



The Girl Scout Silver Award: A Guide for Project Advisors

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 types of projects are Silver Award-eligible?

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

How long does a Silver Award project take to complete?

Silver Award projects require a commitment of at least 50 hours from the Girl Scout. 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.

Who can be a Project Advisor?

A Project Advisor is an adult a Girl Scout invites to be part of the project team and is an expert on the issue the girl's project addresses. Ideally, parents, caregivers, or troop leaders of girls pursuing their Silver Award are not advisors. Adult siblings and family members like aunts and uncles can sometimes be advisors if they are experts on the issue the Girl Scout is exploring. However, Girl Scouts are encouraged to branch outside of their families when possible.

Girls might invite a teacher, coach, faith leader, or a person connected to the organization they plan to partner with on their project.

What is the role of a Project Advisor?

A Project Advisor serves as a subject matter expert and offers a Girl Scout (small team of up to 4 girls OR solo) guidance and expertise as needed, during the planning and execution of the Silver Award project. Note that it's important that the project and its core ideas be the Girl Scout's own. And, to ensure the safety of girls, Girl Scouts are guided by Girl Scout Adults who serve as the Troop/Group Leader and/or Adult Girl Scout Volunteer Supervisor. All adult resources review and approve the Project Proposal using the signature page and Final Report using the signature page before a Girl Scout submits a copy to GSOC.

How can I support a Girl Scout as she completes her Silver Award project?

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

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