girl scouts

The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Adults

What is the Gold Award?

The Gold Award is the highest award that Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn. It has a rich history of recognizing extraordinary efforts by extraordinary girls. To become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a girl identifies an issue she cares about, then plans and carries out a project to address it, which will have a lasting impact in her community and beyond.

What are the prerequisites?

Girls must be registered Senior or Ambassador Girl Scouts. Before beginning her application, a Girl Scout must have completed the Silver Award or a Senior/ Ambassador Leadership Award.

How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from Girl Scouts. The timeline is designed by each individual Girl Scout. A project might be completed over the course of a summer—or in the span of a year or more.

What should Girl Scouts consider in their decision to become a Gold Award Girl Scout?

They should consider the time commitment and decide for themselves whether they truly want to take it on. The decision to do so should be a girl's own.

Who else is involved in a Girl Scout's Gold Award project?

Girl Scouts select a project advisor, who is an adult expert on their chosen issue. (Note: a girl's parent, caregiver, or troop leader can't hold this role.) The project advisor provides advice and expertise throughout the project. And because the Gold Award emphasizes leadership, Girl Scouts assemble a team of volunteers to help with their project. The volunteer pool is not limited to fellow Girl Scouts and can include anyone.

What are helpful ways for parents to support their daughter as she becomes a Gold Award Girl Scout?

- **Get to know more about the Gold Award**, including the associated council's Gold Award process and its safety, insurance, and travel guidelines. The council's Gold Award page and girlscouts.org are both great resources.
- **Discussing project ideas** with her, to help her identify her passions.
- **Encourage**—but don't pressure.
- **Help her develop a network of contacts** that can provide insight, skills, and resources.
- **Acknowledge that she is capable** and that she can assume leadership and responsibility in her own way.
- **Prompt her to take the lead** in working with her council, project advisor, and team.
- **Let her grow** by working through challenges she encounters along the way.
- **Recognize that her project is as unique as she is**, so don't compare her—or her project—to other girls and their Gold Awards.
- **Be a cheerleader** from the sidelines, and help when asked.
- **Celebrate big-time** as she's honored as a Gold Award Girl Scout!