

2018 TFS Take Action Project Overview and FAQs for TFS Grant Councils

As part of the Toyota Financial Services (TFS) sponsorship, TFS is offering Take Action grants to councils that are funded to deliver the TFS “Driving My Financial Future” program. These may be submitted any time to GSGLA up until the deadline of **September 7, 2018**. Take Action Projects must be completed by December 14, 2018.

TFS Take Action projects are girl-led, hands-on, and geared toward making sustainable and influential changes in a girl’s community and beyond. Participating girls seek to address issues in their community that are important to them. See the criteria below for information about the financial empowerment component.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Opened to ALL TFS grant funded council girls in both traditional and non-traditional troop settings
- Meet the criteria set forth in this document

What are the criteria for the TFS Take Action projects?

Earning the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award qualifies a Girl Scout for the TFS grant funds. Each project must follow the seven steps (listed below) for conducting a Take Action project. The projects must also include **one or more** of the following:

- A financial empowerment theme for girls in underserved communitiesⁱ
- A thorough budget that clearly details how the money will be used to support the community
- Fundraising tactics and strategies for underserved communities

Guidelines are available for each award level:

- [Bronze Award Girl Scouts](#)
- [Silver Award Girl Scouts](#)
- [Gold Award Girl Scouts](#)

The seven steps for conducting a Take Action project include the following:

1. **Choose an issue:** Identify a community issue you care about.
2. **Investigate:** Research everything you can about the issue.
3. **Develop a team plan:** Invite others to support and take action with you.
4. **Create a plan and a budget:** Form a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.
5. **Present your plan, and get feedback:** Summarize your project plan for your council.
6. **Take action:** Put the plan into action. Take the lead to carry out your plan.
7. **Educate and inspire:** Share with others what you’ve experienced.

What is a “sustainable project”?

A sustainable project is one that lasts after a girl’s involvement ends. One way to make sure a project’s effect continues is to focus on education and raising awareness. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to continue or expand a project. Another way to create a sustainable project is to collaborate with community groups, civic associations, nonprofits, local government agencies, and religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond a girl’s involvement.

Is sustainability differentiated at each grade level?

The guidelines for each award level give girls the tools to examine the root cause of issues; develop a sustainable project plan; and measure the effect of their project on their communities, the target audience, and themselves.

How does a girl measure project impact?

Girls identify project goals for their communities and target audiences and self-assess impact by developing success indicators using a matrix provided in the guidelines for each award level.

Can a troop enter, or only individuals?

Each award level has different group guidelines, as well as a progression of leadership development. For the Bronze Award, girls must work together in a team setting. The Silver Award allows girls to work individually or in small groups. Because the Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouts, girls must earn it as individuals.

Is there a limit to the number of girls who may participate in a troop or group TFS Take Action project?

No, there is no limit.

How long should it take a girl to earn each award?

Not all projects require the same time to complete. The time it takes to earn the awards depends on the project's nature, the team's size, and the community support. High-quality projects are more important than quantity of hours. After girls fulfill the Journey requirement, we suggest using the following as a guide:

- **Bronze Award** (Junior)—suggested minimum of 20 hours
- **Silver Award** (Cadette)—suggested minimum of 50 hours
- **Gold Award** (Senior/Ambassador)—suggested minimum of 80 hours

What are the reporting requirements?

At the end of each TFS Take Action project, a final report and completed budget must be submitted as follows:

- Each girl will complete a TFS Take Action project final report for their Gold, Silver or Bronze award, based on the council's process which will be used for the grant report.
- All reports should include how the TFS Take Action financial empowerment criteria, as outlined in this document, were met and how the funds were used.

Submission Deadline

All grant Take Action projects proposals must be submitted to GSGLA no later than September 7, 2018
(Projects must be completed by December 14, 2018)

How to Submit a TFS Take Action Project Proposal to GSGLA

Contact Michelle Geathers at Mgeathers@girlscoutsla.org or 626.677.2286 for more information.

ⁱ Toyota defines “underserved communities” as those with Title I schools, those that have a high percentage of free school lunch programs, and/or those with low family income or resources.