 3 of GoGold** to list your team members and share how you plan to lead them as you implement your project.

What does a sustainable project look like?

Sustainability means that your project, as well as the work towards addressing your issue, carries on or continues even after you've done your part and earned the Gold Award. In a nutshell: you'll put a plan in place that ensures your Gold Award creates lasting change.

Sustainability is not one-size-fits-all. Here are three different ways you can ensure your project is sustainable:

 **Create a permanent solution ... and ensure it's used.**

Short project description	How you know it's sustained ...
Brand-new girls wrestling team at your school	Get a letter of commitment from your school administration to sustain the team
Cultural competency club at a local community center	Provide a how-to manual with guidelines and your organization charter to the community center so they can maintain your project after you wrap up
Formal-wear lending boutique for military families	Establish a system for rotating and refreshing available items that outlasts your support

2 Educate others by inspiring them to change their attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors ... and prove the changes by using a measurement tool and either 1) putting a plan in place to continue the education beyond your involvement or 2) enacting a call to action.

Short project description	How you know it's sustained ...
Stress-relief awareness campaign	Collect pre- and post-surveys to measure change in your audience's knowledge and perceptions and enact a call to action, like a pledge, to track who commits to adopting new self-care habits
Reading workshops to promote early literacy	Collect pre- and post-surveys to measure how audience reading skills improve and share the curriculum with a community partner to continue literacy education
School recycling presentations	Collect pre- and post-surveys to measure increase in recycling know-how and enact a call to action, like an online tracking system to count the number of students recycling at the school and total pounds of recycled material annually

3 Advocate to change a rule, regulation, or law ... and engage others in your advocacy.

Short project description	How you know it's sustained ...
Protecting sea turtle habitats	Get others to take up the cause by signing a petition as part of a campaign to enact a law that protects the animals' habitats. Your advocacy is what matters—bonus points if you get a law passed, but even if you don't, you can still change minds and behavior along the way.

Visit **Step 4 GoGold** to plan your project's sustainability.



SOMETHING TO REMEMBER: When your goal is to change someone's mind, education can be a powerful tool. You can create and deploy a wide range of materials that will educate others about the issue you care about. We call this a "force multiplier" when someone makes a significant change to an attitude and/or behavior.

How do I measure my impact?

Your impact is measurable when you collect information or data throughout your project and use it to show that your actions have had a positive effect on the community and/or contributed to addressing your issue.

Think about what you can **count** in order to measure the effectiveness of your project. This means that you will need to set a goal or two! That way, when you measure your results, you'll know how effective your project was overall. Goals can feel intimidating, but remember, you're setting them for yourself—and they are adaptable.

You can begin demonstrating your impact by asking “how much?” or “how many?”

- You can count how many people your project helped, involved, or educated, or how many people changed their behavior or attitudes. You can also count the number of members in a group (social media or in person) or how many clicks, shares, views, or comments your website or posts received.
- If you are introducing a new concept to a group, you can use a pre- and post-questionnaire to measure how much they've learned or assess what behaviors they've changed.

Successful Gold Award projects have goals and measure true impact. Be confident in setting and measuring multiple goals, so you can understand the impact of each part of your project. And don't be shy about expanding your efforts as you go!

MEASUREMENT EXAMPLE: *Nancy is creating a technology class for women in the prison system to help prepare them for future employment. She sets two goals: to reach 50 women in the prison system with her technology class by the end of the school year and to be sure at least 75% of the women feel like they have increased their tech skills. To measure her impact, she plans to use two metrics: she will track participation to ensure she serves at least 50 women, and she will circulate questionnaires before and after the classes to assess if her participants are increasing their tech skills. By consistently tracking her progress, she can adjust her plan to better meet her goals.*

Visit **Step 4 of GoGold** to create your project's goals and outline how you'll measure your impact.



SOMETHING TO REMEMBER:

While goals are important guidelines, they may change as you go along. It's OK—it's all part of the learning process. Collecting and analyzing data throughout your project will help you gauge the impact your project is having, make improvements and adjust your goals as necessary, and ultimately tell a compelling story about your Gold Award. If you think you need to change your goals after your proposal has been approved, reach out to your council contact for advice and support.

Part 2: Achieving Your Gold Award

Now that you’ve learned about the Gold Award, you’re ready to earn it—the greatest achievement in Girl Scouting! It may sound daunting, but we’ll break it down into smaller, more manageable steps. Read on for more on how to get started. And remember: your council and the Girl Scout Movement will be there to support you every step of the way!

How do I know I’m ready?

You can begin working on your Gold Award proposal in GoGold after you’ve crossed certain items off your to-do list. You’re ready when:

- You’re in grades 9–12.
- You’re a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador.
- You’ve completed two Senior or Ambassador Journeys OR have earned a Silver Award and completed one Senior or Ambassador Journey.
- You feel compelled to do something meaningful that will make the world a better place!

How do I know what to do—and when?

Review the [Girl Scouts of Orange County “Process Map” to Go Gold](#), plan using GSOC Gold Award Dates to Remember, and follow the [GSOC Suggested Timeline to Go Gold](#) as a general planning guide to ensure you meet the national guidelines as you complete the steps to become a Gold Award Girl Scout.

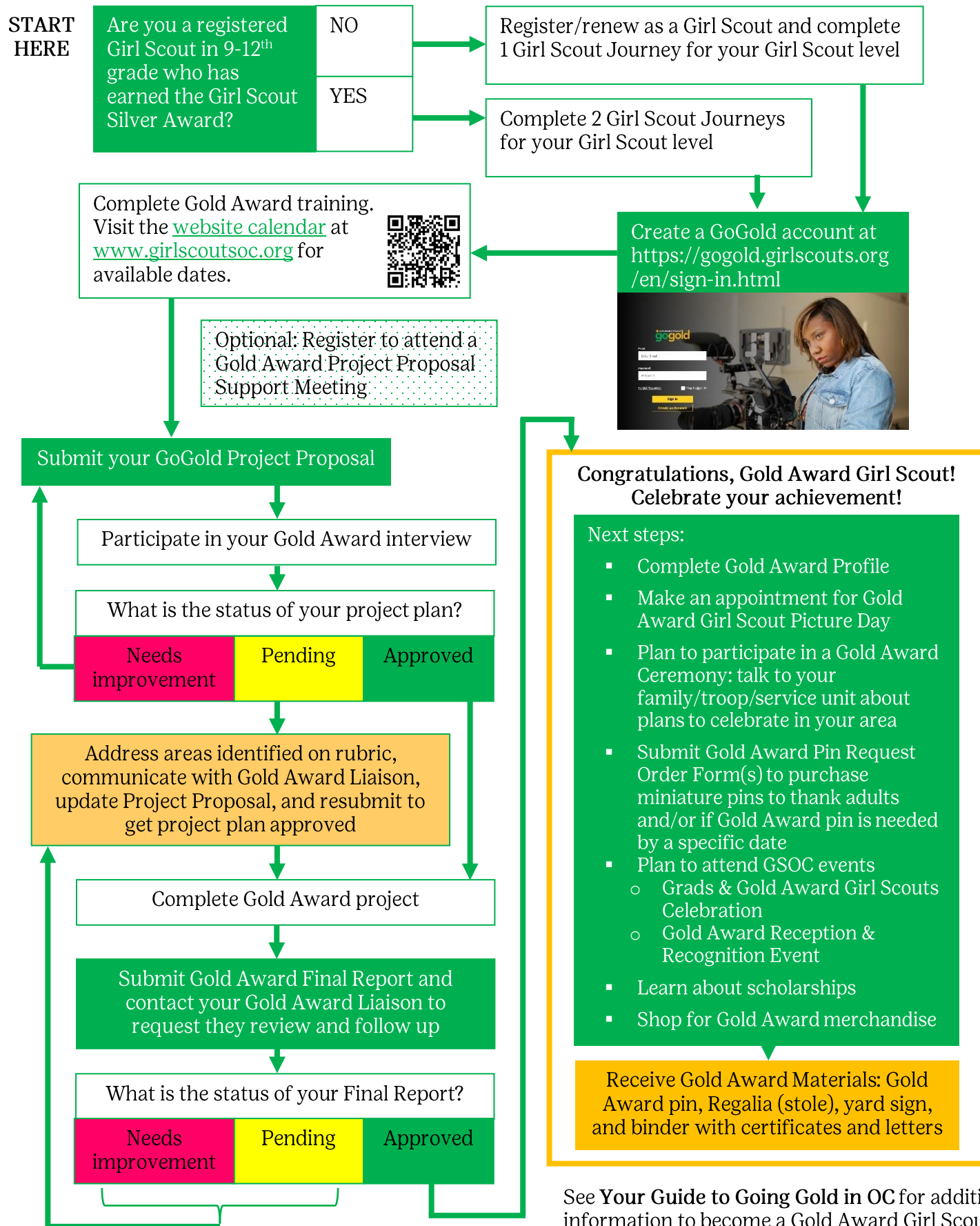
Is training required?

Yes! Completing training and getting the adults on your team to complete training will help you have the support you need to succeed as you develop and carry out your plan, so training is required, even if you already have a solid idea for your Gold Award project.





