

# Leadership Awards FAQs

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## What are the new Girl Scout Leadership Awards?

Girl Scouts is launching fresh Leadership Awards for Juniors through Ambassadors! These awards celebrate all the ways you lead—yourself, your team, and your community. They’re about building real skills that make a real impact, and gaining the confidence to turn your ideas into action. Whether you’re figuring out what leadership means to you, working with a team, leading a group, or stepping up to a challenge, these awards are designed to help you explore what leadership means to you—no pressure, just room to grow. These awards include flexible options that let you explore and shape your own leadership style; you get to lead in a way that feels right for *you*. Because leadership isn’t just about being in charge, it’s about learning, growing, and making a difference. These awards are all represented by beautiful new pins that capture the essence of each award.

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## How can you earn these awards?

If you’re in grades 4–12, you can earn these awards on your own, at events or camp, at troop meetings, or even in your community. They’re flexible and designed to fit your interests and schedule. Plus, earning these awards is a fun, meaningful way to practice leadership and take on challenges that matter to you. And the cherry on top? These awards serve as prerequisites to earning Girl Scouts’ Highest Awards: the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

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## What are the benefits of earning these awards?

These awards give Girl Scouts the chance to grow as leaders in ways that feel authentic and meaningful—whether they’re stepping outside of their comfort zone, guiding a team, or making a difference in their community. Along the way, they’ll develop practical skills like confidence, critical thinking, teamwork, communication, project planning, and advocacy.

More than just leadership development, these are real-life skills that stick—from advocating for what matters and managing group projects, to making smart decisions under pressure and leading positive change. Earning these awards help Girl Scouts grow into the kind of leaders the world needs—motivated, capable, and ready to take action.

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## What are the Leadership Award categories?

Each award helps you grow into a leader with purpose, voice, and impact. They’re built around different ways to lead, giving you chances to discover yourself, connect with others, and make a real difference—while practicing leadership every step of the way.

- **Personal Leadership:** Start with you—build confidence and courage to lead your way. The brand new True North award is the only one in this category, and is available for Junior, Cadettes, and Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts.
- **Peer Leadership:** Be an awesome teammate while learning how to guide a group. Two awards are available in this category: the Silver Torch award for Cadettes and the Gold Torch award for Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts.
- **Teaching Leadership:** Share your skills and inspire younger kids with hands-on leadership. The awards in this category include:
  - Junior Aide, available to Junior Girl Scouts

- Program Aide, available to Cadette Girl Scouts
- Volunteer in Training, available to Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts
- Counselor in Training I, available to Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts and Counselor in Training II, available to Ambassador Girl Scouts
- **Community Advocacy:** Turn your passions into action by making change locally or globally. The Take Action award and Global Action award are available to Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts.

### **How and why are the Leadership awards being refreshed?**

The refreshed awards feature stronger skill-building and flexible formats that work anywhere—troop meetings, camp, overnights, events, and more. Plus, there's a brand-new personal leadership award—the True North Award—that's all about discovering what matters to you, building confidence, and leading with courage and character—just like our founder, Juliette Gordon Low. Get ready to grow your impact and lead in your own unique way!

### **What awards are being retired?**

- The Leader in Action (LiA) award, which guides Cadettes to assist a Brownie group with a Journey, will be retired. If you're a Cadette looking to build leadership skills by working with younger Girl Scouts, you'll still get that chance through the refreshed Cadette Program Aide award.
- The Silver and Gold Torch award (listed in the shop as Senior Torch Award Pin – Silver & Gold), which focused on serving a full term in a leadership position, will also be retired. Seniors who want to lead in group settings and collaborate with peers can continue building those skills through the updated Gold Torch award.

### **What happens when the current Global Action award retires in 2026—especially for Daisies and Brownies?**

When the current Global Action award is retired on October 1, 2026, there will no longer be a badge for Daisies and Brownies. But there are still plenty of powerful ways for younger Girl Scouts to explore global themes! They can take part in activities like World Thinking Day, earn Democracy or Citizen badges, and engage in other meaningful experiences that connect Girl Scouts to the world around them.

We're also excited to work with councils to explore new program opportunities that help fill this gap and continue inspiring global citizenship from the very start.

### **What is the True North Award about?**

The True North award is about discovering what matters to you and staying true to yourself. It's your chance to follow your values and take meaningful action, even when it feels hard or a little scary. Whether you're finding the courage to speak up for what you believe in, taking on challenges, or advocating for positive change, this award helps you build the confidence and clarity to chart your own course and take courageous steps toward what truly matters to you.

### **What are the Silver and Gold Torch awards about?**

The Silver Torch award for Cadettes and the Gold Torch award for Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts help you grow as a team leader. You'll start by learning how to be a great teammate and build up to leading a group of peers within Girl Scouting or the wider community.

**Silver Torch award:** Learn how to shine on a team at school or within a place of worship, Girl Scouts, or a community organization. Work toward a shared goal, support your teammates, and build confidence as you find out what motivates people and inspires positive change.

**Gold Torch award:** This award gives you the know-how and skills to lead with purpose and heart, not just be in charge. Whether you're a team captain, club officer, advisory board member, or a leader at a community organization, you'll learn how to bring people together, turn ideas into impact, and inspire others.

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### **What are the Junior Aide, Program Aide, and Volunteer in Training Awards about?**

The path from helper to role model starts here! Level by level, you'll grow the confidence and planning skills to lead younger kids through activities, program events, and more.

**Junior Aide award (Junior):** Discover your leadership style by planning and leading a fun, inclusive activity for younger kids. Build your confidence as you learn what it means to guide and inspire others.

**Program Aide award (Cadette):** Grow your leadership skills by planning and leading multiple activities—including a full meeting—for younger Girl Scouts. You'll practice being a role model and engaging different age groups along the way.

**Volunteer in Training award (Senior/Ambassador):** Take charge by leading two full meetings. Create meaningful experiences that help younger Girl Scouts learn, grow, and feel included while making a lasting impact as a mentor and leader.

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### **What are the Counselor in Training (CIT) awards about?**

Get a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to be a great camp counselor—from leading activities to supporting and caring for campers. You'll build leadership skills in all kinds of ways and discover what kind of leader you want to be. Along the way, you'll take on challenges, make new friends, and create unforgettable memories. Being a CIT is all about growing, learning, and having a blast while you're at it!

- **Counselor in Training I (Senior/Ambassador):** Team up with other teens to learn how to connect with campers, shadow and support camp staff, and take the lead on songs, games, and group activities. You'll build real leadership skills, make a lasting impact, and become the role model younger campers look up to—all while having a blast at camp.
  - **Counselor in Training II (Ambassador):** Take your leadership to the next level by planning and leading fun, meaningful activities, including a hands-on service project, for younger campers. You'll also get to support camp staff by helping to manage schedules, keep groups on track, and handle real-life challenges like conflict resolution. You'll grow your skills, make a difference, and keep being the role model others look up to.
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### **What are the Take Action and Global Action Awards about?**

Team up to turn your passion into action! Pick your favorite badge and use it as inspiration to create meaningful impact in your community. Many issues affect your world, both close to home and far away - it's up to you to choose what to focus on.

- **Take Action award:** Team up to identify a local issue, understand what's behind it and who's already working on it, and create a lasting solution.
- **Global Action award:** Explore how communities worldwide experience similar issues, then make a global connection by applying what you learn to your project.