

Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards

Community Service vs. Take Action



Girl Scouts often do community service, Take Action and higher awards projects. Both kinds of projects help communities in different ways. What's the difference?

Community Service

Direct and immediate *service* changes something *right now*

- Examples:
 - Gathering toys to donate around the holidays
 - Collecting food for the local food pantry
- These acts of kindness are **so** important to help makes the world a better place, but it focus' on the needs of “right now”
- Can certainly be a portion of your project, but should not be the main focus

Take Action

Longer lasting *action* gets at the *root cause* of issues

- Come up with sustainable, longer-lasting solutions
- Sometimes Service and Action naturally blend together into one sustainable effort

COVID-19 Highest Awards Guidelines



- To ensure all Girl Scouts who want to earn the Highest Awards this year have the opportunity, Girl Scouts is offering a 3-month deadline extension from September 30th to December 31st for Girl Scouts who are graduating from 5th grade, 8th grade, and 12th grade this year.
- These Girl Scouts will bridge to the next program level officially on October 1st, 2020 and without this extension, would no longer be eligible to earn their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award respectively.
- To qualify for this extension Girl Scouts should have a project identified, a plan in place, and be ready to Take Action no later than September 30th, 2020.

Progression Difference Between Bronze and Silver



Bronze Award

- Is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn
- Usually completed as a troop
- All Girl Scouts share equal responsibilities and focus on team work and group decision-making
- Help and guidance provided by troop volunteers and families

Silver Award

- Is the highest award a Cadette Girl Scout can earn
- Can be completed by an individual or a small team of 2-4 girls
- Girls take the lead on all aspects of the project
- Moral support provided by troop volunteers and families
- Prepares Girl Scouts to Go for Gold!

Bronze and Silver Award Process Overview

Step One:

- Complete your Junior or Cadette Journey

Step Two:

- Reach out to your Volunteer Support Coordinator (VSC)
 - Before beginning your project please submit a short paragraph to your VSC via email or phone call letting them know what your troop will be doing
 - Ensures that your project is fulfilling the requirements and guidelines before you begin

Step Three:

- Work on your project!
 - VSC's are happy to support you throughout your project if you have questions or concerns

Step Four:

- Fill out the Final Report
 - Final Reports must be submitted by September 30th **BEFORE** the Girl Scout bridges up to the next level
 - One report per project

Once the Final Report is received, your VSC will either approve the project OR ask for something to be added or modified to reach the approval level

Pin and Certificate Fulfillment

- Usually takes 4-6 weeks to be fulfilled – items are mailed to address that is put on the Final Report.
- If you have submitted a final report recently we have not been able to fulfill orders due to our offices being closed. Once they reopen we will begin sending them out.

Things to Think About When Choosing a Project



Is your project a “canned” project?

- If a project can happen without you , it should not be the focus of your project
 - Examples: Blood Drive, 5K, food collection for an organization
 - These initiatives happen all the time – Red Cross, Tough Mudders, Spartan Races, Color Runs – it does not allow for girls innovativeness and leadership skills to be showcased

Is the project a fundraiser?

- Girl Scouts cannot raise money for another organization
- You can however collect materials and resources to donate

Education/Advocacy

- How are you educating the community about the issue your project addresses?
- Will it help inspire others to Take Action as well?
- Create resources/websites/pamphlets

Sustainability

- How will your project live on after you have finished?
 - Is someone from the organization you may have worked with carrying out the work your troop did after you are gone?
- Give others the tools to continue your project

Additional Money Earning and Donations for Bronze and Silver Awards



DO	DON'T
<p>DO events like Food Stands, Bake Sales, Yard Sales, Services (yard work, babysitting, cooking classes), etc.</p>	<p>DON'T hold Raffles, contests, bingo, and other games of chance</p>
<p>DO purchase supplies to donate to other Organizations with any money earned</p>	<p>DON'T donate money to other Organizations</p>
<p>DO ask for in-kind donations (lumber, paint, supplies, etc.)</p>	<p>GIRLS cannot ask for monetary donations</p>