	Gold Award Online Pre-course Training	Gold Award Training	Project Proposal Support Meeting	Interview
Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador <i>Note: You identify your Troop/Group Volunteer (who may be your Troop Leader or another Girl Scout Adult) and your Project Advisor (subject matter expert) and ask them to complete training.</i>	Watch Go for the Gold - Tips from Gold Award Girl Scouts and Getting Started with the Gold Award	Required	Optional	Required <i>Note: See GSOC Gold Award Dates to Remember for the schedule of deadlines and interview dates.</i>
Troop/Group Volunteer <i>Note: You invite an adult to be your Troop/Group Volunteer and help you complete the national guidelines to go gold.</i>	Review Guide for Leadership Experience and Guide for Leaders	Required	Optional	Encouraged
Project Advisor <i>Note: You invite an adult to be your Project Advisor and provide guidance, experience, and expertise related to your project and the issue you plan to address.</i>	Review Guide for Leadership Experience and Guide for Project Advisors	Optional	Optional	NA
Parent/Guardian <i>Note: Your parent/guardian can be part of your team but choose other adults to be your Troop/Group Volunteer and Project Advisor.</i>	Review Guide for Leadership Experience and Guide for Adults	Optional	Optional	NA

*Check website calendar to register for available dates

Girl Scouts of Orange County “Process Map” to Go Gold



GSOC Suggested Timeline to Go Gold

 9 th Grade	 10 th Grade	 11 th Grade	 12 th Grade
<p>Complete a Journey Two Senior/ Ambassador Journeys OR 1 Journey plus Silver Award are required</p> <p>Plan your timeline using GSOC Gold Award Dates to Remember</p> <p>Complete Gold Award training Girl, Troop/Group Volunteer, and Project Advisor complete required training once you complete your Journey(s)</p> <p>Create a GoGold account at gogold.girlscouts.org</p>	<p>Develop your project plan and choose your Troop/Group Volunteer and Project Advisor</p> <p>Log in to GoGold and complete Steps 1-4</p> <p>Discuss your plan with your Troop/Group Volunteer and Project Advisor</p> <p>Optional: Participate in a Gold Award Project Proposal Support Meeting to get informal feedback on your plan prior to submitting your Project Proposal</p> <p>Present your plan Log in to GoGold to complete Step 5 to submit your Project Proposal; allow time for your Troop/ Group Volunteer and Project Advisor to review and approve</p> <p><i>Note: You will be assigned an interview date and time after you submit your proposal</i></p>	<p>Take Action!</p> <p>Carry out your approved Gold Award Project plan. Your Gold Award may take 4 months, depending on the time you spend and the nature of your project.</p> <p>Take your time and budget as you go. Log in to GoGold to complete Step 6.</p> <p>Submit your Final Report*</p> <p>Log in to GoGold and complete Step 7.</p>	<p>Celebrate!</p> <p>Attend the GSOC Grads & Gold Award Girl Scouts Celebration in May and the Girl Scout Gold Award Reception and Recognition Event in June.</p> <p><i>Note: Gold Award Girl Scouts will be invited to attend.</i></p> <p>The last possible day to submit your Final Report is September 30th following graduation from high school.</p>

This timeline and is a general planning guide to ensure you meet the national guidelines as you complete the steps to become a Gold Award Girl Scout. See GSOC Dates to Remember to help you plan.

Learn more at
girlscoutsoc.org/highestawards



Scan with
your phone



Girls in grades 6-12 join as a girl member and get started with a Girl Scout Journey!
 Questions? Contact Customer Care at customercare@girlscoutsoc.org.

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How much time does it take?

Plan to spend 80 hours bringing your project to life—that’s the minimum. These hours will give you the time you need to properly plan and execute your project—though keep in mind that your schedule and other time commitments will influence how long it takes to complete your project. This is OK, whatever timeline you follow is just fine!

Use this chart—and the definitions below—as a guide to help you plan how to best invest your time for maximum efficiency and impact.

Preparation (30–50%) includes time planning pre- and post-approval.

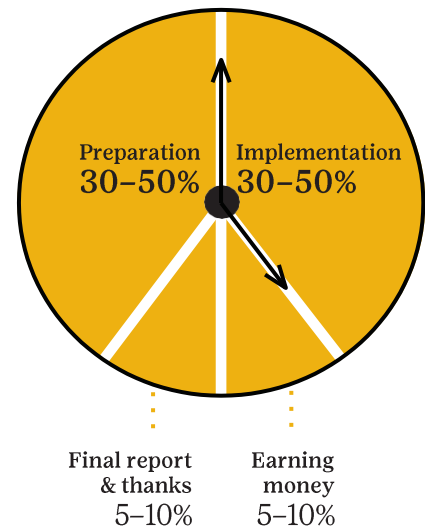
- **Pre-approval** (up to 25%) is the process of preparing your project plan before council review and approval. This includes some research, contacting possible community partners, investigating potential venues, finding prospective volunteers, and ultimately completing your project proposal.
- **Post-approval (up to 25%)** is the work of finalizing your research and locking in your logistics after your proposal is approved by your council. For example, you might contact your venue and set dates and times for workshops.

Implementation (30–50%) is the process of leading and executing the plan you defined in your project proposal and making changes, when necessary, to achieve the project’s goal. *This includes training your volunteers, leading your team to do your project, and more!*

Earning money (5–10%) is optional, and only includes time you spend earning money for your Gold Award.

Final report & thanks (5–10%) includes reflecting on your impact and appreciating your team, which are essential parts of the Gold Award, so make these a priority as you wrap up.

BUDGET YOUR HOURS



It’s easy to forget an activity, email, or conversation, so use the “Track My Work” tab in GoGold to make sure you don’t miss a thing.

What is the GoGold web app?

GoGold is a mobile-friendly website you will use to track your progress towards completing the seven steps of the Gold Award—from idea to proposal, to taking action and final report—online!

You can use GoGold to brainstorm and submit your official Gold Award proposal as well as your final report. This system is designed with you in mind. It offers a lot more than just a place to upload documents.

GoGold takes you through each of the Gold Award steps while offering new ways to examine the issue you want to work on and its root causes, plan your project, set goals, map a timeline, and add your team members.

The functionality built into GoGold is going to save you time, too. The system includes options for your troop leader to virtually sign off on your prerequisites, like your completed Journeys or Silver Award, and for your project advisor to verify your proposal is ready for your council's review process. (We will tell you more about the role of a project advisor in [Step 3](#).)

Think of GoGold as an interactive, informative, and enormous filing cabinet up in the cloud—where every single Gold Award proposal and final report is proudly safeguarded and catalogued for all the Girl Scouts who are on this amazing journey.

What are the #1 tips to help me succeed?

DO THIS	NOT THIS
Pull a team of volunteers together and put your leadership skills to work.	Do it all yourself with just a few or no volunteers.
Choose a project advisor who is an expert on your issue and willing to be involved.	Choose a parent or troop leader as an advisor.
Plan ahead and anticipate obstacles.	Wing it without a plan.
Break up your work into small, manageable bundles and assign each bundle a timeline.	Procrastinate or try to do it all at once.
Update your project advisor and council contact and ask questions when needed.	Keep project progress, obstacles, and details to yourself until you submit your final report.
Document everything as it occurs so that the information you collect is accurate and honest.	Make up a timeline after you've finished the project or put together several small projects.
Measure your project's outcome—you can always look to your council contact for guidance on collecting data, conducting surveys, and doing pre- and post-evaluations.	Complete your project with no real way to measure the impact you've made.
Make sure your project includes the five Gold Award elements.	Submit your project proposal without addressing root cause or including a national and/or global link, sustainability, measurability, or leadership.
Include detailed goals in your project proposal that show your anticipated impact.	Skip goal setting.
Do research to make sure any organizations you plan to work with want to sustain your project.	Assume that organizations need your help.
Create a dynamic project with measurable impact on a community.	Create a static website as the focus of your project or hold a one-day workshop.
Be original—this is your chance to shine!	Copy what others have done.

What are the seven steps to the Gold Award?

- ▶ Step 1: Choose an issue
- ▶ Step 2: Investigate
- ▶ Step 3: Get help
- ▶ Step 4: Create a plan
- ▶ Step 5: Present your plan
- ▶ Step 6: Take action
- ▶ Step 7: Educate and inspire

Let's break it down with a description of each step and tips for success. You'll complete these steps using [GoGold](#). When you're ready, [create a GoGold account and get started!](#)

Step 1: Choose an issue

In this step, you'll answer questions that will help you reflect on your personal values, education, experience, and interests in order to find an issue you care about.

Use the interactive question tree in GoGold to answer a series of questions that will help you explore how to merge your passions and skills to take action. It's easy! Simply answer the questions and GoGold will do the rest, compiling your responses into project themes that may interest you.

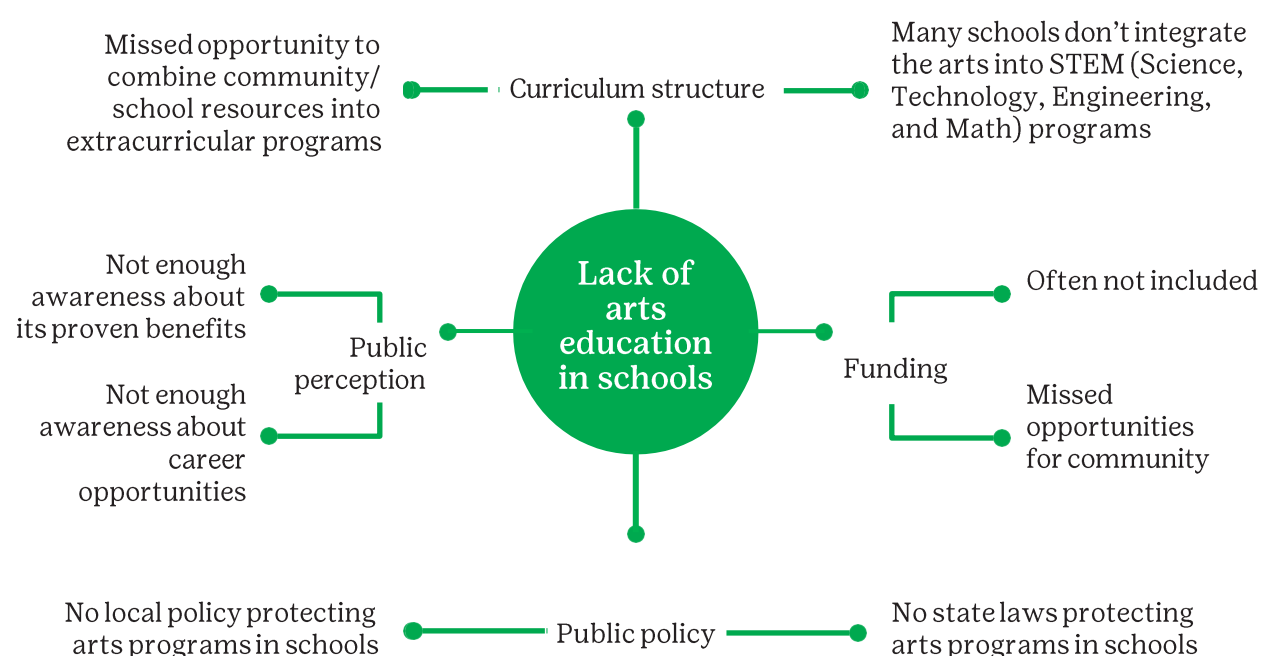
Why?	Who?	Where?	What?	How?
Why are you inspired? Do you care about poverty, women's rights, environmental sustainability, health and relationships, animals, human rights, veterans, sports, or something else?	Who do you want to help? The elderly, children, those less fortunate, nature, people with disabilities, or animals?	Where do you want to make an impact? Your school, neighborhood, city, state, country, or around the world?	What are your strengths and talents? Public speaking, math, community building, empathy, research, or people skills?	How do you want to make a difference? Will you change a law, lead workshops, start a club, develop curriculum, give presentations, teach a skill, or take action another way?

