



GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD

What is the Girl Scout Silver Award?

- The Silver Award is the highest award for Girl Scouts grades 6 – 8
- It symbolizes a girl's growth in leadership, decision making and organization.

Earning the Silver Award:

1. Read "Go For It" Girl Scout Silver Award STUDIO 2B Insert
2. Girl Scout Silver Leadership Award
Earn 3 Interest Project Awards related to the Girl Scout Promise and Law
Earn the "uniquely me! The Real Deal" charm
Spend 15 hours in a leadership role
3. Girl Scout Silver Career Award
Learn about careers and meet local professionals
Earn "Your Own Business" Interest Project Award
4. Girl Scout Silver 4 B's Challenge
Become- Set Goals for self-improvement
Belong- Earn the Looking In, Reaching Out charm
Believe- Identify an issue you feel strongly about. Learn about it. Voice your opinion.
Build- Find a solution to address a problem.

*** Hours applied to the 4B Challenge may be counted in the Project Hours***

5. Girl Scout Silver Award Project-
Should take a minimum of 40 hours

What do I do when I am done?

- Fill out the final report form
- Your leader/ parent/ or advisor can purchase the pin.
- Send your form into the Service Center so you can receive a certificate.

Available Support for Girls Working on the Silver Award:

- Workshops are available to learn more about the Silver Award and selecting and designing Silver Award service projects. These workshops are provided at least twice a year. Check the council website or your program calendar for planned dates and register using the forms found in your program calendar or on the website.
- A Silver Award Workshop tote is also available to checkout from the Resource Center. Figure it out on your own time, in your own space!
- Silver Award Distance Learning is available for adults. This booklet helps to answer questions and includes a DVD, the Go For It! Book, and all the required forms.

DO YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SILVER AWARD?

CONTACT: Shari Money 800-881-4475 x1833 or smoney@gswcf.org

From Good to Great: Successful Girl Scout Silver Award Projects

One of the roles of the troop/group advisor and Girl Scout Silver Award project advisor is to help a girl or group of girls move a project that may be a good idea to a great idea. It is important to differentiate between a community service project and a Girl Scout Silver Award project. Great Silver Award projects should involve planning and individual opportunities for leadership and decision making. When working on a group project, each girl needs to play an individual role. Here are several activities that start as good service projects, but with some careful coaching, have moved into the caliber of Girl Scout Silver Award projects.

Good Service Project	GREAT Girl Scout Silver Award Projects!
Volunteering many hours at a park site picking up litter.	Working with the park to establish an ongoing "Junior Ranger" program for neighborhood children during the summer and weekends.
Working at the local library during children's story hours.	Creating an after school reading program for a homeless shelter after meeting with the children and establishing needs — building bookshelves and selecting books from donations.
Sewing pillows for very ill children in a hospital.	Assessing needs for the children's hospital with administration and children. Teaching younger girls to sew "keeper pillows" and special head covers for ill children in several hospitals.
Planting flowers with a group in a park during a community service day.	Organizing a community clean-up, beautification day and BBQ that becomes an annual event involving businesses and families. Planting window boxes, painting porches and cleaning up vacant lots are some of the completed tasks.

M*O*N*E*Y and the Leadership Project

One of the challenges facing every girl working on leadership projects is financial. Often, when the planning gets serious, adjustments have to be made in the doing. On one hand, girls are asked to meet a need in their communities; on the other hand, there are some major constraints outlined in *Safety-Wise* and by the Council. So what's a girl to do?

OK! The reality first...then some possible ways to approach it. Think of those who have gone before you. They figured it out, and so can you! Then clear the adjustments you have made in your plan with Shari Money at (800) 881-4475 ext. 1833

1. Girls can't ask for money as members of Girl Scouts. They can't ask for materials or services (technically called gifts-in-kind) either. This asking is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout policies - and for a lot of reasons (legal and otherwise), adults are the only people who can raise money for Girl Scouting.

