


girl scouts
spirit of nebraska

Girl Scout Gold Award

Parent or Leader Guide



Leadership
Achievement
Impact
Highest Honor
Take Action
Commitment
Journey
Change
Empower



Gold Award

Adult Guide

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest honor Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can earn. Your role, whether you are a troop volunteer or a project advisor, is to encourage girls to think critically, be open to multiple perspectives, investigate thoroughly, work cooperatively and identify resources within and beyond their local community. You are supporting girls as they develop into leaders for today and tomorrow.

This guide is intended to be used with the Guidelines for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors, the Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit and the Girl Scout Gold Award Packet for girls. They are posted on the Girl Scouts of the USA website at www.girlscouts.org and can be found on the Spirit of Nebraska Council website at www.girlscoutsnebraska.org.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is designed to be completed by an individual girl. To earn the Gold Award, each girl must complete two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey and have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award. After completing these requirements, a minimum of 80 hours must be dedicated to the Girl Scout Gold Award project.

In order to receive their Gold Award, girls have until September 30 of the year they graduate high school to submit final paperwork, and until November 30 to complete their final interview. Final report paperwork may be submitted at anytime throughout the year. However, if a girl wants to participate in a council ceremony, she must finish her project and turn in all final report paperwork—including the Ceremony Request and Bio Information forms—by February 15. She must complete her final interview by the second Saturday in March of the current year. The project will be evaluated and approved, providing that all the requirements have been met.

**If you have any questions along the way,
please do not hesitate to contact:**

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Gold Award Coordinator

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Tips for the Troop Volunteer or Project Advisor

At this level, Girl Scouts are on their honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards respect the skills and talents that Girl Scouts bring to making a difference in the world, and provide a challenge that inspires girls to learn what they can accomplish by doing their very best.

Steps	Standards of Excellence	Coaching Tips
<p>1. Choose an issue: Girls use their values and skills to identify a community issue they care about.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. • Demonstrate civic responsibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a listening ear. • Give constructive feedback.
<p>2. Investigate: Girls research everything they can about the issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles and find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source's reliability and accuracy. • Demonstrate courage as they investigate their issue, knowing that what they learn may challenge their own and others' beliefs. • Identify national and/or global links to their community issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the online investigation starts, suggest taking the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge at www.girlscouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp. • Recommend ways to expand the project beyond the local community. For example, talking to and involving people from organizations that offer help to people on a national and global level (such as the Red Cross and Doctors without Borders).
<p>3. Get help: Girls invite others to support and take action with them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of others. • Respect different points of view and ways of working. • Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special skills to their Take Action project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with a team will help make a bigger impact and cover more ground. Although this is an individual project, other Girl Scouts, neighbors, classmates and friends can help. • Make sure that either you or a family member is aware of times and places, as well as who the interview subjects are. • A network is a great thing. Share pointers on how to create an effective network.
<p>4. Create a plan: Girls create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the planning of the Take Action project. • Work collaboratively to develop a plan for their project that creates lasting change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance on project sustainability. Here are suggestions: education and raising awareness, holding workshops and hands-on learning sessions and collaborating with community groups to ensure the project lasts. • Suggest using creative ways to support the project. If money is required to complete the project, please adhere to money-earning guidelines in the Volunteer Packet and Safety-Wise.

<p>5. Present their plan and get feedback: Girls sum up their project plan for the Gold Award Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive and clear. • Describe their plan, including the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes they want to achieve and the impact they plan to make on themselves and the community. • Articulate the issue clearly and explain why it matters to them. • Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine their project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest using the tools and tips in the toolkit in preparing the Project Proposal. • Provide constructive suggestions. Project Proposals are submitted to councils. The Council (or the council's Gold Award Committee) approves the project.
<p>6. Take action: Girls take the lead to carry out their plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so the solution has measurable and sustainable impact. • Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for their Take Action project. • Challenge them to try different ways to solve problems. • Use resources wisely. • Speak out and act on behalf of themselves and others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting interviews on the chosen issue is an important part of this step. Play the interviewee to help synchronize the timing and the flow of the interviews.
<p>7. Educate and inspire: Girls share what they have experienced with others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on what they have learned when they present their Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to the Gold Award Committee. • Summarize the effectiveness of their project and the impact it has had on them and their community. • Share the project beyond their local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be available for any questions that might arise during sharing or reflection. • Suggest using the tools and tips in the toolkit to prepare the Final Report.