You can complete the quiz as many times as you want. And you'll leave the step with an issue or two you may want to explore further.

Step 2: Investigate

In Step 1, you identified a community issue or two that you're interested in exploring further. You'll need to trace back the issues to their root causes for your project and then connect with issue experts to plan your project. By addressing the root causes of your issue and involving your community in the solution, you'll be primed to make a sustainable impact.

Start by using a mind-mapping tool to explore the root causes of the issue you've chosen. Here's an example mind map:



Notice that the community issue “lack of arts education in schools” is placed in the center and that things that trigger it, like funding, public policy, public perception, and curriculum structure are explored further. When you explore further, you find **root causes**. In this example, the root causes are in the outer prongs. For example, the root causes of the public’s perception of lack of arts education in schools include not enough awareness about proven benefits and not enough awareness about career opportunities in the arts.

Once you’ve identified root causes, take your research further to make sure:

- You’ve identified a real need in the community.
- You can make your project idea happen—it’s realistic.
- You can learn about resources and develop a network beyond your friends and family to help you.

Get online. Check news and organizations’ sites related to your issue. Explore how the media in other countries cover your issue.

Get reading. Find books that offer in-depth analysis of your issue, read your local newspaper, and look for magazine articles that offer different perspectives.

Interview experts. Talk to friends, neighbors, teachers, business owners, community partners, and others who can offer information or insight about the issue you’ve chosen.

Need help identifying organizations or people who have knowledge of your issue or finding an expert to interview?

Click the help icon next to the “Research” tab in GoGold for suggestions, including a community map, a short list of thought starters, and interview tips.



SOMETHING TO

REMEMBER: Before you meet with new people, get safety tips from your troop/group volunteer and always make sure your family knows who you’re talking to or meeting with—safety first!

Step 3: Get help

In Step 3, you'll form a team of volunteers. Working together to put your plans into action allows you to flex your leadership muscle and make a bigger impact than you would on your own. Anyone can be on your team—you don't need to limit yourself to just people your age or those who are Girl Scouts. But do choose a diverse group of volunteers with different skill sets who will work to put your project into action and stick it out until you're done.

Here are some important members of your team:

Council volunteers are adult volunteers who work with council staff to help you meet national guidelines and serve as your point of contact as you work to go gold. You will be assigned a Gold Award Liaison, a Gold Award Support Team council volunteer who conducts your interview, reviews and provides feedback for your Project Proposal using the Gold Award rubric, gives you guidance to help you obtain approval to begin your project, and reviews and approves completion of your project so you can be recognized as a Gold Award Girl Scout.

Council staff provide support for you from start to finish and work with the Gold Award Support Team council volunteers to assign you a Gold Award Liaison (council volunteer) who contacts you to schedule your interview. Staff can help you access resources and answer questions, contact your Gold Award Liaison as needed, provide support for GoGold, and help you to be recognized as a Gold Award Girl Scout.

Your **project advisor** is an adult you approach and invite to be on your team, who has some level of expertise in one or more areas of the issue your project addresses. Think of your project advisor as a professional consultant; they can guide you as you plan and implement your project. The project advisor does not design your project but does offer valuable insight, advice, and guidance.

Parents/guardians and troop volunteers cannot be project advisors. Sometimes adult siblings or family members such as aunts or uncles can be approved project advisors if they are experts on your issue. However, we strongly encourage you to reach outside your familiar circle and grow your network. The [Project Advisor Guide](#) will help your advisor understand their role and how they can support you.

Parents or guardians are amazing supporters! They can act as cheerleaders, sounding boards, and chauffeurs. They can also help you out with safety, transportation, and travel guidelines. The [Guide for Adults](#) lists helpful ways your parents or caregivers can help you; however, as we said above: parents/guardians cannot act as your project advisor.

Troop volunteers and individually registered member mentors can help make sure you've met Gold Award prerequisites and may also agree to be a part of your volunteer team. They can also review Gold Award funding, safety, and travel guidelines with you. The [Guide for Leaders](#) will get them started!

Friends and family may want to help you implement your plan. Troop sisters, relatives, friends, siblings, and cousins can all make terrific team members. Feel confident about giving them hands-on roles and delegating tasks to them, too!

Use Step 3 of GoGold to keep a list of your confirmed team members. You're required to work with at least one adult volunteer—your project advisor, so be sure to list them first. Then, add at least three to five additional team members who are not your parent/guardian or troop volunteer. From there, you can add as many others as you'd like!

Keep in mind that a good leader identifies specific team members with varied backgrounds and skill sets to assist with specific tasks associated with their project. While you may be inclined to primarily enlist your peers, adult support can help you form partnerships with organizations, access resources, and provide important safety measures (your council can help make sure you're covered.) So, be ready to identify each volunteer's role and don't worry about missing someone—you can add more team members as you go along.



SOMETHING TO

REMEMBER: When you expand your circle, you expand your impact. You may feel a little bit uneasy to approach and invite those outside your network to join your team, but remember to use your proposal as your guide to explain your plans. Chances are—they will be impressed!

Step 4: Create a plan

In Step 4, you'll bring together the work and research you did in Steps 1–3 to show how you will achieve your project's purpose. You'll work out the specific details of your project proposal, including a project description, proposed budget and timeline, and your thoughts on how the project will impact you, your target audience, and your wider community. You'll also define your project's national and/or global link, set goals to measure your impact, and plan how you'll sustain your project (refer back to [Part 1](#) for a refresher).

Provide as much detail as you can so your council can evaluate your timeline and proposed scope of work. Ensure you've clearly articulated your ideas and plans, identified your team, set clear goals, and determined how your impact will be measured so it can be easily understood and evaluated. The people reviewing your proposal may not know you personally; be specific so your vision is clear to them.

HOW DO I EARN MONEY FOR MY PROJECT?

You may find that you need some funds to support your project. Here are some ideas for funding your project:

Council-sponsored product sales. Participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program and Fall Sale is one of the best ways to earn money for your Gold Award project. These activities also give you the opportunity to talk to others in the community about your Gold Award. Your cookie booth might be the place where you will meet a volunteer for your project or a person who can support your efforts. Keep in mind you will need to have participated in the most recent Fall Product and Cookie Programs to do an Additional Money-Earning project.

Troop/Group money-earning. These are activities that are organized by your Girl Scout troop or group to earn money for Girl Scout activities. Refer to council guidelines and talk to your Girl Scout adult to plan a money-earning project. In order to participate, you must complete, and get approved, the EmailMeForm for Additional Money-Earning projects and have participated in the most recent Fall Product and Cookie Programs.



Reminder: Money earned from product sales and troop/group money-earning projects belongs to the whole troop. You'll need permission from your troop to use any of these funds.

Cookie Dough/OC Bucks/Juliette Dollars. Got Cookie Dough/OC Bucks/Juliette Dollars? Whether you are a member of a troop or an individually registered member (IRM) or Juliette, you can use Cookie Dough/OC Bucks/Juliette Dollars to cover Gold Award project supply costs.

Donations. You can seek donations from individuals, businesses, or community organizations following GSOC [Solicitation Guidelines](#). You will need to get approval before you can request a donation; if you know you are going to be asking for a donation, complete the steps in the Solicitation Guidelines prior to your interview.

Grants. Check out community organizations like your local Rotary Club, Soroptimists, Lions Club, or Elks Club. It's possible they will offer grants you can apply for to help fund your project. Apply for part or all of the amount you'll need. If you receive a grant, the payment should go to you—not to Girl Scouts and not to your troop. You're also responsible for meeting the grant requirements.

Using your own money. You can use your own money, but going for the Gold Award isn't meant to be a hardship on you or your family. It's more of a learning opportunity. Start by designing your project so that it's sustainable without ongoing fund from you. Think about easy activities you can do to earn the money you need to get started. You might consider pet-walking, babysitting, lawn mowing, recycling, tutoring, or making something to sell. When you get creative, the possibilities are endless!

Things you can't do to raise money. As a Girl Scout, you can't:

- Raise or solicit money from other organizations.
- Raise money by associating Girl Scouts with a product, political viewpoint, or cause (like Avon, Mary Kay, Tupperware, Pampered Chef, candle parties, etc.)
- Sell products that create profits for business besides Girl Scouts, like selling M&Ms, Krispy Kreme, See's Candies, Pizza Hut, Papa John's, Rubio's or other restaurants, catalog sales, etc.
- Sell items online
- Use crowdfunding sites (no Kickstarter, IndieGoGo, GoFundMe)
- Raise money using games of chance like bingo, raffle, or a contest

CAN I USE MEDIA TO SHARE MY PROJECT?

You are free to include videos, photos, websites, blogs, and flyers in your Gold Award project using these guidelines:

Think safety. Be sure that the location of the people in your photos and videos can't be traced. For example, avoid filming the front of a home with an address or street names in sight or filming in a driveway with a car license plate visible.

Get written consent. You'll need to get written consent from anyone (adult or minor) you capture in a video or photo you plan to make public. If you're working with people under 18, you'll need a parent signature on the consent form.

Represent yourself well. Remember what you post online can be read by anyone. Be guided by safety and how you represent yourself as a Girl Scout. Consider: privacy, language use, sponsorship, links, and proper use of copyrighted material (writing, music, brand, images, and pictures).

Weigh whether you need a website. It's common for Gold Award projects to have a website. Building a website can be a great way to learn a skill. You can also recruit an expert who can guide you on the technical and legal aspects of having a site. This is your project, so get involved in the process at all levels- decision-making, research, writing, graphics, and web page creation.

