



Take Action Award



Global Action Award

Create positive change in your community! With friends or fellow Girl Scouts, develop a project that addresses a community issue. Take Action projects address local challenges, while Global Action projects explore how communities worldwide have approached similar issues.

Steps

1. Identify a community issue
2. Explore the issue's root causes
3. Brainstorm project ideas
4. Make a plan
5. Take Action and celebrate!

Purpose

When I've earned this award, I'll know how to address a local or global community issue with lasting impact.

Getting Started

Find friends or fellow Girl Scouts to earn your award together as a group. This guide will help your group plan (and do!) a project that makes a lasting impact on an issue you care about. Your project should be fun and achievable within a couple of weeks or a month. You get to decide how big your project will be—and remember you don't have to plan a *big* project to make a *big* impact! Use the Cadette Take Action and Global Action Plan worksheet to help you create your project.



Explore leadership and take the first big step toward the Silver Award. This award stands strong on its own—and it's a prerequisite for Silver!



Meeting tools and additional resources for leaders can be found within the Volunteer Toolkit on mygs.org.

Step 1: Identify a community issue

Connect a badge you've earned to challenges in your community.

There are many ways to make a difference in your community. **Community service** addresses a need “right now.” For example, you might participate in a food drive, clean up a beach, or collect coats for shelters—these actions make a difference right away.

Take Action and **Global Action** projects create change today and in the future. Think about a school cafeteria: collecting leftover food for a food bank helps today (and that’s important!), but tomorrow there will be more excess food. If you talk to your principal about starting a regular food recovery program, you can create change that grows and continues.

If you want to do community service, check out the Cadette Community Service bar or ask your council for local service opportunities

In this step:

- 1. Choose a badge as your starting point.** Your project begins with and builds on a badge you’ve already earned. As a group, ask yourselves: What badges were our favorites? Were there any topics we’d like to explore more deeply? Did any badges make us think about community issues that we’d like to address? Consider different badges you’ve earned and choose one badge to connect with a Take Action or Global Action project.
- 2. Brainstorm community issues.** Create a list of any community issues you learned about in the badge. For example, after earning the Animal Helpers badge, you might be curious to learn more about service animals, want to support animal conservation efforts, or assist a local animal shelter in need of community support.
- 3. Pick a community issue.** Think about how your group can make a meaningful impact on each issue. Look at your list—which issues spark the most curiosity? Where could a project make the most meaningful difference? Which do you feel most confident in taking on? Then work together to choose one issue to focus your project on.



Global Challenges and the United Nations’ Global Goals

Many local community issues are also part of bigger global challenges. The United Nations created 17 **Global Goals**, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to address global challenges.

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

Take Action and Global Action Plan

Step 1: Identify a community issue

Connect a badge you've earned to challenges in your community.

Badge:

Community issues we learned about:

The community issue our group wants to address is:

Cadette Badge Examples



- While earning the **Eco Trekker** badge, you were motivated to help protect the environment.



- The **Science of Happiness** badge made you consider a need for more school resources around mental wellness.



- As part of the **Democracy for Cadettes** badge, you explored voting rights and wondered about the structure of other governments around the world.

Step 2: Explore the issue's root causes

Examine why this issue is happening and how it impacts your community.

Many community issues have deeper causes—like the roots of a tree, they may not be visible at first. Now that your group has chosen an issue you want to address, it's time to investigate how it impacts your community. For Take Action, you'll explore the issue in your community. For Global Action, you'll explore the issue globally and use what you learn to support your own community.

In this step:

1. **Decide if your group will earn the Take Action or Global Action award.**

- **If your group wants to create a Take Action project,** you'll focus on your local community. You'll explore how local organizations, groups, and community members are already creating change.
- **If your group wants to create a Global Action project,** you'll explore how communities around the world experience the issue and how you can apply what you learn to your project. You can also choose to connect your project to one or more of the 17 Global Goals. For example, microplastics in the ocean could connect to Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation; Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production; and Goal 14: Life below water.

