



The Girl Scout Gold Award: Community Support Letter Writing

What is a community support letter?

When fundraising for their Gold Awards in coordination with TFEC*, many Gold Award Girls find it beneficial to ask local organizations and business for financial support. This letter is often hand-delivered to the organizations in order to ask for support. Our girls recommend wearing your Girl Scout uniform and taking a friend or parent when you go to deliver the letter. When working with TFEC, your donors will receive recognition for their donations and can use them as a charitable write-off on their taxes.

Your community support letter must be approved by TFEC prior to distribution

Dos:

- ✓ Have all materials approved by TFEC.
- ✓ Make the letter specific to your project.
- ✓ Spell and grammar check. Write in complete sentences.
- ✓ Have an adult or friend read over your letter and provide feedback.

Don'ts:

- Copy and paste the example letter.
- Send out your letter without TFEC approval.
- Write only a few short sentences about your project.
- Provide vague details about your project and goals.
- Include private personal information (i.e. home address and cell phone number).

Writing your community support letter:

- I. Introduce yourself and what Girl Scouts means to you.
- II. Explain what the Gold Award is and why it is so important. Statistics on yearly recipients and other information can be found on GSUSA's website.
- III. Explain your project in detail. Make sure to discuss how this project will benefit the community and think about why other people should care too. Talk about your personal ties to the project and why you chose it. Finally, be sure to include your goals and expected outcomes.
- IV. Request a donation. Provide a way to receive the donation working with TFEC (in the below example she uses her website).
- V. Provide contact information.
- VI. Include official disclaimer provided by TFEC.
- VII. Sign the letter.

Any fundraising done **without the support and guidance of TFEC may not be in compliance with IRS and PA Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations, and donors will not receive recognition, such as charitable tax deductions, for their donations.*

Questions, comments, or concerns about fundraising for Gold Award?

Email mygoldaward@gshpa.org

or

Call our Member Services team at 800-692-7816 www.gshpa.org

ONE SWING AT A TIME

My name is [REDACTED], I am 16 years old and have lived in [REDACTED] all my life. I've been in Girl Scouts for over 10 years and am Ambassador in Girl Scout Troop [REDACTED]. Through my Girl Scout years I have learned many valuable skills. Those skills include leadership, time management, and confidence. With these skills I can make the world a better place and make a difference in my community.

It's an annual tradition that the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in [REDACTED] volunteer to help maintain and prepare [REDACTED] Park, for Spring and Summer Events. For several years I have participated with the "Camporee in the Park" event. Volunteering in the park is a small way that I can give back to my community with some hard work and dedication. This same dedication I possess has inspired me to focus my Girl Scout Gold Award Project inside the beautiful [REDACTED] Park.

A Gold Award is the equivalent to an Eagle Scout Award in Boy Scouts. This is the highest award a Girl Scout can achieve. A Gold Award must prove a girl's leadership skills in a "Take Action" project that has a sustainable impact in their community and beyond. My "Take Action" project goal is to raise and install adaptive swings to the playground at [REDACTED] Park.

Adaptable swings are compatible with every child, but are especially useful to special needs families. The different Expression Swings™ support children that may have trouble with sensory communication or body control. Lancaster County has a few playgrounds with adaptive equipment; my project will bring this types of equipment to our community's beloved park. My goal is to continue the progression of inclusiveness with the installation of adaptable swings in [REDACTED] Park. It is extremely important for me to be part of this change; with the help of my community I can reach this goal. My hope for my project is that it brings attention to how easy inclusive play can be and the benefits it can bring to our community. Would you please consider donating and learning more about my project, by visiting me at my website, oneswingatatime.com and my donation page, www.tfec.org/girl-scouts-gold-award-one-swing-at-a-time/. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at info@oneswingatatime.com.

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) is the fiscal sponsor of the One Swing at a Time initiative of the Girl Scouts Gold Award Project. TFEC is a nonprofit community foundation serving the South Central Pennsylvania counties of Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon and Perry. A Fiscal Sponsorship allows a charitable group without a 501(c)(3) to operate as a non-profit under TFEC's 501(c)(3) designation. This relationship allows the group to secure corporate donations, offer tax benefits to their donors, and apply for grants in addition to many other benefits. TFEC is responsible for all the Girl Scouts Gold Award Project's contributions and prepares and sends acknowledgment letters to all donors. [REDACTED] is the coordinator of the One Swing at a Time initiative.

The 'One Swing at a Time' is an initiative of The Girl Scout Gold Award Grant Community Projects, a Project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor. The official registration and financial information of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. The Foundation for Enhancing Communities is registered in each state requiring such registration for charitable solicitation.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]