Consider the following questions to help you decide whether to develop a website:

- **Why do you want a website?** Do you need to convey info to your target audience? Or post dates and notices? Would you like to create a scrapbook record for the person who continues your project to follow? Do you need a site to keep track of the work you've done? If you answered "yes" to any of those, a website might be right for you.

- **How many websites already exist on your topic?** Are there a lot? If so, will another really make an impact, or will it just get lost?
- **Does your target audience have internet access?** Choose another communication tool if your target audience doesn't have internet access. If your target audience has access, how will they know about the web page? Will it show up in an internet search? Will you need to market it?
- **How much will it cost?** Will your website be part of another site? Or do you need to purchase your own URL? Will you have to pay more for a password protected site? Does the site provide a way to keep individual files and downloads? Does it have all the functions you need (e.g., a calendar function, email and comment box features)?
- **How much time will be required for upkeep?** Who will be responsible for posting changes? How often do you want to change the site – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly?
- **Will you need interactivity?** Is your site an information-only site, or will you need an interactive component? If so, can you build in password protection?

Refer to Gold Award Girl Scouts: Share Your Impact on pg. 21 for tips to share your project with others in person, in the media, and on social media and consider registering to attend GSOC's Gold Award Media Training to gain confidence as storytellers, learn how to amplify their Girl Scout story, and get tips on how to communicate the impact of Girl Scouting in their life and the impact of their Girl Scout Gold Award project. Whether you *are* a Gold Award Girl Scout, or are *just getting started* to "go gold," this fun mini-training event will help you to share your impact and make sure everyone knows about your project and celebrates your achievement.

Gold Award Girl Scouts: Share Your Impact

Congratulations—you're a Gold Award Girl Scout! Not only have you earned Girl Scouting's highest award—you've also changed the world and changed your life. That's no small feat. It's time to brag! Make sure your friends, family, and community know about your project and celebrate your accomplishment. Here are a few ways to do that.

Sharing Your Impact in Person:

- Reach out to your service unit to request a few minutes to present during your monthly meetings or present at a neighboring troop's meeting.
- Bridging to the next level of Girl Scouts? "Pass it on" by talking about your project with Brownies and share how they can earn a highest award.
- Ask the group, business, or agency you worked with to promote your story in a newsletter or invite you to present at a local meeting.

Sharing Your Impact in the Media:

- Share your project with your school, faith-based organization, local chambers of commerce, board of education, local politicians, or community organizations. Talk about how you made the community better and how the benefits of the project will carry on. You could be asked to speak at a local event, or your project could get featured in the organization's newsletter.
- Reach out to your neighborhood newspaper or magazine(s) with your story. Hyperlocal publications love hearing what Girl Scouts are doing to make their community better.

Sharing Your Impact on Social Media:

- Craft a strong Gold Award post with these tips for Girl Scouts:
 - Choose clear photos/videos that tell a story—audiences love seeing Girl Scouts in action.
 - Write concise but informative captions. Briefly explain the problem, the solution, and the results in 2-3 sentences.
 - Use emojis to celebrate your achievement. 🥳👏🌟🌟💖
 - Tag your council's handle, @girlscouts, and #gsGoldAward to make your post discoverable. GSUSA may even share your post so our national audience can be inspired by your project.
 - Tag relevant community organizations, businesses, and people who were a part of your Gold Award.
- Don't have a public social account? No worries. Email your story to customercare@girlscoutsoc.org and socialmedia@girlscouts.org to potentially be featured on those accounts. Check with your council to see if they already have a process for sharing Gold Award projects on social media.
- Write a blog post describing your experience and share it on your social channels. Interested in telling a bigger story? Reach out to your council to see if you can work together on a blog post.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SAFETY?

As a Girl Scout, you know that safety is important. When you work on the Gold Award, it's a good idea to make a basic safety management plan. In advance, think about:

- What could go wrong
- How to prevent things from going wrong
- What to do if they go wrong anyway

Use the Safety Activity Checkpoints to prepare and learn the risk of activities you might be doing as part of your project and to help you form your safety management plan.

If you organize a Girl Scout event as part of your project, complete these steps:

Step 1: Get the supervision you need

You'll need a troop leader or parent who is a Responsible Adult and is currently First Aid/CPR/AED certified.

Step 2: Check Girl Scout safety resources

- See Volunteer Essentials for transportation, first aid, and supervision requirements.
- See the Safety Activity Checkpoints for any activities you might do as part of your project.

Step 3: Look into insurance

If you have project volunteers who are not current, registered Girl Scout members you'll need non-member accident insurance. The insurance covers costs that are not covered by personal health insurance, like co-pays and medicines. For those who don't have personal health insurance, Girl Scout insurance covers medical costs up to a limit.

If your Gold Award project includes a high-risk activity using a vendor or venue, you'll need proof of liability insurance. To see if an activity is high-risk, check the Safety Activity Checkpoints. Risk level is shown for each activity.

View Forms and Docs at www.girlscoutsoc.org for current forms and instructions and contact CustomerCare@girlscoutsoc.org with any questions.

What do I need to know about driving and travel?

All Gold Award projects involve some travel. Travel can be anything from a short drive to a plane trip.

Plan to follow Girl Scouts of Orange County guidelines for transporting girls anytime you are in charge of getting people from one place to another. This includes when your troop meets to carpool to a site where they'll help with your Gold Award project or if your project takes place at more than one site and you help volunteers get from one site to another.



Reminder: As a Girl Scout, you can't drive other Girl Scouts for your Gold Award project.

When you travel:

- Have at least one adult first-aider traveling with the group.
- Keep a first-aid kit in each car.
- Check the adult-to-girl ratios to make sure you have enough adults for the trip.
- Purchase activity insurance for trips lasting three nights or more, or trips that are out of the state or country.

Step 5: Present your plan

You'll know you're ready to submit your proposal to your council for review and approval when you can confidently check all the boxes below:

- ☐ You've met the prerequisites (see "How do I know I'm ready?")
- ☐ You've created a unique project
- ☐ You've chosen an expert project advisor (Step 3: Get Help)
- ☐ You've engaged a team of volunteers who will take action with you
- ☐ You've addressed the root cause of an issue
- ☐ You've tackled your target audience's needs
- ☐ You've set clear goals. You can say, "Here is the change I plan to make, and here's how I'll know I've made it."
- ☐ You've designed a sustainable project
- ☐ You've identified a national and/or global link
- ☐ You've developed a realistic budget and identified the resources you need to carry out the project
- ☐ Your project will take at least 80 hours to complete
- ☐ You have the skills to get started
- ☐ You've created a plan to inspire others about your project and its impact

Before you submit, be sure to upload any additional files your council requires and download a copy of your proposal to keep for your records. Then, get your troop leader/volunteer to verify that you completed your prerequisites and obtain project advisor support of your proposal before submitting it. You'll be able to use GoGold to send an email request for verification that they can complete online in just a few clicks.

Your council will have a specific review and approval process, so be sure to check in with them for next steps.



After the Interview: Communication Tip

As a best practice, GSOC encourages the Girl Scout to take the lead on communication with their Gold Award Liaison (Girl Scout Volunteer) and to copy the following volunteers/staff on all email communications related to their project:

- Troop/Group Volunteer
- Volunteer Chair, Gold Award Support Team
- Girl Awards Specialist
- Girl Experience Admin

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Project Proposal deadlines and interviews are scheduled throughout the year. Use the GSOC Dates to Remember to plan and submit the Project Proposal using GoGold at <https://gogold.girlscouts.org>. You must be a registered Girl Scout Senior in grades 9-10 or Girl Scout Ambassador in grades 11-12 to earn the Gold Award. You may register to attend a Project Proposal Support Meeting to get feedback on your project plan prior to submitting your Project Proposal and participating in the interview.

5 Tips for Submitting your Gold Award Project Proposal

1. **Refer to How to Earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.** This is a visual “road map” to “go gold” that will help you see your path from start to finish.
2. **Create a GoGold account.** Register to create an online account to keep track of your progress as you complete the steps to “go gold.”

Note: When you create your GoGold account, remember your council is Orange County. It's important you choose “Orange County” so your account will be linked to your council and your Project Proposal will be submitted to GSOC.

3. **Get support from the adults on your team:** Talk to your Troop/Group Volunteer and Project Advisor as you work to develop your plan.

Optional: Talk to a Girl Scout Gold Award Liaison.

- **Register to attend a Project Proposal Support Meeting** to talk to a Girl Scout Gold Award Liaison. This optional meeting gives you (and your Troop/Group Volunteer) an opportunity to get informal feedback from a member of the Gold Award Support Team who can help guide you with your project plan.

Note: The Project Proposal Support Meeting is designed for you if you are a registered Girl Scout in grades 9-12, have attended Gold Award Training or are registered to attend, and have created a GoGold account and are ready to share your project idea or a draft of your Project Proposal. The Project Proposal Support Meeting does not take the place of the required council interview. Your Troop/Group Volunteer and/or Project Advisor are welcome to attend the Project Proposal Support Meeting with you.

4. **Complete the Project Proposal (Steps 1-5) using GoGold:** Review your Project Proposal with your Troop/Group Volunteer.
 - **Create a draft:** To prepare for online submission, you may choose to create a draft of your responses to the questions on the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal that you can cut and paste into Go Gold Online. This is recommended. Save often to make sure you don't lose your work.
 - **Get verification:** Give your Troop/Group Volunteer and Project Advisor adequate time to review your project plan, provide input and make recommendations, and complete the verification (by clicking the link they'll receive via email) before you submit your Project Proposal using GoGold by the deadline.
 - **Include a detailed project plan:** Describe the steps involved in putting your plan into action.

Your detailed project plan includes a project hours log that lists a description of activities throughout the project and the estimated time spent on each. Similar activities should be grouped together as there is a limited number of lines available to record hours through GoGold. There is an 80-hour minimum guideline* for the Gold Award Take Action project. Project hours begin upon project approval.

A project hours log will help you remember all of the steps you take to earn the Gold Award and it can be helpful to reflect on success, share the project with others, and complete Steps 6 & 7 (the Final Report).

**The time it takes to earn the Gold Award will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community. Quality projects, that have a positive impact on the community, should be emphasized over quantity of hours.*

5. **Submit the Project Proposal:** Submit your Project Proposal to GSOC online using GoGold according to Project Proposal deadlines (and corresponding interview dates) outlined on GSOC Dates to Remember. Project Proposals received through GoGold after the deadline will be held until the next deadline.