2. Dig into the details. Lay out what your group already knows about the issue, identifying the questions you still need answered. Then, do your research—search online for stats, find news articles, and

talk to or find stories about community members, experts, and organizations. Since those impacted by a community issue often have the clearest view of why it's happening, it's important to explore their point of view on the issue, its root causes, and its impact. If you're earning the Global Action award, make sure your research includes examples of how organizations or people in other countries are addressing this issue.

3. Map the community issue. Use the community issue map in your Take Action or Global Action Plan to organize and analyze your data. Ask “why” each event occurs to dig deeper into the impacts and causes, helping you identify the root causes of an issue. Star them on the map. If you're exploring the issue globally, is the root cause for global communities the same as for your local community? If you have lingering questions or gaps in your data, try to find answers so you can see the full picture.

Take Action and Global Action Plan

Step 2: Explore the issue's root causes

Examine the issue and find out why it's happening.

We plan to create a: Take Action project Global Action project

Dig into the details

What we know about the issue and our community:

For example, how does the issue impact your community? Who's working on this issue?

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What we still need to find out:

For example, what solutions already exist? Who are experts on this issue?

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How we'll find the answers:

For example, search online or talk to individuals or groups who are impacted by or working on this issue.

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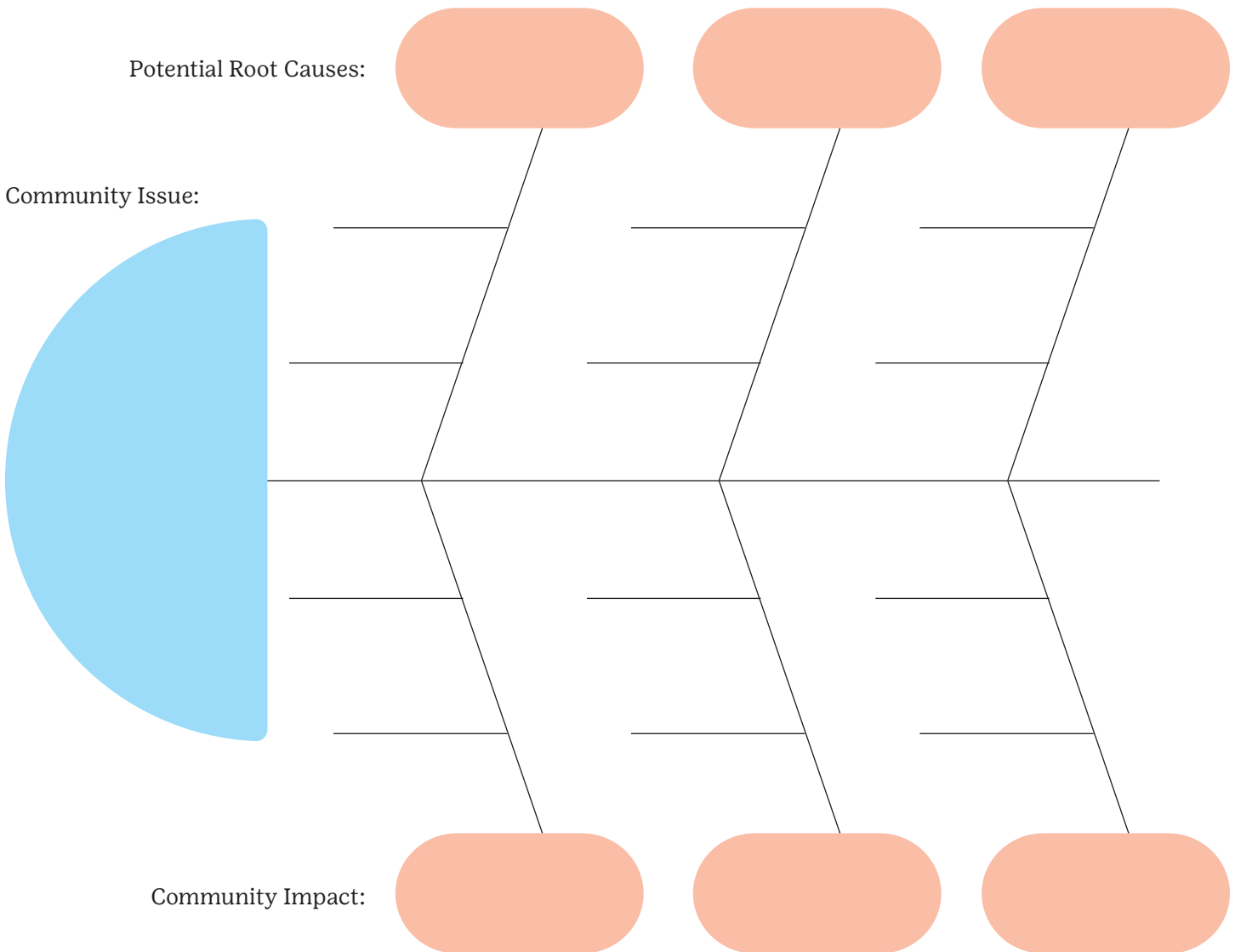
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Step 2 continued

