



## The Girl Scout Silver Award: A Guide for Adults

### *What is the Silver Award?*

The Silver Award is the Girl Scouts' Highest Award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. It recognizes a girl who works with a small team (of up to three other Cadettes) or takes on a project on their own to make the world a better place. To become a Silver Award Girl Scout, a girl in grades 6-8 needs to take action to show leadership, research and address a root cause of an issue in their community, and create a plan to make the project sustainable.

### *What are the prerequisites?*

A girl must be a registered Girl Scout Cadette and complete one Cadette Journey before she completes the Project Proposal including the signature page (approved by Girl Scout Adult(s) and optional Project Advisor) and submits a copy with the GSOC Silver Award Intent Form 30 days prior to the project start.

### *How long does a Silver Award project take to complete?*

Silver Award projects require a commitment of at least 50 hours from Girl Scouts. The Time Log is designed for each Girl Scout to use to track her individual contribution. A project might be completed over the course of a summer—or in the span of a year or more.

### *What should Girl Scouts consider in their decision to become a Silver Award Girl Scout?*

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

### *Who else is involved in a Girl Scout's Silver Award project?*

A Girl Scout selects 1-2 registered, background screened Girl Scout Adult(s) to serve as the Troop/Group Leader and/or Adult Girl Scout

Volunteer Supervisor. While not required, girls may also select a Project Advisor, an adult who is an expert that has some level of knowledge, skills, or access to resources that can help with the project. (Note: While parents/legal guardians and troop leaders can be a Project Advisor, expanding outside of familiar circles gives girls a chance work with adults to grow their network.) And because the Silver Award emphasizes leadership, Girl Scouts assemble a team of volunteers to help with their project. The volunteer pool is not limited to fellow Girl Scouts and can include anyone.

### *What are helpful ways for parents to support their daughter as she becomes a Silver Award Girl Scout?*

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