Do I need to participate in an interview before I start my project?

Yes! Every OC Girl Scout participates in the required council interview. The annual schedule of GSOC Dates to Remember is set in July to help you plan your timeline. Here are four ways you can get ready for the interview:

1. **Save the date and prepare for your interview:** Appointment times for interviews are assigned based on when you submit your Project Proposal. Interview dates are outlined on the GSOC Dates to Remember. Interview times are emailed approximately two weeks after the Project Proposal deadline. At the interview, you will be asked to describe your project plan and be prepared to answer questions about your Project Proposal. The interview will include a question period that should last about 30 minutes. You will receive a status update on your plan at the interview. If your Project Proposal is approved, you may begin the project. If pending, you will need to address the areas identified and you'll receive a copy of the rubric to help guide you to your next steps to update your plan.

How can you prepare for the interview? Be ready to describe your plan and answer questions. Remember, your Gold Award Liaison, the person conducting your interview, wants to help you succeed. You can also invite your Troop/Group Volunteer to attend your interview with you if you choose.

The following are some of the questions you might be asked during the interview:

- What is the **issue** your project will address?
- What is the **root cause** of the issue you are addressing?
- How will you demonstrate **leadership**?
- How will you **educate and inspire** others to act?
- Who is your **team**?



- **How will the project continue** beyond your involvement in it? How is it **sustainable**?
- What is the **global** component to your project?
- What do you think will be the hardest part of the project?
- How will you **measure** your success?
- How will you **share** your project with others?

Note: You may prepare and bring a short presentation to describe the project, but this is not required. You may wear your Girl Scout uniform for the interview, but this is not required.

2. **Be ready to get feedback on your project plan:** You will interview with a member of the Girl Scouts of Orange County Girl Scout Gold Award Support Team. The person who conducts your interview is your assigned Gold Award Liaison. They will give you a copy of the Gold Award Project Proposal Rubric used to record how your project plan meets the national guidelines for a Gold Award project.
3. **Avoid common reasons for the “yellow light”:** Your Project Proposal might be “pending” or “returned for further development” at your interview. Don’t worry! This doesn’t mean your project plan won’t ever be approved! It means you need to revise your plan based on the feedback you receive from the Rubric so your Gold Award Liaison can update your status to approved.

10 Common barriers to getting your project approved, and tips to avoid them

1. **Vague plans with short answers** - Be as detailed as possible in your project Proposal while staying within the character limits. If there is more info or resources beyond your Project Proposal, share them at the interview; they will need to be added to the online Project Proposal before final approval.
2. **A team that doesn't expand your network of contacts.** A good team should be a combination of adults from the agency you are working with plus peers beyond your Girl Scout troop. It doesn't mean your Girl Scout troop can't help or support you, but the progression at the Gold Award level means that you are leading people beyond the Girl Scout community, family and friends. A good team would look like - The director of ABC agency, HB High Key Club officers, etc. A team that isn't expanded enough would look like - mom, grandma, grandpa, dad, my sister, or only my Girl Scout troop.
3. **No issue** - A Gold Award Take Action Project is an issue-based project. This is why the first question you need to be prepared to answer is "What is your issue?" not "What is your project?"
4. **Issue & project not matching.** The project should address the root cause of the issue to try to solve it.
5. **No measurable goals – or vague goals such as "people will be happy".** Examples of a measurable goal: For a series of classes, my goal is to have attendance increase as the year goes on until we have 100 participants, or working to solve a safety issue, my goal is to decrease the number of texting while driving accidents my city by 20%.

6. **Weak plan for sustainability** - Starting a website or blog or handing off a notebook of instructions and relying on that for sustainability. Websites, blogs, Instagram & Facebook & instruction manuals can be great tools to be used as part of a project, but a Gold Award Take action project is meant to be passed on. Websites need to be updated & maintained. Who will handle that once you complete the project? Part of the project plan should include using tools and training someone to use them as you implement your project and they learn to take over after you.
7. **Too small in scope.** The project plan is not impactful to the degree expected for a Gold Award Take Action Project. The issue and proposed solution will not serve enough people in the community, or address the issue deeply enough, or create sustainable change in a lasting way to meet the standards of the Rubric.
8. **One day event** - A Gold Award project is meant to be solving a community problem, not simply setting up a one day or annual event. It is hard to have an impact with a one day or annual event. Projects that are approved which include a one day or annual event are BIG events. Usually, a series of events or monthly workshops will have a greater impact and measurability.
9. **Building something like a garden or painting a room or fixing up a facility.** These are great community service projects. A Gold Award is required to educate and inspire. Building a garden and using it as a tool to be used as part of a program to train about planting drought resistant gardens or as a permanent food source for a shelter would increase the potential for approval because this would extend the impact.
10. **Collections** – Collection projects, no matter how many times done, are a onetime fix and considered community service. A collection can be part of a Gold Award project, but not the whole project, for example, you might collect and donate sports equipment as part of a Gold Award project starting a softball league for kids with special needs.

How will I know if my project meets the required standards?

The Gold Award Project Proposal Rubric is a tool used to help you know that you are meeting the national guidelines for a Gold Award project. It is designed to help you plan and prepare to do just that, and if needed, to clearly define areas you need to address with your project plan.

Note: While it is common for some areas to be identified as “does not meet standards” or “needs improvement,” if this happens with your proposed plan, you will have the opportunity to update your plan and resubmit your Project Proposal after your interview, and follow up with your Gold Award Liaison until each required area “meets standards” and your Project Proposal is approved and you get the “green light” to begin.

When will I know the status of my Project Proposal so I can start?

You can start when your Project Proposal is approved. This can happen at your interview or after. Your Gold Award Liaison will determine the project designation status of your Project Proposal and this will be noted on a copy of your rubric you will receive after your interview.

Following your interview, your project designation will be noted on the rubric as:



- **Approved** – The Project Proposal meets the national guidelines and you may begin upon verbal and written notification by the Gold Award Support Team Liaison. Some projects may be “approved with caution” when one or more comments or reminders are given to ensure a successful project.
- **Pending** – The Project Proposal is sound, but is missing some information which must be addressed to meet the national guidelines before the project is approved. The project will remain “pending” until you communicate with the Gold Award Support Team Liaison to provide the requested information and address any areas of concern discussed during the interview. Some projects can be updated from “pending” to “approved” by email and/or phone following the interview; in most cases, you need to update and resubmit your Project Proposal through GoGold but do not need to participate in a second interview to obtain approval for your updated project plan.
- **Returned for further development** – The Project Proposal may have potential but it does not meet (or must be developed more fully to meet) the national guidelines for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The project is “returned for further development” because it is missing one or more key elements (leadership, measurable, sustainable, and global) or there may be questions about the focus (root cause) or the benefit to the community. If your project is returned for further development, you should communicate with the Gold Award Liaison for suggestions on how to further develop your project plan and/or address areas of concern. The project could be restructured or you may develop a different plan/issue; you may be required to participate in a second interview to obtain approval for your updated/new project plan.

Note: While providing community service is an important part of Girl Scouting, most service projects do not meet the national guidelines for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award requires you to take action to create sustainable change. Therefore, service projects such as hosting a blood drive, gathering equipment, toys, or books, making or collecting blankets, scarves, hats, wheelchair bags, greeting cards, chemo caps, building, planting, or painting projects, or other donation, collection, or construction projects or plans to contribute to existing service projects can be part of a project plan, but if these activities are planned on their own as a stand-alone project, the Project Proposal will be returned for further development.

What do I do after my Project Proposal is approved?

1. **Take action.** Use your Project Proposal to carry out your project plan. You've got this!
2. **Take action photos.** Take steps to illustrate your achievement and share what you have learned. This can include taking pictures that show you in action, creating a video, or sharing your effort through social media. You may plan to attend Gold Award Media Training to gain confidence as a storyteller, learn how to amplify your Girl Scout story and Gold Award project, and get tips to share your project with others. Check the website calendar to register for upcoming dates.
3. **Communicate your progress.** As you complete your Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project, keep your Troop/Group Volunteer, Project Advisor, and Gold Award Liaison informed of your progress. They can help you to stay on track to achieve your project goals, be a resource as you implement your plan, and celebrate with you when you achieve completion.

Step 6: Take action

Once your proposal is approved, it's go time! Lead your team to carry out your plan. Log your hours and track your income and expenses as you put your proposal into action. Use the Experience Log to upload photos, videos, and/or text posts showing your project in action. These posts will be shared with your council when you submit your final report in Step 7.

Check the "Summary" tab in Step 6 of GoGold for an overview at any time.

WHAT IF I NEED TO MODIFY MY PROJECT?

Your project plans may change after you have submitted your Project Proposal or even after you have obtained approval for your plan. If this happens, contact your Gold Award Liaison to give them an update on any changes to your project. Together, you'll determine your next steps to move forward. Whether your updates are changes to parts of your project, choosing a new solution to your issue, or you are choosing a new issue to address, you will be able to use your existing GoGold account to make updates, resubmit, and get support from your Gold Award Liaison and council staff.

Step 7: Educate and inspire

By Step 7, you're in the home stretch and completing your final report. It's time to tell your story—to tell others what you did, what you learned, and the impact your project had on your target audience. This is your chance to shine, so be sure to fully reflect on each question and provide thoughtful, detailed answers.

Upload any files and download a copy of your final report for your records. You'll obtain project advisor verification for the great work you completed and then submit to your council for review and approval.

As when you submit your proposal to your council at Step 5, your council will have a specific review and approval process for Step 7, so be sure to check in with them for next steps.

FINAL REPORT REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Final Reports are accepted on a rolling basis with deadlines scheduled throughout the year to help plan for availability of recognition materials. Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors grades 9-12 use GSOC Dates to Remember to plan and complete steps 6 & 7 (the Final Report) and submit using GoGold at <https://gogold.girlscouts.org>. When you submit your Final Report on GoGold, contact your Gold Award Liaison to request they review and follow up with you. Allow 2 weeks for review and final approval.