Community Issue Map

Use the map on this page to organize your data.

- **Root causes:** What and who is causing the issue? Why is the issue happening? (Once you have an answer, ask “why?” again to see if there’s another answer underneath.)
- **Community impact:** Who is affected, and how? What about plants, animals, and the environment?



For example, if the community issue is...	Its impacts might include...	It might be caused by...
Cars driving fast by a school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Potential car accidents</i> ● <i>Kids don't feel safe walking or biking to school.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>There's no stop sign or light at the intersection near the school.</i> ● <i>There's no traffic support when kids are walking to and from school.</i>

Step 3: Brainstorm solutions

Come up with ideas that can make a lasting difference.

Instead of a short-term fix, **sustainable** or lasting solutions continue benefiting a community even after the end of the project. There are three ways to create a sustainable project:

1. Build a permanent solution
2. Educate and inspire others
3. Advocate to change a rule or law

For example, if younger kids need reading support, your group could offer tutoring after school on Thursdays for a month. This is sustainable because the education (#2) will have a lasting impact on the younger kids even after the month of tutoring ends.

In this step:

1. Build on what works. Consider the data your group collected in step 2. What's already working in your community (and, if you're doing a Global Action project, around the world)? For example, if the community issue is food waste, you may have explored how various cities or countries reduce food waste—maybe you could talk to your local grocery store about adopting a model to donate unsold food. Write down your ideas for how your project could build on these local (or global!) community strengths and experiences.



2. Add your talents and interests.

Brainstorm what your group likes to do and what each person is skilled in—how can everyone leverage their strengths to enhance your project ideas? Be sure to add any skills you learned in the badge that could be helpful.

3. Choose one project idea. Review your list of project ideas—what are the strengths and challenges of each? Be sure to consider the amount of time and resources you have available. (Remember this doesn't have to be a *big project*; you can make a *big impact* within a couple weeks or a month!) Discuss your remaining options and choose the one you're most motivated by for your project!

Take Action and Global Action Plan

Step 3: Brainstorm solutions

Come up with ideas that can make a lasting difference.

Build a permanent solution	Educate or inspire others	Advocate to change a rule or law
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

For example:

Make art that inspires. Create a poster or email campaign, draw a comic, or even make an animated or live-action movie that inspires others to learn about the issue and join you to make a difference.

Build something. Plant a garden, design a ropes course, or repurpose a space into something your community needs.

Use your voice. Advocate to your city or town leaders for permanent community improvement or make a presentation to your principal about how they can address the issue. You might also create an online petition.

Teach others. Film video tutorials or your own PSA to tell others about the issue. Hold a workshop to share what you've learned. Create a "how to" handout or an informational pamphlet sharing information and ideas for others to get involved.

Participate in an event. Concerts, plays, art exhibits, sporting events, field days—or even poetry slams or open mic events—can be great places to raise awareness.

The project we chose:

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Why we chose this project:

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How our project will address a root cause of the issue:

[Choose one]

Build a permanent solution

Educate or inspire others

Advocate to change a rule or law

Step 4: Make a plan

Create your goal and a plan to reach it.

Think of your project plan as a blueprint—you need all the pieces to work together. For example, if you're starting a school garden, you'll need people who know about plants, others who can help with tasks like building garden beds or paths, and a plan to maintain the garden year-round.