What girls can do: Since adults can solicit money, girls can work with an adult partner if they really need to get a donation of materials or need some funds. They can describe their projects to others, write a letter, create a PowerPoint presentation or write the grant, but an adult has to do the actual ask and sign on the dotted line. And don't forget to clear the solicitation with Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. No way around it.

2. Girls can't raise money for another organization as a Girl Scout. That means they can't have a bake sale and tell people that they are giving the proceeds to a homeless shelter for meals. Girls can't ask for pledges for a walk-a-thon to benefit breast cancer research, or hold a benefit dance to raise money for Sally's kidney operation.

What girls can do: This is where it gets a bit tricky. A girl's troop/group can hold a bake sale or birdhouse sale and can charge a fee to an approved event that she put on to earn money for her troop/group's activities. However, her troop/group must have Council permission for any money-earning activity. Her troop/group may then decide to use that money toward the completion of a Girl Scout Gold Award Project, such as the purchase of materials. It must be a troop/group decision on how to allocate the funds, which can be used for group or individual projects.



Hot Group Money Earning Ideas

Reminder: All Girl Scout activities should meet *Safety-Wise* and Council guidelines.

1. **Sell Girl Scout cookies.** (Think big! Girls end up helping their Council as well as their group.)
2. Provide childcare at special events during the holiday season or community events. (Be sure to have an adult trained in First Aid present.)
3. Recycle aluminum cans. (How about a community can-a-thon? Involve small businesses as well as families.)
4. Put on a gigantic garage sale. Don't forget to make refreshments to sell!
5. Offer clown activities and face painting at family events or malls.
6. Wrap gift packages at holiday fairs.
7. Apply for a community improvement grant. (Arrange for an adult to be the signer. The money may need to go through their Council or Service Unit, as well. Check with Becky Pruitt, Chief Development Officer (800) 881-4475 ext 1759 if you have questions.)
8. Hold a penny drive. Appeal to friends and family members to save loose change. (Donations of coins can accumulate really fast!)
9. Recruit "sponsors" for the group's budget. Figure out the total budget and prepare an "ask" for sponsors who can support the group's year's activities.
10. Provide classroom or home birthday parties on order.



Some Frequently Asked Questions on Money

Q: Can girls use their own money on the Girl Scout Silver Award Project?

A: Yes. If a girl wants to use her own money, she can. She may receive help from her family, too. However, we encourage her to work with others to earn the money. That's part of the process. "Going for the Silver" is not meant to be a hardship on a family or individual. When designing a project, it's important to think creatively about how she can make a difference with little or no money. The girl should talk to her advisor about ideas for financing the project or arranging for the donation of materials and services. If she participates in money earning activities contact Becky Pruitt, Chief Development Officer (800) 881-4475 ext 1759 for appropriate forms and procedures.

Some individual activities with great potential:

- Pet walking and pet care
- Babysitting
- Lawn mowing, leaf raking
- Plant sitting
- Recycling
- Tutoring younger kids
- Providing respite care for family caregivers
- Refereeing sports games
- Party giving (clowning, magic shows, game leading)
- Making or repairing jewelry
- Creating hand-made greeting cards
- Providing a calligraphy service for addresses on special invitations

Q: Can girls ask friends and neighbors for help?

A: Girls shouldn't ask for donations of money, but they can ask for donations of time and stuff, such as clothing for a clothing drive or that pile of bricks left over from a neighbor's backyard project. **However, if the neighbor wants to claim the donation as a tax deduction, he or she will need to make the donation to the Council for IRS purposes and get a receipt signed by a Council staff person.**

Q: What if what a girl wants to do costs too much?

A: It's better to succeed with a smaller project that is within budget than to be unable to complete a larger project because it exceeds the budget. Girls should be realistic about what she can and can't do and work with her adult advisor to develop a reasonable budget for the project. If resources are not sufficient to realistically accomplish a goal, then a girl may need to rethink the project. Planning is the key to a good Girl Scout Silver Award Project. Think it through and do the homework! Advisors have the right to put a cap on spending, as well as to request that large donations go through the Council office. Work together. See the **"Go for It!" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B** insert for more on creating a realistic budget.