5 Tips for Submitting Your Final Report

1. **Know your deadline.** You have until the last day of the Girl Scout membership year - September 30th - of the year you graduate from high school to complete the Girl Scout Gold Award project and submit the Final Report.
2. **Upload or link documents.** As part of the Final Report submission, GSOC encourages you to upload or link additional documents using GoGold including:
 - a detailed project hours log that includes the activities you did and the time you took as part of your project
 - a letter from your Project Advisor or from a representative of the organization or agency you partnered with that observed or benefitted from the project attesting to the contribution you made through your effort to take action to make the world a better place, and
 - action photos of you doing your project – your best photos taken during the project implementation that illustrate you taking action are preferred
3. **Save a copy.** Keep a copy of your Final Report for your records and allow time for review and follow up by your Gold Award Liaison. You may be asked to clarify or provide additional information for your Final Report before you can get final approval for your project.
4. **Plan to participate in a ceremony if you choose.** Ask your troop and/or service unit if a ceremony is planned, and *if you plan to participate in a May-June ceremony, you should use the March deadline to allow time for review and approval and for council staff to obtain letters and certificates prior to the ceremony.*

5. **Get final approval.** You earn the Gold Award and are COMPLETE after the Final Report is received AND you get the final approval for your project from your Gold Award Liaison. You can expect to receive an email when your status on GoGold is updated to complete, and when this happens, you may share this achievement with others, include “Gold Award Girl Scout” on college applications, and plan to participate in a ceremony.

Note: Once the Final Report is approved, a congratulatory letter will be emailed to you and council staff will prepare a personalized binder and request certificates and letters from public officials. If you need your Gold Award recognition materials by a specific date, contact GSOC to coordinate with the Girl Experience Team.

What do I do after my final approval?

1. **Complete the Girl Scout Gold Award Girl Scout Profile:** Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award submit a short project description, official Gold Award Girl Scout Picture, project photos, and a personal quote. A link to the Gold Award Girl Scout Profile will be sent to you by email.
2. **Receive Gold Award materials:** Once you are COMPLETE and have submitted the Girl Scout Gold Award Girl Scout Profile, you are ready to celebrate your achievement.

When your final report is approved, you’re officially a Gold Award Girl Scout.

Celebrate and be sure to thank your project advisor, your team, and all the other people who helped you along the way!

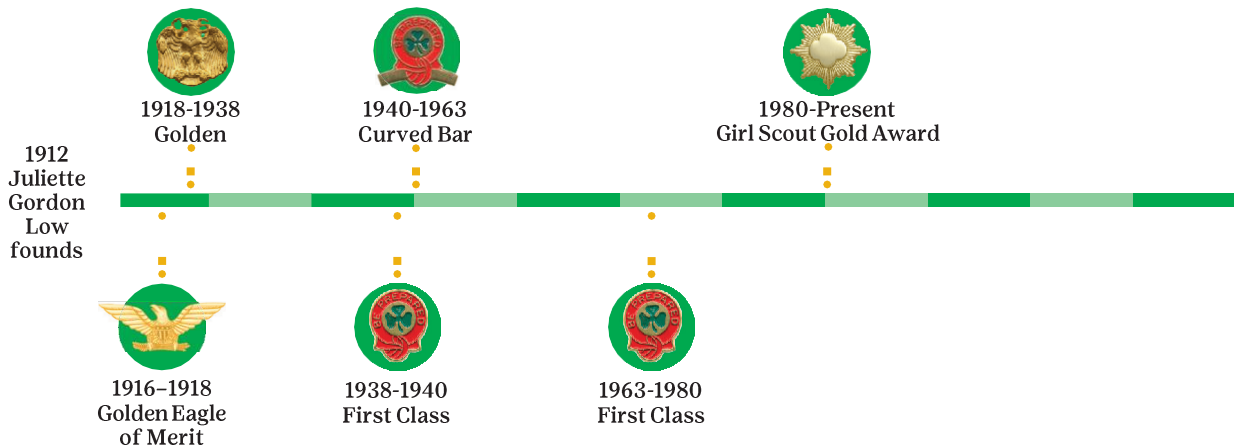
Congratulations—you’re a Gold Award Girl Scout!

You’ve earned the Gold Award, the most highly regarded award in the world for girls. It’s the mark of the truly remarkable. Becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout marks an important milestone in your Girl Scout career. The same vision, commitment, and leadership that brought you through the Gold Award process will now carry you to new heights. This will distinguish you on scholarship applications, college admission essays, and on your résumé—forever. What you have earned will set you apart, in all the best possible ways!

In addition to accomplishing this challenging personal goal, you can now join an esteemed group of Girl Scouts who share this distinction.

From its beginning in 1916, the greatest achievement in Girl Scouting has been a symbol of excellence and leadership that recognizes the extraordinary efforts of extraordinary girls. While the Gold Award has gone by many names, now all Girl Scouts who earned the First Class, Curved Bar, Golden Eaglet, or Golden Eagle of Merit are part of the Gold Award Girl Scout Family (see [GSUSA’s proclamation](#)). Its timelessness has inspired generations of young women to find greatness inside themselves and share their ideas and passions with their communities and the world. Congratulations on joining this network of talented and inspirational women!

You've joined history—welcome to the Gold Award Girl Scout Family!



Share your accomplishment with the world!

How many other teenagers can say they led a team that tackled an issue in their community to create lasting change? We know you can say it! You stand out in a crowd—own it!

Now that you're a Gold Award Girl Scout, it's time to leverage your accomplishment and share your passion:

- Capture the skills you gained. Remember all the things you learned while earning the Gold Award. Things like project management, team building, public speaking, and resource development are real-life skills that need to be highlighted. Make sure you add your new skills and competencies to your future applications and résumés.
- Apply for scholarships. When applying for scholarships (and you should be!), you'll want your Gold Award to be a highlight. The work that goes into earning it will show you as a well-rounded, community-minded, forward-focused can-doer! Be sure to review these specific [scholarships](#) designed just for Gold Award Girl Scouts.
- Expand your network. Think of all the people you met and engaged with while working towards the Gold Award. Keep all those contacts and add them to your professional social media accounts, like LinkedIn, whenever possible. Those individuals will be proud to be connected to you, and the Girl Scout Gold Award, forever.
- Get paid more. If you join the military, you can enlist at a higher pay grade.
- Get the job. Highlight your Gold Award on your résumé—as well as all of the skills you gained while earning it. Don't underestimate the power of a Girl Scout alum, or sister Gold Award Girl Scout, receiving your résumé or application!

RÉSUMÉ TIPS:

Describe what the Gold Award means for anyone who may not be familiar with it (ideally one sentence or less). For example:

- Earned the Girl Scout Gold Award by planning and executing an 80-hour service-learning project and managing a team of volunteers and community partners

Quantify, quantify, quantify! Include measurable outcomes from your project to tell about your leadership experience and impact. Instead of saying:

- Developed a robotics program for girls

Try something more powerful, like:

- Created a robotics curriculum that reached 80 girls—90% of whom reported an increased interest in STEM careers
- Partnered with two school districts to add the curriculum to 10 school clubs
- Implemented a social media strategy to educate girls on STEM opportunities, achieving more than 5,000 impressions in total

List skills that you developed in pursuing your Gold Award. Shine a light on transferable skills like project management, communication, strategic planning, research, budget oversight, fundraising, team building, and social media marketing.

Elevate your online story. If you created a website as part of your Gold Award, consider adding a link. You can use a free URL shortener to make the link memorable.

WHEN IS THE GOLD AWARD CEREMONY?

After you earn the Gold Award, make plans to celebrate your achievement as a Gold Award Girl Scout! You can do this with your family, friends, Girl Scout troop, service unit, school, and through council events designed to recognize you. Decide how you want to celebrate and do it! You've earned it!

Here are five ways you can celebrate as an OC Gold Award Girl Scout:

1. **Plan a ceremony to celebrate your achievement.** You should choose how you would like to celebrate your accomplishment. You may want to plan a ceremony with your troop/group or celebrate with a special family dinner. While there is no council-wide Gold Award ceremony, you may choose to participate in a service unit ceremony if one is planned in your area. Contact your local service unit or Troop Support Specialist to find out what is being planned in your community and determine how you and your family can help to plan and participate in an event in your area.

Note: If you plan to participate in a May-June ceremony, you should use the March Final Report deadline to allow time for review and approval and for council staff to obtain letters and certificates prior to the ceremony.

2. **Request Gold Award Recognition Materials.** You MUST have completed the Girl Scout Gold Award and obtained final approval prior to planning to participate in a Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony or wear your Gold Award stole at high school graduation ceremony. If you need items by a specific date, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with council staff to receive your Gold Award Recognition Materials (this includes the Girl Scout Gold Award pin, Regalia, yard sign, and personalized binder containing your Gold Award certificate and certificates and letters from public officials) prior to a planned troop, community, or regional ceremony/presentation of the pin. If no request is made, your Gold Award Recognition Materials will be given to you if you register for the annual Grads and Gold Award Girl Scouts Celebration in the spring or made available by appointment for pick up at the council Headquarters in Irvine and you will be notified when items are available and ready for pickup.

Note: You can purchase a special Miniature Girl Scout Gold Award Pin to thank and honor a significant adult(s) for example, your troop leader, Troop/Group volunteer, Project Advisor, or parent) who helped you complete your Gold Award project. Contact the Girl Experience Team to request a miniature pin(s).

3. **Make an appointment for your Girl Scout Gold Award Picture:** You are encouraged to take a picture for the Girl Scout Gold Award Honor Wall, located in the main lobby of the Council Headquarters. Check the website calendar for upcoming dates and refer to the [Gold Award](#) page at www.girlscoutsoc.org for the current flyer with information about annual council hosted Gold Award Picture Days or visit www.liveshoot1.com to make an appointment for any scheduled date.
4. **Share your project, request your Gold Award credential, and join the Gold Award Alliance:** Create a tri-fold project display that illustrates the issue you chose to address, your solution to create sustainable change, how you used your leadership skills, and what you did for your project to share at your Gold Award ceremony, service unit event(s), and the GSOC Gold Award Reception. You can also get your Gold Award Credential to share on social media, and join the Gold Award Alliance and purchase the Gold Award Alliance pin.
5. **Plan to attend annual council events:** The annual **Grads and Gold Award Girl Scouts Celebration** in the spring is an opportunity to be recognized as a Grad and/or Gold Award Girl Scout and receive special SWAG. GSOC also encourages girls to prepare a project display board to share and save the date for the annual **Gold Award Reception**, preceding the annual Recognition Event in June. This is the time for you to participate in the annual GSOC Gold Award Group Picture. In addition, ALL graduating Gold Award Girl Scouts are invited to attend the annual **Kayaks and Conversations with the CEO & Grad Girl Bridging Event** at the Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center in Newport Beach. You may also be invited to opportunities to share your project with other Girl Scouts or community members.

