



## Key Dates

- Girls can begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge from one Girl Scout level to the next.
- **April 1:** Recommended last day to submit proposals for graduating high school seniors. Please note that proposals will NOT be accepted from high school graduates after **July 1st**.
- **September 30:** GSUSA firm deadline for graduated high school seniors to submit their Gold Award Final Report in GoGold.
- **March 1:** Final reports must be submitted in GoGold, to be invited to that year's Gold Award Ceremony. Final reports submitted after this date, will be invited to the following year's ceremony.

### What are the prerequisites?

Before beginning the Gold Award girls must:

- Complete 2 age level Journeys, or have earned their Silver Award and complete 1 age level Journey
- Attend a Gold Award workshop/ webinar

### Why are journeys required?

Journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the Gold Award. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their high award project.

### Do Girls have to complete the Bronze or Silver Award in order to earn their Gold Award?

No! Each award is set up as a progression but if they happen to miss earning their Bronze or Silver Award they are still able to go for their Gold Award.

### How many hours does it take to earn the Gold Award?

The time it takes to earn the awards will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the minimum number of hours to complete a quality Gold Award project is 80 hours. Prior to proposal submission and approval, ONLY 20 hours of work will count towards your project. The remaining 60 hours must be completed AFTER proposal approval by committee.

**Can a troop work on a Gold Award together?**

Each award level brings a new progression of leadership development and each award level has different group guidelines. At the Gold Award level are to work on their own Gold Award project. This isn't to say their troop mates can't help them with their project, they can but they would be listed as volunteers and would not earn the award.

**Can Gold Award projects benefit Girl Scouts and/ or the camps?**

Yes GSUSA just released in Oct. 2019 that all high awards can now benefit Girl Scouting. However, at the Gold Award level it is expected that girls will also advocate for their project outside of Girl Scouting as well as within. To do a project benefitting GSWCF please have girls fill out the "[Highest Awards Project proposal at camp](#)," meet with the appropriate ranger or council staff member, then submit the completed form to the High Awards Manager.

**Can girls use crowdfunding sites to fund their projects?**

As of October of 2019, yes girls can use crowdfunding sites to help fund their projects if their project budget exceeds \$2000. GSWCF has strict guidelines that girls need to follow so please see this form for more detailed information

For more information on Supplemental Earning visit this [site](#). Crowdfunding is only allowed for Gold Awards with a project budget over \$2,000. Please submit [jotform](#) for approval and council will generate crowdfunding link for girl to share. Funds will be disbursed upon girls request or upon reaching specified donation amount. Any amount above the specified donation will return to council.

**What is the difference between a Take Action project and community service?**

Take Action and community service projects are different, and both are essential to Girl Scouting. When you earn the Gold Award, you are transformed from living the Girl Scout Law to bringing it to life! Community service projects are acts of kindness and important ways to help something or someone right now. They are commonly "one and done" activities. Performing community service almost always multiplies efforts that are already in place. Examples include collecting food for an existing food pantry, providing clothing or toiletries to people who have suffered a disaster, cleaning up a run-down playground, or picking up trash at a park, forest, or beach. Girl Scout Take Action projects address an issue by tackling the factors that cause or contribute to it. As you may expect, these projects have a far-reaching impact. They are designed to change something for the better—forever.

**Who's who?**

GS Advisor- GS Advisors are adults that have taken the Take Action for Adults webinar in gsLearn. They can help make sure you've met Gold Award prerequisites and may also agree to be a part of your volunteer team. They can also review Gold Award funding, safety, and travel guidelines with you.

Project Advisor- Your project advisor is an adult you approach and invite to be on your team, who has some level of expertise in one or more areas of the issue your project addresses. Think of your project advisor as a professional consultant; they can guide you as

you plan and implement your project. The project advisor does not design your project but does offer valuable insight, advice, and guidance.

Coach- Your Gold Award Coach is a member of the Gold Award committee and is an expert on the process of Going Gold. They will guide you to ensure your project meets the Gold Award requirements. You'll be assigned a Gold Award Coach after your proposal is reviewed. Girls are required to check in monthly with their coach on progress. As a Gold Award resource they will:

- Go over any feedback or questions the committee had during the proposal interview.
- Help brainstorm on a missing component, give ideas on how to expand a project if needed, brainstorm on sustainability and ways to measure the project's impact, help find a project's global link, and give ideas on how to advocate for the project.
- Review the final report to make sure it's ready for final approval.

### **What is sustainability?**

Sustainability means that the project, as well as the work towards addressing the issue, carries on or continues even after you've done your part and earned the Gold Award. In a nutshell: you'll put a plan in place that ensures your Gold Award creates lasting change.