Q: Is it alright to seek help from other organizations when doing my Girl Scout Silver Award?

A: Yes, with some qualifications. Many service organizations have budgets for community projects. Use their interests (e.g., Lions Club International focus on vision care, while optimists may have a committee on literacy) as leverage to support projects and get volunteers to help. Do some research on civic and local service organizations. Even some businesses give workers time for community service hours and projects. However, remember the rule about having the adult doing the “ask” for actual money and gifts-in-kind, and clearing a joint approach with your Council. (Your Council may be asking the same group for a major donation and you don’t want to interfere with the Council’s “ask.”) Don’t let the organization’s agenda drive the vision for the project.

Q: I know girls can’t raise money as the Girl Scouts for other organizations, but can they do it on their own?

A: As individuals, girls can volunteer for other organizations, but they should not identify work that they do to raise funds for another organization as part of their time going toward the Girl Scout Silver Award. Additionally, girls may not present themselves as Girl Scouts to the public in this process since they are volunteers for other organizations. For example: If a local Red Cross needs money to purchase training dummies, girls may participate under their supervision as individual volunteers to raise funds, but they cannot count that service as part of their time toward any Girl Scout award or service hours. However, girls can plan a Girl Scout Silver Award project using the equipment that was purchased as part of their efforts as a volunteer for that organization.

Q: Can girls charge for a Girl Scout event to earn money?

A: If it is a service project, a fee can be collected to cover the cost of materials. The project ceases to be a service project if girls are charging a fee for the event above cost, in which case the hours cannot go toward service hours in any award. If a girl is orchestrating an event as a Girl Scout (e.g., a Badge Workshop, Bike Rodeo, etc.) and is planning to charge a fee **above** the cost of materials, she **must first** clear this with the Girl Scout Council. Provision should be made for scholarships for troop/groups or individual girls who cannot afford fees to the event, and the girl must be clear in her advertisements and materials that this is a money earning event for her troop/group.



Girl Scout Silver Award Final Report

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

Please fill out using a word processing program, type, or print in black ink. Make copies for you and your advisor to keep. Mail completed forms to Shari Money- 1831 N. Gilmore Ave., Lakeland, FL 33805 in order to receive a certificate.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Your E-Mail: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Troop Advisor: _____ Troop Number: _____

Troop Advisor's Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

STEP 1: GET READY

Attach copy of timeline developed by you and your Advisor.

STEP 2: GIRL SCOUT SILVER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Activities	Date Completed	Advisor Signature
1. Earn It: IP:		
IP:		
IP		
2. Believe It: STUDIO 2B Focus Book: <i>uniquely Me!</i> <i>The Real Deal</i>		
3. Lead It: (15 hours) Describe:		

STEP 3: GIRL SCOUT SILVER CAREER AWARD

	Date Completed	Advisor Signature
What's out there?		
Who's out there?		
Your Own Business Interest Project Award		

STEP 4: GIRL SCOUT SILVER 4 B'S AWARD

Activity	Date Completed	Advisor Signature
1. Become:		
2. Belong: STUDIO 2B Focus Book: <i>Looking In, Reaching Out</i>		
3. Believe Issue: How did you use your voice?		
4. Build: Describe your solution:		

STEP 5: GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD PROJECT (this report should be completed by each individual girl in their own words, even if they worked as a troop or were part of a team)

Title of Project: _____

Start Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

Describe the issue your project addressed, what you achieved, and who benefited.

Discuss the reasons for selecting your project.

Outline your strengths, talents, and skills that you put into action.

Describe the steps involved for putting your plan into action.

Indicate the methods and/or tools utilized to evaluate the effectiveness of your project.

List the consultants and resources you used.

Overall project expenses and how you met these costs.

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Girl Scout Silver Award Project Advisor: _____

DO YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SILVER AWARD?

CONTACT Shari Money (813)262-1833 or 800-881-4475 x1833

smoney@gswcf.org

Note: Please discard all previous Silver Award booklets and application forms.

Form updated June 2009