Note: If you plan to participate in council events, you should use the March Final Report deadline.

What is the Gold Award Credential?

Girl Scouts invites every member of the Gold Award family to celebrate your achievement – and your connection to Girl Scouts everywhere – by claiming your Gold Award Digital Credential from Credly, our verification partner, to display on LinkedIn and other social media platforms. This allows prospective employers, colleges/universities, military academies, and others to verify your achievement by viewing your profile. It's a great way to show the world you are a Girl Scout!

What is the Gold Award Military Ribbon?

A Gold Award Girl Scout is entitled to enlist at a **higher pay grade** when they join the military. This means that a Gold Award Girl Scout is entitled to enlist in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard at a higher pay grade than individuals who have not earned the Gold Award.

Note: prior references to “higher rank” across military branches were incorrect; not all military branches use the term “rank.”

Official documentation:

- **Air Force:** [AFMAN 36-2032*](#) (Table 3.1, Rule 10)
- **Army:** [AR 601-210](#) (Paragraph 2-1, Page 30, Bullet 12)
- **Coast Guard:** [Coast Guard Recruiting Manual](#) (Chapter 3, Table 3.1, Page 41)
- **Marines:** [MCRCO 1100.1](#) (Table 4-2, Rule 9)
- **Navy:** [COMNAVCRUITCOMINST 1130.8K CH-3](#)

**The Air Force is presently changing “Girl Scout Gold Palm” references to “Gold Award.”*

The Girl Scout Gold Award Military Ribbon

The Girl Scout Gold Award Military Ribbon was designed to honor Gold Award Girl Scouts participating in military-affiliated programs as well as alums pursuing careers in the military. Gold Award Girl Scouts may proudly wear this ribbon on uniforms issued by their military-affiliated program or institution. This collectible ribbon recognizes your distinguished achievements. Inspired by your commitment to Girl Scouting and the U.S. armed services, the military ribbon is solid green with gold stripes. Regulations for wear may vary, please consult your institution for approved ribbon placement. After final approval, you may purchase your [Girl Scout Gold Award Military Ribbon](#) from the council shop.



Ribbon: 1 ¼" x ¼". Bar pin: 1 ½" x ¼".

What is the Gold Award Alliance?

GSOC invites you to join the [Gold Award Alliance](#), open to all members of the Gold Award family AND Supporters of the Girl Scouts' Highest Awards: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. You can complete the online form to sign up and purchase your [Gold Award Alliance pin](#) from our council shop.

Members of the Gold Award Alliance advocate for and participate in activities to elevate Girl Scouts' Highest Awards. Through ongoing efforts, they help GSOC to engage the Gold Award Family and supporters to contribute to increased program impact, girl and adult retention, and a culture of philanthropy, by volunteering, attending events, and advocating for Girl Scouts' Highest Awards.



The Gold Award Alliance high polished gold tone plated metal 1" round pin may be worn on either side of the years of service pin on adult uniform by Gold Award Girl Scouts (including all members of the Gold Award family who earned First Class, Curved Bar, etc.) AND supporters to signify they are members of the Gold Award Alliance and advocates for Girl Scouts' Highest Awards: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

What is the GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship?

The GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship program recognizes the outstanding achievement of and provides financial support to one Gold Award Girl Scout per council.

The GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship is earned by a Girl Scout who completed a Gold Award project that demonstrated extraordinary **leadership**, measurable and **sustainable impact**, and addressed an issue of **national and/or global** significance.

Who: Any Gold Award Girl Scout whose Gold Award Final Report has been approved by their council in GoGold between April 1 and March 31 annually, is eligible to apply.

Benefits:

- An academic scholarship
- An official letter of notification
- Promotion that helps you reach a broad audience while highlighting the importance and impact of your project
- Movement-wide recognition, details TBD

Additionally, all scholarship recipients will be added to a GSUSA database where they may be asked to serve as representatives for Girl Scouts through public relations, web/social, speaking engagements or other related opportunities.

When: Notify GSOC you want to apply; email mygoldaward@girlscoutsoc.org to request a nomination by March 1. The application opens on GoGold on April 1. GSOC will notify eligible applicants and can help with the application process. Candidates must have earned their Gold Award between April 1 of the previous year to March 31 of the current year.

How: To complete the application, log on to your GoGold account and look for the “Apply for a GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship” box on the dashboard. Application includes four questions prompts you can complete via written essay or video response.

Selection Process: Each council follows a rigorous local review process to identify one local Gold Award Girl Scout to nominate for this scholarship. GSUSA reviews submissions and provides final approval of the council’s nominee.

Where can I find information about additional scholarships?

Gold Award Girl Scouts are excellent candidates for awards, recognition, and scholarships. We recommend you explore available opportunities before, during, and after you become a Gold Award Girl Scout to ensure you are aware of eligibility requirements and deadlines.

- Visit the GSOC [Girl Awards](#) page at www.girlscoutsoc.org to view award, recognition, and scholarship opportunities including:
 - [Dragon Kim Foundation Fellowship Program](#)
 - [Edwards Lifesciences Scholarship Program](#)
 - [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#)
 - [Prudential Emerging Visionaries](#)
 - [T-Mobile Changemaker Challenge](#)

Use the GSUSA [Scholarships for Girl Scouts](#) scholarship search engine at www.girlscouts.org to explore colleges/universities, foundations, and Girl Scout councils that offer scholarships, awards, and grants for Girl Scouts.

Our resource roundup for Girl Scouts

Here you'll find a roundup of internet resources that will help you become a Gold Award Girl Scout. We recommend referencing this list as you work on your project, then again once you're officially a Gold Award Girl Scout.

Building a Team and Network

[The Gold Award Guide for Project Advisors](#)

[The Gold Award Guide for Adults](#)

[The Gold Award Guide for Troop Leaders](#)

Designing and Carrying Out a Project: Gold Award Girl Scouts Share their Wisdom on YouTube

[Go for the Gold—Tips from Gold Award Girl Scouts](#)

Ready To Get Started?

[Create a GoGold Account](#)

[FAQs](#) (GoGold Account Required)

You're a Gold Award Girl Scout! What's Next?

[Search the Scholarship Database for Opportunities for Gold Award Girl Scouts](#)

[Get your Gold Award Credential](#)

GIRL SCOUTS OF ORANGE COUNTY RESOURCES

Here you'll find a roundup of council resources that will help you become a Gold Award Girl Scout. We recommend referencing this list as you prepare to go gold and as you work on your project, then again once you're officially a Gold Award Girl Scout.

Note: For reference, you can view the most current council resources on the [Gold Award](#) page at www.girlscoutsoc.org.

Take Action

[Community Service and Take Action Projects](#)

[Take Action Project Ideas](#)

[Project Theme Guide](#)

Highest Awards: Bronze, Silver, and Gold

[Highest Awards At-A-Glance](#)

[Girl Scouts Take Action: Paving the Way to Go Gold](#)

[Organizations That Help](#)

[Highest Awards Yearbook](#)

Ready to Get Started?

[GSOC “Process Map” to Go Gold](#)

[GSOC Suggested Timeline to Go Gold](#)

[Dates to Remember](#)

[Project Proposal Support Meetings](#)

[GSOC Gold Award FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Soliciting Philanthropic Donations to GSOC for Your Gold Award Project

[Solicitation Guidelines](#)

[Solicitation Request Form](#)

[Solicitation Report Form](#)

You’re a Gold Award Girl Scout! What’s Next?

[Complete the Gold Award Girl Scout Profile Form](#)

[Participate in Gold Award Girl Scout Picture Days](#)

[Get Girl Scout Graduation Regalia](#)

[Get the Girl Scout Gold Award Military Ribbon](#)

[Join the Gold Award Alliance Flyer](#)

Looking for more inspiration and ideas?

[For Girl Scouts](#)

[Global Girl Scouts](#)

[World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts](#)

A special thank you to Girl Scouts San Diego for creating the guide that inspired this national template and to the 2020 Highest Award Council Thought Partners—Girl Scouts of Alaska, Girl Scouts of Central Texas, Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Girl Scouts Northeast Texas, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, Girl Scouts of San Geronimo, Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida, Girl Scouts of Maine, and Girl Scouts of Western Ohio—for informing the updated Gold Award Guidelines for our Movement at every step.

GSOC Gold Award FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions

How do I choose an issue?

You'll use GoGold to answer questions that will help you reflect on your experience, education, and personal values in order to find an issue you care about.

Things to think about

- What inspires you? Is it something in your school, community, country or world?
- What motivates you into action? Is it people, events, activities, places?
- What skills, talents, and strengths do you have to offer?
- How do you want to make a difference? As an advocate for justice? A promoter of environmental awareness? As a trainer, mentor, or coach? As an artist, actor, or musician? As an organizer of petitions or campaigns? As an entrepreneur? Can you think of another role?
- What motivates, inspires, and interests others? Can you build a team to support your idea?
- What would benefit the community both immediately and long-term?
- Checkback through your Girl Scout Journeys. Are there activities in the Journeys that interest you? Can you use them in your Gold Award Take Action Project?

If these questions aren't working for you, try making a passion list. Start by listing 10 things you're passionate about. See the Take Action Project Ideas if you need help. Then narrow down your list to your top five. Finally, answer this question: which two are your best bets for creating a Gold Award project that would benefit the community?

Need more help? Check out the Project Theme Guide to choose a theme or category you are passionate about, brainstorm issues, choose one issue and brainstorm possible solutions, investigate organizations or agencies already working to address the issue that you may want to team up with, and choose one solution you think you can implement to create lasting change.

Can I earn the Gold Award if I am a Juliette?

Yes. If you are an individually registered member not part of a Girl Scout troop, you can earn the Gold Award. Follow the steps to "go gold" outlined in Your Guide to Going Gold and be prepared to take the initiative to identify two adults you will work with: a Troop/Group Volunteer and Project Advisor.

Do I present my Gold Award Project Proposal to the Gold Award Support Team?

