

A great way to practice leadership—plus, it opens the path to earn the Bronze Award



Volunteer’s Guide to the Junior Take Action Award and Global Action Award*

Find tips and ideas to help guide Girl Scouts through this award program.

Facilitator Overview: This guide will help you support a group of Junior Girl Scouts in earning the Take Action and Global Action awards. The steps are the same for both programs, but these awards are earned individually; Girl Scouts must go through the process twice to earn both awards. Take Action projects address issues in your local community, while Global Action projects connect to communities around the world. Girl Scouts have the option of linking their Global Action projects to one of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Take Action and Global Action awards are meant to help Girl Scouts plan projects that have lasting benefits for their communities, in a way that feels fun and manageable. Consider sticking to timelines of a month or less (although this is up to every group’s discretion). Help Girl Scouts set an achievable goal for their project—that way, it will be clear when the award process ends and it’s time to celebrate!

Throughout the award process, keep in mind that it’s critical to involve a community in any efforts designed to help it. Prompt Girl Scouts to consider their audience and how to engage it in their efforts. Lasting change requires community commitment!

The **Junior Take Action and Global Action Plan** contains useful guidance for completing the awards. Familiarize yourself with this resource before starting the award. Have Girl Scouts use the plan to track how they are completing each step.

Remember that your role in this award is to support Girl Scouts, not to evaluate them. Your job is to create a space that allows Girl Scouts to share with confidence. **ALL action plans are valid, no matter how small, if they feel right to the group.**

Step 1: Identify a community issue

• 30–40 minutes

Ask: What types of projects create lasting change?

Share: You could address a community need today—for example, by picking up trash. Or you could address the same need in a way that helps both today AND tomorrow—

for example, by getting more trash cans installed. Let’s find out how to make lasting change.

Guide: Start by guiding Girl Scouts in brainstorming ways to help a community and identifying which of these actions are “today only” and which ones will create lasting change. Can they expand “today only” actions?

To Do (and how leaders might help):

1. **Choose a badge as your starting point.** Keep the discussion girl-led and let Girl Scouts choose a badge that interests them as a group. Try to help them reach a consensus, but if they can’t, keep it fair—majority rules!
2. **Brainstorm community issues.** Help Girl Scouts brainstorm the list, prompting them as needed.
3. **Pick a community issue.** Guide Girl Scouts in choosing an issue to address, again making sure to let them take the lead.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out Step 1 of the **Junior Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to Step 2.

Step 2: Explore the issue’s root causes

• 30–40 minutes

Ask: What’s the real reason for an issue?

Share: Many issues have hidden causes, just like a tree has roots you can’t see. That’s why we call them “root” causes—they’re the reasons behind an issue.

Guide: In this step, Girl Scouts will research the root cause(s) of the community issue they chose. Help them review the guidance for the Tree Diagram they’ll be creating to lay the groundwork for their thinking.

To Do (and how leaders might help):

1. **With your group, decide if you’ll earn the Take Action or Global Action award.** Have Girl Scouts consider whether they want to address their issue from a local or global perspective.
2. **Dig into the details.** Suggest resources to help Girl Scouts research the issue.

*Detailed choice activities, meeting tools, and additional resources and materials can be found within the Volunteer Toolkit on my.girlscouts.org.

3. **Map the community issue.** Have Girl Scouts fill out the Tree Diagram in the **Junior Take Action and Global Action Plan**. Help if needed, but encourage Girl Scouts to take the initiative.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out the rest of Step 2 of the **Junior Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to Step 3.

Step 3: Brainstorm project ideas

• 30–40 minutes

Ask: How do you feel inspired to help?

Share: Now that you've identified a community issue and mapped its impact and root causes, you're ready to brainstorm ideas for projects that address it.

Guide: Help Girl Scouts identify project ideas they feel are both exciting and achievable. Encourage them to dream big while also considering the practical side of each idea.

To Do (and how leaders might help):

1. **Think of ideas that incorporate your group's talents and interests.** Help Girl Scouts brainstorm their talents and interests and how they might use them to address an issue.
2. **Add ideas inspired by your research.** Help Girl Scouts review their research and write down any project ideas it inspires.
3. **Choose one project idea.** Guide Girl Scouts in choosing a project while keeping the desired timeline and available resources in mind.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out Step 3 of the **Junior Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to Step 4.

Step 4: Make a plan

• 30–40 minutes

Ask: What is your project's key goal, how will you accomplish it, and how will you know when you've succeeded?

Share: Strong projects need both careful planning and people who can help. Planning is like doing a puzzle—you need all the pieces to see the full picture.

Guide: This is the final step before Girl Scouts actually do their project. Continue to let them take the lead, but keep a watchful eye on the process to make sure the group is setting itself up for success.

To Do (and how you might help):

1. **Choose a goal.** Have Girl Scouts work together to identify a specific goal that defines success for their project.
2. **Create your plan.** Girl Scouts may vary in their

planning experience and abilities. Help with practical aspects of the planning process as needed, but encourage the group to take as much initiative as possible.

3. **Share your plan.** Have the group share their plan with you or another trusted adult. Help them think through their ideas and figure out what supplies they need and how to get them. Also help them identify and connect with people who can help.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out Step 4 of the **Junior Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to Step 5.

Step 5: Take Action and celebrate!

• time varies

Ask: You've thought, planned, and prepped. Are you ready to take action?

Share: You've done a lot of great work to get to this point. You're ready to make the world a better place—and that's a big part of what being a Girl Scout is all about!

Guide: Your job at this point is to let Girl Scouts take the lead, supervising to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible. Troubleshoot as needed. Encourage Girl Scouts to handle unexpected changes themselves if they can, but be prepared to step in if not.

To Do (and how leaders might help):

1. **Put your plan into action.** Supervise the project, helping with practical matters and logistics if needed. Enlist volunteers, if needed, for trips out of the meeting space.
2. **Evaluate your project.** Lead a discussion about the project and its results. Did Girl Scouts reach their goal? Did the project make lasting change, and if so, how? Could they continue it, if desired?
3. **Celebrate!** Praise Girl Scouts for a job well done. Suggest that they share the story of their project to inspire others to make a difference.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out Step 5 of the **Junior Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to the award overview process. They earn the Junior Take Action or Global Action award after completing the overview process.

Award overview: Reflect and grow

• 20–30 minutes

After all steps are complete, guide Girl Scouts to think about their Junior Take Action or Global Action experience as a whole and ask themselves how they've contributed to positive change. Use the questions from the award guide to facilitate your conversation.

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