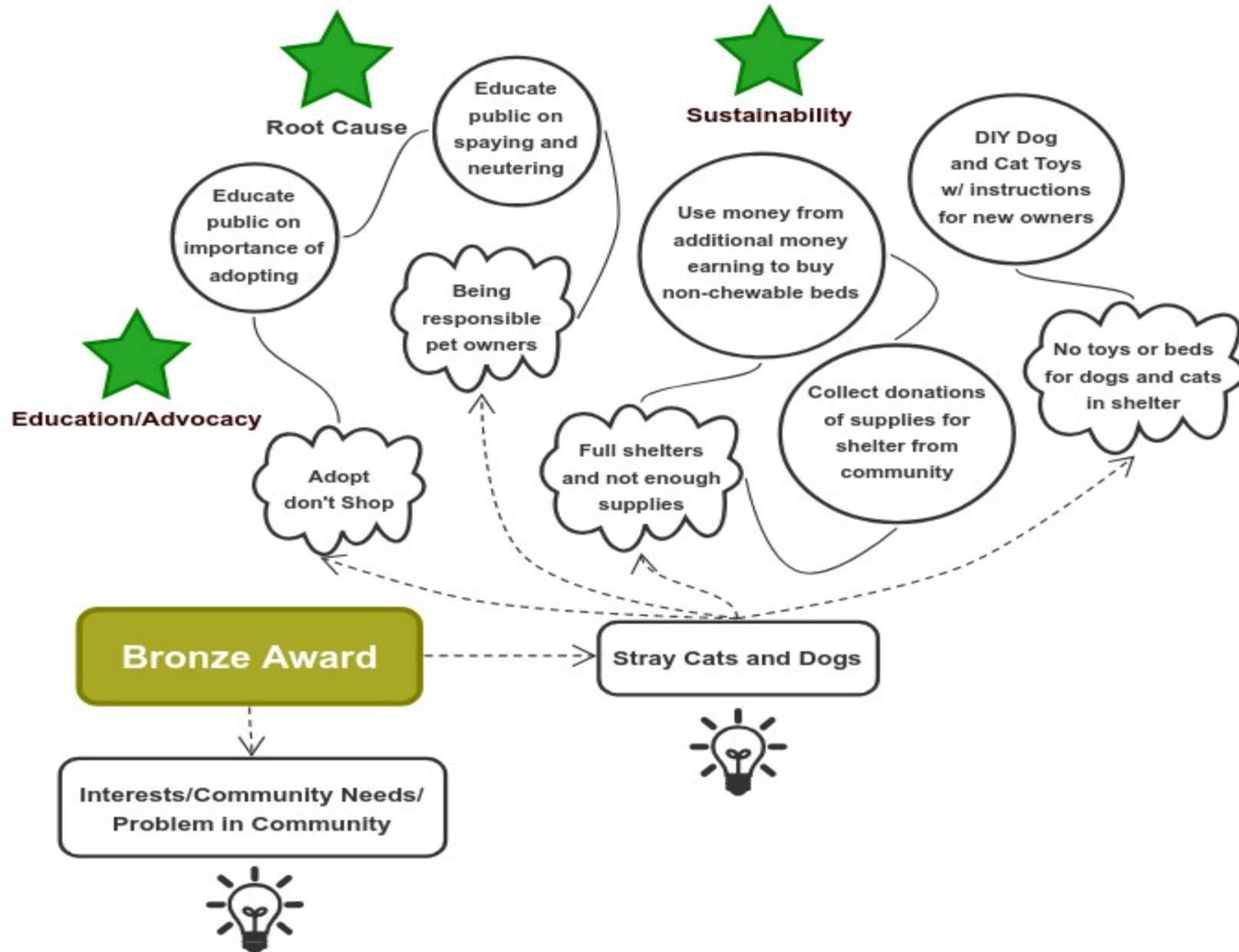
- Submit the Additional Money Earning Form to your VSC one month prior to the activity
- Must participate in both Fall Product and Cookie Program
- Comply with Volunteer Essentials and Safety Activity Checkpoints
- If formal letterhead is required for an in-kind donation, contact your VSC

Should someone offer you a monetary donation:

- If the donation is of \$250.00 or more – contact your VSC for additional steps.
- Smaller donations may go straight to troop, although still preferred to go through Council.

All donations, whether in-kind, monetary, gift cards, etc. should be reported to Council. Contact your VSC for the online form that pertains to your donation

How to find the Root Cause





Bronze and Silver Award Steps



1. Complete a Junior/Cadette Journey

2. Identify Issues you Care About

- Pick an issue that means something to the troop/girls involved in the project.
- This will make the project more fun to work on and also make the girls more interested in completing the project

3. Build your Girl Scout Team

- **Bronze:** Entire troop can work on one project
- **Silver:** Two to Four Girls per project, or can be done solo
- Make sure each girl plays an active role and participates fully in the Take Action project

4. Explore your Community

- Once you have an issue you care about, explore the community to see what you can do to help with the issue
- Good time to reach out to organizations and the community to have them offer suggestions and help make connections

Bronze and Silver Award Steps

5. Develop your Take Action Project

- Timeframe?
- What materials/supplies do you need to complete the project and how will you get it?
 - Donation of supplies
 - Remember – Girl Scouts can not solicit for monetary donations – but they can ask for supplies!
 - If a member of the community offers a monetary donation in lieu of supplies – please connect with your VSC. In most cases, monetary donations must pass through Council first.
 - Troop funds

6. Make a Plan and Put it into Action *You must be at this step by Sept. 30th to qualify for the extension*

- **Bronze:** Minimum of 20 hours spent working on project
- **Silver:** Minimum of 50 hours spent working on project
- When will you work on the project?
 - Will it be outside of normal meeting time?
- Tasks can be divided among troop members to work on parts of the project outside of troop meetings

7. Reflect, Share, and Celebrate!

- Share your project with local newspapers, or talk to younger Girl Scouts to inspire them and to share your accomplishment!
- Completing Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards is something to celebrate!

Bronze Award Summary

- Must be a registered Junior Girl Scout
- Must be in 4th or 5th Grade
- Must complete a Junior Journey before beginning project
- Minimum of 20 hours
- Entire troop may work together
- Submit Final Report via online form
- **Example:**
 - Due to the closure of an elementary school, the schools summer library program would not be available. The troop worked with the librarian to assist packing up the old library, and worked with her to start a summer book club and picnic.
 - The troop maintained a website where they answered questions, provided weekly content about the book they were reading, and held a family picnic where they created games and activities that aligned with the book for families to participate in.
 - The librarian plans to continue the picnic portion to encourage participation in the program, and allow families to connect around literacy. The troop and librarian also shared their program with other districts in their area who could use the program model in the future.

Silver Award Summary

- Must be a registered Cadette Girl Scout
- Must be in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade
- Must complete a Cadette Journey before beginning project
- Minimum of 50 hours
- Two to Four girls per project
- Submit Final Report via online form
- **Example:**
 - Girls donated computers to a local nursing home
 - They connected with the Activities Director for the nursing home, and taught a class on computer basics like email and social media to use with family.
 - The girls provided an instruction book to be used in the future so that the Activities Director could teach classes in the future.

Helpful Resources

- gshpa.org → For Girl Scouts → Highest Awards
 - [Highest Awards Page](#)
- [Bronze Award Guide](#)
- [Bronze Award Adult Guide](#)
- [Silver Award Guide](#)
- [Silver Award Adult Guide](#)

