



# FAQs and Tips for the Girl Scout Silver Award



## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What grade or level earns the Silver Award?

A: Cadette Girl Scouts, grades 6,7, and 8, are eligible to earn the Silver Award.

Note: Girls may not begin working on their Silver Award prerequisites until October 1, of their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year.

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

A: All Cadette Girl Scouts are required to complete one Cadette Girl Scout level journey, including the journey's Take Action project. All prerequisites must be complete prior to beginning work on the Silver Award Project.

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

A: No more than four girls may work together on a group project.

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

A: Cadette Girl Scouts should spend 50 hours of time planning and implementing their project. Note: This time does not include time spent on prerequisites. Girls are responsible for their own 50 hours of time- even in group projects.

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

A: All Silver 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 girls 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 our project idea before beginning the award?

A: No, GSGLA does not need to preapprove the project before you begin.

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

A: No, GSGLA does not need to approve the Silver Award. It is a leader approved project; however, all girls must complete the Silver Award Final Report eform, link provided here <https://www.gsglavolunteerapps.org/silverawardfinalreport/>. GSGLA does review the final report and will inquire with the leader should they feel it does not meet project standards.

Q: How does a girl submit her project to receive her award?

A: Each girl is required to complete the Silver Award Final Report eform complete with required attachments (time log, budget, and signature page). Note: Even if a girl does a group project, she must complete her own Final Report. Once the project is approved, the troop leader will receive details regarding next steps to secure the award.

<https://www.gsglavolunteerapps.org/silverawardfinalreport/>

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

A: Yes, GSGLA does offer regional ceremonies to honor recipients. The ceremony is held each year in the Spring. Qualifying Girl Scouts and their leaders will receive detailed information regarding the ceremony in mid-March.

Q: Where can we find details for earning the Silver Award, the Final Report eForm, and other resources for the award?

A: Please visit the Silver Award page on the GSGLA website.

<https://www.girlscoutsla.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-program/highest-awards/silver-award.html>

## COVID-19 Related Questions

Q: Are SEME Events allowed during COVID-19 Safer 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](mailto: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 troops or 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 they visit a business in person, they should wear their 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 questions to consider:

If a troop can no longer complete their project with their current benefitting organization, they can change the project idea to another similar location/benefitting organization. For example, if a troop was making a meditation garden at the local senior center, they can work to create a garden at another organization that does not put them in contact with individuals from a high-risk group.

If a project has components that do not require in-person meetings or interactions with the benefitting organization, girls should work on those parts first, thereby allowing them to continue to work on their project from home.

Troops can add components to their project, around the scope of their main project idea, that allows them to work on the project while at home. For example, if a troop is

working on a project for the Humane Society, they might consider adding a component of creating toys, blankets, and treats to donate to the Humane Society.

Note: 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 Silver Award during the Pandemic?

A: No, girls must still complete the minimum standard of 50 hours for their project.

Q: Has Girl Scouts allowed girls bridging up to Seniors extra time to complete and earn the Silver Award due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19?

A: All 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cadette Girls Scouts that are bridging to Senior Girl Scouts in 2020 have until December 31, 2020 to complete the project. Note: This is an extension of time provided past the regular September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Girls that are still working on their Silver Award Project during the extension period may not begin prerequisites for their Gold Award until the Silver Award is complete.

For additional questions, contact:

### **North Region**

San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Service Center & Palmdale Service Centers  
Melissa Pepe - (626) 677-2369, [mpepe@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:mpepe@girlscoutsla.org)

### **Southeast Region**

Arcadia & Upland Service Centers  
Deanne Moore - (626) 677-2207, [dmoore@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:dmoore@girlscoutsla.org)

### **Southwest Region**

Long Beach & Inglewood Service Centers  
Lisa Axelrod - (626) 677-2237, [laxelrod@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:laxelrod@girlscoutsla.org)