In this step:

- 1. Choose a goal.** Is your project a permanent solution? Does it educate or inspire others? Will it change a rule or law? Make sure everyone's voices are heard as you think about what you want your project to accomplish and create your project goal. How will you know it's successful? For example, if your goal is to increase student literacy, you could organize a monthlong reading program and track student participation and progress in reading scores. This project would educate others, which makes a short- and long-term difference.
- 2. Create your plan.** Together with your group, make a timeline outlining key steps and roles for each group member. Discuss how everyone can lead in ways that highlight their interests and talents. Decide what you'll need, from materials to extra volunteers.
- 3. Share your plan.** Talk about your plan with your troop leader or another trusted adult—they can assist with finding supplies, connect you with people who can help, and guide you in working with your community. Make sure to also share your plan with any potential community partners and discuss what success means to them.



Take Action and Global Action Plan

Step 4: Make a plan

Create your goal and a plan to reach it.

Project goal: What do you want your project to accomplish?

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How we'll know our project is making a difference:

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Tasks and timeline: Include important milestones and roles.

Overall timeframe: _____ to _____

Date or Timing	Action	Group Member(s)
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Materials and budget: Include supplies, transportation, etc.

Item	Cost	Sourcing from
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Other resources: *List experts, volunteers, free meeting spaces, etc.*

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Change is good!

As you create your project, your goal or plan may need to change, and that's okay! Keep these questions in mind throughout the process to help you assess your plan as you go:

- **Do you have enough information?** How can you find the answers you need?
- **Do you have enough time?** If not, how can you scale back and still complete a project that makes a difference?
- **Do you have the resources and materials?** What do you already have and what can you borrow? Can you use recycled materials or find alternatives? If you need to purchase something, how will you pay for it?

Step 5: Take Action and celebrate!

Turn your plan into lasting change.

Now that your group has a plan, put it into action! If you start a composting program, for example, keep track of how much is composted and how many people join in.

In this step:

- 1. Put your project into action.** Follow your plan and track your progress together. Remember it's okay if your plan shifts along the way—this might make your project even more impactful!
- 2. Evaluate your project.** When you're done, evaluate your project's success as a group. Were you able to reach your goal? How have you set up your project to create lasting change?
- 3. Celebrate!** Reflect on your experience and celebrate your accomplishments with your group. If you'd like, share the story of your project to raise awareness about the issue and inspire others to get involved.

Reflect and Grow

You've made a difference in your community through your Take Action or Global Action project. As you reflect on your experience, consider...

- **What worked:** Which parts of your project created the most meaningful change? How did working with your community make your project stronger?
- **What challenged you:** Were there any unexpected challenges along the way? How did your group work together to overcome and learn from these experiences?
- **What's different:** How has your project made a difference? Have you seen improvements in your community?
- **What's next:** Are there other issues you'd like to learn more about? Would you like to stay involved in some way, or would you prefer to pass on the leadership to others?



Keep Going!

Now that you've earned this award, you can:

- Keep practicing leadership with other **Leadership Awards**
- Become a **Silver Award Girl Scout**

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Take Action and Global Action Plan

Step 5: Take Action and celebrate

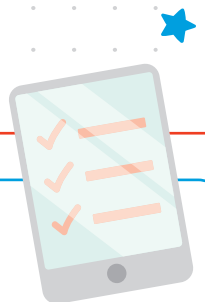
Turn your plan into lasting change.



Project progress notes:

Take photos, make videos, and write notes below!

A large rectangular area with a red border and a light gray dotted grid background, intended for writing project progress notes.



When you're done:

Were you able to reach your goal? Why or why not?

Were you able to set up your project for long-term success? Why or why not?

A large rectangular area with a blue border and a light gray dotted grid background, intended for reflecting on the project's success and long-term sustainability.

Reflect & Grow

Take a moment to think about your experience and reflect on...



What worked?

Grid for writing reflections on what worked.



What challenged you?

Grid for writing reflections on what challenged you.



What's different?



Grid for writing reflections on what's different.

What's next?



Grid for writing reflections on what's next.