The Gold Award Paperwork:

- Girls need to type or print legibly.
- Girls should make a copy for themselves and their project advisor.
- Paperwork is due by the 15th of the month prior, in order to schedule an interview with the Gold Award Committee.
- The Gold Award Committee meets on the second Saturday of the month, except May and December.
- Gold Award projects must be approved by the Gold Award Committee before a girl can begin her project.

Tips for the Project Advisor

A Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor is chosen by a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador to help plan and implement her project. As the project advisor, you provide guidance, experience and expertise to the girl as she works to complete her Take Action project.

Your primary responsibilities include:

- Partnering with a girl to support her in completing her Take Action project.
- Understanding the steps to the Girl Scout Gold Award and the Standards of Excellence required for each step.

Girls will start working on their project by first searching for issues they care about, and then investigating how they can narrow the focus of the issue they chose, enlisting the help of others in the community, and working collaboratively to create and implement their plan.

Before girls can start working on their project, they must submit a Project Proposal to the Gold Award Committee for approval. Girls will seek your expertise in developing and implementing the project ideas.

Girl Scout Gold Award projects require the following:

- Addresses the root cause of an issue.
- Includes provisions to ensure sustainability, so the project makes a lasting difference in the local community, region or beyond.
- Includes provisions for the girl to demonstrate her leadership skills by involving others in her project.
- Puts the Girl Scout Promise and Law into action.
- Identifies national and/or global links to the girl's selected issue.
- Inspires others.

If you require additional assistance at any time during the award process, contact the troop volunteer or the Gold Award Coordinator:

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Gold Award Coordinator

Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska

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They will provide you with background information about Girl Scouts, including policies and information about any learning opportunities.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

In Girl Scouting, Discover + Connect + Take Action = Leadership. The entire Girl Scout program, regardless of the exact topic, is designed to lead to leadership outcomes (or benefits) that stem from these three keys.

- **Discover:** Girls will understand themselves and their values, and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.
- **Connect:** Girls care about, inspire and team with others locally and globally.
- **Take Action:** Girls act to make the world a better place.

It is not only about the activities girls do, however, but the processes they use to do them, that build leadership. The Girl Scout processes promote the fun and friendship that have always been so integral to Girl Scouting.

- **Girl-led:** Girls play an active part in figuring out the what, where, when, how and why of their activities.
- **Learning by doing:** Girls use a hands-on learning process that engages them in continuous cycles of action and reflection that result in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.
- **Cooperative learning:** Through cooperative learning, girls work together toward goals that can be accomplished only with the help of others, in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration.

When Discover, Connect and Take Action activities are girl-led and involve learning by doing and cooperative learning, girls achieve the desired and expected short-term outcomes. This ultimately results in Girl Scouting achieving its mission of building “girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.” Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls gain specific knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors and values in Girl Scouting. Girls reflect on the impact they have had and how the experience has helped to strengthen their leadership skills.

The following are the 15 outcomes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience:

Discover outcomes:

- Girls develop a strong sense of self.
- Girls develop positive values.
- Girls gain practical life skills.
- Girls seek challenges in the world.
- Girls develop critical thinking.

Connect outcomes:

- Girls develop healthy relationships.
- Girls promote cooperation and team building.
- Girls can resolve conflicts.
- Girls advance diversity in a multicultural world.
- Girls feel connected to their community, locally and globally.

Take Action outcomes:

- Girls can identify community needs.
- Girls are resourceful problem solvers.
- Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.
- Girls educate and inspire others to act.
- Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

For more about The Girl Scout Leadership Experience, go to www.girlscouts.org/gsle.