



FAQS and Tips for the Girl Scout Gold Award



Commonly Asked Questions

Q: What grade or level earns the Gold Award?

A: Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts, grades 9-12, are eligible to earn the Gold Award.

Note: Girls may not begin working on their Gold Award prerequisites until October 1, of their 9th grade year.

Q: What are the prerequisites for earning the Gold Award?

A: All Senior / Ambassador Girl Scouts are required to complete two Senior / Ambassador Girl Scout level journeys, including the two journey's Take Action projects. OR- Have earned their Silver Award (as a Cadette) and complete one Senior / Ambassador Girl Scout level journey. All prerequisites must be complete prior to beginning work on the Gold Award Project.

Q: Are girls required to complete the council Gold Award Workshop?

A: Yes, girls are required to complete the GSGLA Gold Award Workshop. The workshop should be taken after the completion of prerequisite requirements. Girls should re-take the workshop if more than one year passes before submitting their proposal.

Q: How many girls can work together on a group Gold Award Project?

A: The Gold Award project is an individual leadership and take action project.

Q: How many hours are required to earn the Gold Award?

A: Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts should spend a minimum 80 hours and 3 months of time planning and implementing their project. Note: This time does not include time spent on prerequisites. Girls are responsible for their own 80 hours of time and may not count the time of others helping them on the project.

Q: What is the standard for a Gold Award caliber project?

A: All Gold Award projects are “Take Action” style projects. This means the project is done with the community and not for the community. It should address the root cause of an issue and the Girl Scout should be able to clearly articulate what their community issue is and how the project impacts that issue. The project should also be measurable, sustainable, and involve community partners.

Q: Does council need to approve the project idea before beginning the award?

A: Yes, GSGLA must approve all projects prior to beginning work. Gold Award applicants must use the GoGoldOnline website, link provided here <https://gogold.girlscouts.org/en/sign-in.html> to design and create their project proposals. The proposal is submitted to GSGLA via the GoGoldOnline site and each applicant will be scheduled an interview to pitch their project idea. More details on this process is covered in detail in the GSGLA Gold Award Workshop and within the Gold Award Workbook.

Q: Does council need to approve the project once the project is complete?

A: Yes, each Gold Award applicant will need to create and submit a Gold Award Final Report through GoGoldOnline. Once the Final Report is received, GSGLA will notify applicant of an exit interview. More details on the final process is covered in detail in the Gold Award Workshop and within the Gold Award Workbook.

Q: Is there an annual council-wide ceremony for girls?

A: Yes, GSGLA does offer an annual ceremony to honor its recipients. The ceremony is held each year in June. Qualifying Girl Scouts will receive detailed information regarding the ceremony in mid-March.

Q: Where can we find details and resources for earning the Gold Award?

A: Please visit the Gold Award page on the GSGLA website. Visit <https://www.girlscoutsla.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-program/highest-awards/gold-award.html>

COVID-19 Related Questions

Q: Are SEME Events allowed during COVID-19 Stay at Home Guidelines?

A: During this time and for the safety of our membership, GSGLA is not allowing troops/girls to meet in person. Virtual SEME's are allowed. If you have questions about an event or activity idea please email seme@girlscoutsla.org . Click here for the link to the [SEME application](#).

TIP: Girls can use problem solving to come up with alternate ideas to create funding for their project. Recycling is an acceptable form of money earning. Girls can also do individual work to earn funds, such as chores, dog walking (follow social distancing rules), making/selling jewelry or crafts, and asking for donations from family and friends. Note: when asking for donations, girls should write emails or letters to friends and family clearly discussing their project.

Q: Can girls request in-kind donations from local businesses or friends and family members?

A: Yes, in-kind donations may be sought. Girls should write a formal letter requesting donations from businesses. If she visits a business in person, she should wear her Girl Scout uniform. Girls should speak about their project when requesting donations. Girls should follow all social distancing rules when in public.

Q: How do girls adjust their project ideas to work around COVID-19 restrictions?

A: **TIPS** - Some points to consider:

If the group can no longer do their project at the current benefitting organization, can the group move that project idea to another similar location/benefitting organization? For example, if you were making a meditation garden at the local senior center can you move your idea for a garden to another organization that is not in the high-risk group.

Does your project have components that do not require face to face time with the benefitting organization? For example, if you are building or making anything for your project beneficiary, can that work be done now? If so, work on those parts now and allow girls to work at home with their family.

Can a girl add components to her project, around the scope of their main project idea, that would allow her to work on the project while at home? For example, if she is working on a project for the humane society, she might consider adding a component of creating toys, blankets, and treats to donate to the Humane Society.

What should a girl do if her project requires her to lead in person educational workshops? The Girl Scout should consider virtual options such as Zoom, to in lieu of in person workshops.

We encourage troops and girls to brainstorm for solutions during this time. This is a great time for girls to practice problem solving.

Q: Has Girl Scouts reduced the number of required project hours to earn the Gold Award during pandemic?

A: No, girls must still complete the minimum standard of 80 hours and 3 months for their project.

Q: Has Girl Scouts allowed girls that are graduating extra time to complete and earn the Gold Award due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19?

A: All 12th grade Ambassador Girls Scouts that are graduating High School may take up until December 31, 2020 to complete the project. Note: This is an extension of time provided past the regular September 30th deadline.

For additional questions contact:

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