No. You'll submit your Project Proposal using GoGold. A member of the Gold Award Support team will be your assigned Gold Award Liaison and will conduct your interview to learn more about your project plan. They will also be the person to review and approve your Final Report, so it's important to communicate with them on your progress and any issues along the way so they know you and your proposal well and can support you through the process with ease. You may also invite your Troop/Group volunteer to your interview so they can listen as you take the lead to share your project plan.



Something to consider: The Gold Award Support Team is committed to helping all young women who go for the Gold Award. Your Gold Award Liaison is part of this team of council volunteers and they want you to be successful but they are not available around the clock. Communication is key. To ensure your success, it's best to talk to them at your interview about the best way for you to communicate with each other and be timely and organized when interacting with them. You also need to contact them to request they review and follow up with you when you complete and submit Steps 6 & 7, the Final Report, on GoGold.

When should I submit my Gold Award Project Proposal?

Submit your Project Proposal by 6:00 p.m. on the deadline. See Dates to Remember for the current schedule of Project Proposal deadlines and interview dates.

How do I get my project plan approved?

You will get your project plan approved by meeting the standards outlined in the Girl Scout Gold Award rubric. You can use the rubric as a reference as you work to develop your project plan. Once you submit your Gold Award Project Proposal on GoGold, you'll be assigned a Gold Award Liaison who will review your submitted Project Proposal and conduct your interview according to scheduled dates. At your interview, they will talk with you and assess your project plan using the Girl Scout Gold Award rubric and you'll receive a copy after your interview. The rubric may indicate you have the "green light" and your project plan is approved, or may indicate more information is needed or specific areas need to be revisited and addressed prior to approval.

What do I do if my Gold Award Project Proposal isn't approved?

Don't worry! Contact your Gold Award Liaison if you have questions about what you need to do or any direction you've been given is unclear. Talk to your Troop/Group Volunteer for help if you get stuck. Both will help you figure out what's needed to move forward.

Who is my Troop/Group Volunteer?

Your Troop/Group Volunteer is an adult you ask to be on your team who is a registered Girl Scout Adult, completes Gold Award Training, helps you to meet Gold Award guidelines and review funding, safety, and travel guidelines, and may attend a Project Proposal Support Meeting and/or your interview with you. This can be your Troop Leader or another Girl Scout Adult. Identify an adult to serve in this role that will give you a chance to get support from outside your family; parents/guardians cannot serve as your Troop/Group Volunteer.

Who is my Project Advisor?

Your project advisor is an adult you approach and invite to be on your team, who has some level of expertise in one or more areas of the issue your project addresses. Think of your project advisor as a subject matter expert who has special knowledge, experience, or expertise related to your issue. Identify an adult to serve in this role that will help you expand your network; parents/guardians cannot serve as your Project Advisor.

Who is my Gold Award Liaison?

Your Gold Award Liaison is the council volunteer who conducts your interview and serves as your point of contact for your Gold Award project.

Can my family, friends, and sister Girl Scouts be on my team?

Yes, your family, friends, and sister Girl Scouts can be on your team, but they shouldn't be the only ones. If you're only working with family, friends, and your troop or other Girl Scouts, you don't have an opportunity to stretch and grow in the way you need to for the Gold Award, so make it a priority to lead others in the community through your project. Remember too that when you expand your circle, you expand your impact. That's what the Gold Award is all about!

Can I meet with a Gold Award Liaison?

Yes. Register to attend a Project Proposal Support Meeting to share your project idea, get feedback, and ask questions.

Can I do my project to benefit Girl Scouts?

When you begin your Gold Award project, you'll consider your passions and discover the root cause of an issue you care about. If Girl Scouts is true and logical target audience for the issue you've chosen, your project can benefit Girl Scouts.

Why are Journeys a prerequisite to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

The skills you gain when working on national leadership Journeys help you develop, plan, and implement your Gold Award project. They're a great way to prepare.

How do I know when my Journey is completed?

A Journey is completed when you have earned the Journey Awards, including creating and carrying out a Take Action Project.

What makes the Gold Award Take Action Project different from the Journey Take Action Project?

The Journey Take Action Project gives you a theme on which to base your Journey Take Action Project. The Gold Award Take Action Project has no pre-designed theme – you choose your own project theme, design and execute your Gold Award Take Action Project.

What is a target audience?

Your target audience is the portion of the community who will benefit from the work you do as you carry out your project plan for your approved Project Proposal.

What are the suggested hours for earning the Gold Award?

After the Journeys are completed, the suggested minimum number of hours to use as a guide for the Gold Award project is 80 hours.



Something to consider: All Gold Award projects will not require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. The time it takes to earn the Gold Award will depend on the nature of the project, size of the team, and support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over the quantity of hours.

Can I include volunteer hours in my required 80 project hours?

No. Those 80 hours must be the time you've spent on the Gold Award project, but you can track hours your volunteers donated to your project in your Final Report as supporting data.

Can I begin working on my Gold Award during the summer after I bridge (transition) from Cadettes to Seniors?

Yes. You can begin to earn the Gold Award over the summer after your bridge to Girl Scout Senior.

Can I start my project before it's approved?

No, but you can and should start to prepare for your project. You can research your topic, contact venues and possible community partners, create resources, and begin seeking volunteers, but you should not implement your project until you get the "green light: and your Project Proposal is approved.

Can I do a Gold Award project with my friends or my troop?

No. The Gold Award is an individual project. But you CAN help your friends with their project and they can help you!

When is the last day to submit my Final Report?

The last possible day to submit is September 30th following high school graduation. We recommend submitting by September 1st to allow time for review and final approval.

Can I get an extension if I'm too busy to complete my project?

We get it. High school is a busy time. But we can't grant an extension if you haven't had time to complete your project. An extension might be granted if you've had a serious illness, lost your home, or had an equally difficult experience. If one of these applies to you, contact council staff.

When must I finish in order to list "Gold Award Girl Scout" on my college applications?

You can put "Gold Award Girl Scout" and the estimated year of completion on your applications as soon as your Project Proposal is approved. Once your Final Report is approved and you've earned the Gold Award, indicate you are a Gold Award Girl Scout and the year you've earned the award.

Who approves the Gold Award Final Report?

The Final Report is approved by the Gold Award Liaison and accepted by Girl Scouts of Orange County.

Take Action Project Ideas

Community development

- _Civic/public infrastructure
- _Homeless assistance
- _Transportation
- _Community clean-up
- _Social services
- _Volunteer capacity/management
- _Historic preservation
- _Animal care services
- _Independent living assistance
- _Other community development

Economic development

- _Financial literacy
- _Workforce development
- _Financial asset development
- _Economic revitalization
- _Technology access
- _Other economic development

Disaster Recovery and Relief

- _Disaster mitigation
- _Disaster recovery
- _Other disaster
- _Disaster preparedness
- _Other relief

Education

- _Adult literacy
- _Computer literacy
- _Special education programs
- _After school programs
- _English language learning
- _Classroom education
- _Child literacy
- _Job preparedness
- _Cultural heritage
- _School preparedness
- _Other education

Environment and energy

- _Clean air/water
- _Environmental protection
- _Waste reduction/recycling
- _Environmental restoration
- _Weatherization
- _Energy conservation
- _Indoor environment
- _Environmental awareness
- _Other environment

Health and wellness - nutrition

- _Disabilities services
- _HIV/AIDS prevention
- _Nutrition education
- _Food distribution/collection
- _Health/wellness education
- _Substance abuse prevention/rehabilitation
- _Food production
- _Maternal/child health services
- _Aid to seniors/elders
- _Health services delivery
- _Mental health services
- _Other health/nutrition

Public safety

- _Accident prevention
- _Crisis intervention
- _Victim/witness services
- _Community policing
- _Fire prevention
- _Public safety education
- _Conflict resolution/mediation
- _Legal assistance
- _Crime awareness/prevention
- _Offender/ex-offender services/rehabilitation
- _Children and youth safety
- _Other public safety

Youth development

- _Children and youth safety
- _Juvenile justice services
- _Bullying prevention
- _Delinquency prevention
- _Teen pregnancy/parenting services
- _Other youth development

Veterans' assistance

- _Housing assistance
- _Military family assistance
- _Veteran employment services
- _Outreach and counseling
- _Veteran disabilities/rehabilitation assistance
- _Other Veterans' assistance

Girl Scouts “take action” to help solve community problems. Girls in grades 6-12 earn Girl Scouts’ Highest Awards and become Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Girl Scouts.

Project Theme Guide

Animals	Animal Safety, Animal Rights, Pet Care, Animal Adoption
Arts, Culture & Heritage	Art, Languages, Historic Preservation, Cultural Awareness, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Music
Children's Issues	Child Abuse, Foster Care, Infant Care, Mentoring
Civic Engagement	Politics, Community Development, Voting, Advocacy
Disaster Relief	Fire, Natural Disasters, Flooding, Earthquake, Tsunami
DEIA-RJ	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access, Racial Justice
Education	Literacy, Career Training, Career Pathways
Elderly Issues	Elder Care, Senior Centers, Dementia, Intergenerational Relationships, Life Skills/Technology Support
Entrepreneurship	Social Entrepreneurship, Business Development
Environment & Sustainability	Preserving Outdoor Spaces, Pollution, Alternative Energy, Clean Water, Farming, Climate Change
Physical Health	Fitness, Nutrition, Hygiene, Diseases, Organ Donation, Global Health, Drug Abuse
Mental Health	Self-Esteem, Self-Image, Self-Care, Suicide Prevention, Body Image/Body Positivity
Healthy relationships	Bullying, Conflict Management, Communication, Domestic Violence, Rape Prevention
Human Rights	Human Trafficking, Girls' and Women's Rights, Immigration
Life Skills	Civic Engagement, Healthy Living, Communication, Financial Literacy, Cultural Arts, Global Citizenship, Digital Life Skills, Digital Hygiene, Digital Leadership
Military/Veterans Affairs	Veteran's Assistance, Veterans' Issues
Outdoors	Adventure Opportunities, Environmental Stewardship
Poverty	Hunger, Homelessness, Affordable Housing, Fair Trade
Public Safety	Traffic Safety, Policing, Juvenile Detention, Detention Centers
Sports	After School Programs, School Clubs, Athletic Programs
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Robotics