# Silver Award Project Do's and Don'ts

**You have the power to make change that sticks!**
Design a Take Action project where you lead others, dig into the real cause of a community issue, and build a plan to keep your project strong long after it's done.

## Dont: Choose Projects That Don't Qualify

**These types of projects do not meet Silver Award standards:**

- Collection drives (gathering and donating items)
- One-time events (like service unit or troop events)
- "Journey in a Day" or badge workshops for younger Girl Scouts
- Little libraries, food pantries, or beach toy lending boxes
- Expanding or repeating projects already started by others
- Beautification or planting flower gardens
- Fundraising for another organization
- Creating or leading a patch program
- Making and donating crafts or care packages
- Volunteering for another organization

## Plan a True Take Action Project

**Silver Award projects should:**

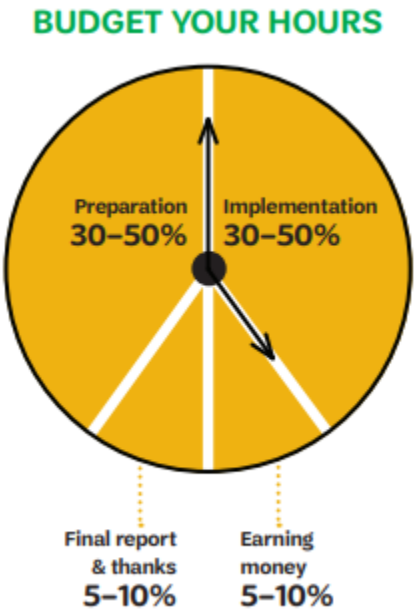
- Address the root cause of a community issue
- Be done with the community, not just for it
- Solve a need, not just fulfill a want
- Show leadership by guiding others and creating impact
- Include a sustainability plan so the project lasts beyond your involvement

Your goal: Practice leadership, make a real difference, and create lasting change!

Choosing a Silver Award project can seem like an impossible task. How can one choose what to focus their project on? Consider starting with these questions:

- What different **Communities** do you belong to?
- What problems or issues are affecting your **communities**?
- What are possible **root causes** of those problems?
- Can you think of possible solutions to those causes?
- Who might you partner with?
- Who else might be working on a solution?

Remember, Girl Scouts will need a minimum of **50 hours EACH** in order to earn their Silver Award. Be sure to keep diligent track of each individual Girl Scout(s) hours as they will need to be submitted with the final Take-Action Report. Please see the chart below for a suggestion of how the hours can be broken up.




You may be wondering, what counts towards my minimum hour's requirement? Below are some examples of ways you can and cannot write for your hours.

| Things that CAN count towards your hours | Things that CANNOT count towards your hours |
| --- | --- |
| • Research you conduct about your issue, root cause, or solution. (approximately 30-50% of your hours)<br>• Time you spent enacting your plan, whether that is building a structure, leading a workshop, facilitating an event, etc. (approximately 30-50% of your hours)<br>• Time spent leading your team, such as recruiting/training volunteers, delegating tasks, etc.<br>• Time spent doing approved Money-earning activities or acquiring materials. This can be around 10% of your project hours. (Remember, money-earning is not your actual project.) | • Time completing High Award pre-requisites (Journeys, Leadership Awards, Earning Bronze Award, trainings, etc)<br>• Time spent writing your reports, proposals, etc.<br>• Time spent participating in Girl Scout Product Sales, even if you are participating in them to earn money for your high awards project.<br>• Time spent traveling to and from different locations you may need to visit for your project<br>• Including, but not limited to driving and flying)<br>• Time your team of volunteers spend working on your behalf<br>• Time your teammates spent working on tasks that you did not help with. |

It is important to note that the completion of a project is not solely measured by this hour requirement. If you have completed the required number of hours but your project is not complete, then you will need to continue working.

This list is by no means exhaustive, but it shows some common examples. If you have further questions about what can and cannot count towards your hours, please reach out to Program@girlscoutsoc.org

**Community Mapping** is a way to write down and visually see different **communities**. It is then easier to list different problems that may be affecting those communities. Please see the example below!

## Community Map Example

**First, I thought about my community and the parts of it that are important to me. Then, I listed some of the problems and issues facing those communities.**

### My School


- bullying
- literacy
- teen suicide
- intolerance
- homeless students
- low interest in STEM (especially girls!)
- music, art, theater funding cuts!
- kids having trouble with math

### Our Environment

- trash in parks: need more picnic areas & trash bins!
- need accessible playground equipment in our parks
- kids and people don't know how to recycle!
- pollution in our oceans, etc.
- honeybees are dying out

my neighborhood

### Veterans

- people forget their service
- disabled vets
- homeless veterans

### The Elderly

- isolation
- difficulty taking care of yards
- difficulty learning new technology

### Animals

- homeless pets:
- people not neutering their pets
- adopt a mutt!
- local shelters lack funding

**Next, I will choose the one most interesting to me and research it to learn more. Then I will begin to research ways I might solve the problem or issue.**