



Take Action Award



Global Action Award

As a Girl Scout, you have the power to make a difference for animals, people, and our planet!

With friends or fellow Girl Scouts, create 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.

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 Junior Take Action and Global Action Plan worksheet to help you create your project.



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



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

Step 1: Identify a community issue

Use a badge you've earned as inspiration for your project.

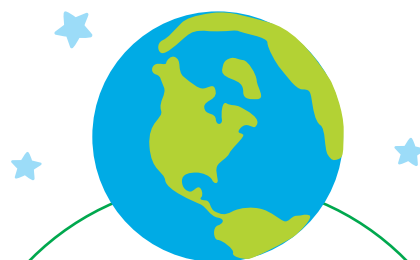
Take Action and Global Action are projects that make a difference today *and* in the future. **Community service** often makes the world better by addressing a need “right now.” For example, collecting supplies for a food pantry or sending cards to residents of assisted living homes are both acts of kindness that make a difference right away.

Take Action and **Global Action** projects create lasting change even after the project ends. Think about a local park: picking up trash helps today (and that's great!), but tomorrow there will be more trash. If you get more trash cans installed and make signs showing where to put trash, you're helping today AND tomorrow!

In this step:

- 1. Choose a badge as your starting point.** Start by looking at badges you've earned—which were your favorites? While working on each badge, did your group learn about any community challenges, such as a need for more education on the topic or something that would help your community? Which badges sparked your group's curiosity? Choose one badge to connect with a Take Action or Global Action project.
- 2. Brainstorm community issues.** Create a list of any community issues your group learned about in the badge. For example, if you earned the Digital Leadership badge, you might have learned about issues such as cyberbullying, misinformation, or protecting your private information.
- 3. Pick a community issue.** Review your list and choose one community issue to address with your project—something your group is interested in and where you think you'll be able to make a meaningful difference.

If you want to do community service, check out Girl Scouts' **National Service Projects** or ask your council for local service opportunities.



Global Challenges and the United Nations' Global Goals

What happens in your community probably also happens in other places around the world. The United Nations (UN) created the 17 **Global Goals**, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to address these global challenges. The SDGs highlight community issues, such as ending poverty, protecting the planet, and making sure kids everywhere have access to education.

Take Action and Global Action Plan

Step 1: Identify a community issue

Use a badge you've earned as inspiration for your project.

Group members:

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Badge:

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Community issues we learned about:

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The community issue our group wants to address is:

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Junior Badge Examples



- While earning the **Shapes in Nature** badge, you were inspired to learn more about the power of trees.



- The **Business Jumpstart** badge made you think about a need for more women entrepreneurs.



- As part of the **Craft and Tinker** badge, you explored how upcycling and tinkering helps the planet.

Step 2: Explore the issue's root causes

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

Take Action and Global Action projects help today and in the future by addressing the root causes of community issues. An issue's root causes show why there's an issue in the first place. Just like a tree has roots you can't see, many issues have hidden causes.

In this step:

- 1. Decide if your group will earn the Take Action or Global Action award.** Many issues affect your world, both close to home and far away—it's up to you to decide what to focus on!
 - **If your group wants to create a Take Action project**, you'll examine the issue in your local community. You'll explore how local organizations and groups are already working to make a difference.
 - **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, food waste connects to both Goal 2: Zero hunger and Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production.
- 2. Dig into the details.** The people who are most impacted by an issue often have the best insight into its causes and solutions. Make a list of questions to help you better understand the issue and how it affects your community. Talk to people and do research—visit a community business, interview a community member, or find out more from an expert or organization. Search online, read articles, or do anything else to find the answers. If you're earning the Global Action award, be sure your research includes learning about how organizations or people in other countries are addressing this issue.
- 3. Map the community issue.** Use all you've uncovered to fill in the tree diagram in your Take Action Plan. Write the issue on the tree's trunk. Add roots for each reason why the problem happens (its root causes). Add leaves for each impact it has on the community.

Take Action and Global Action Plan

Step 2: Explore its 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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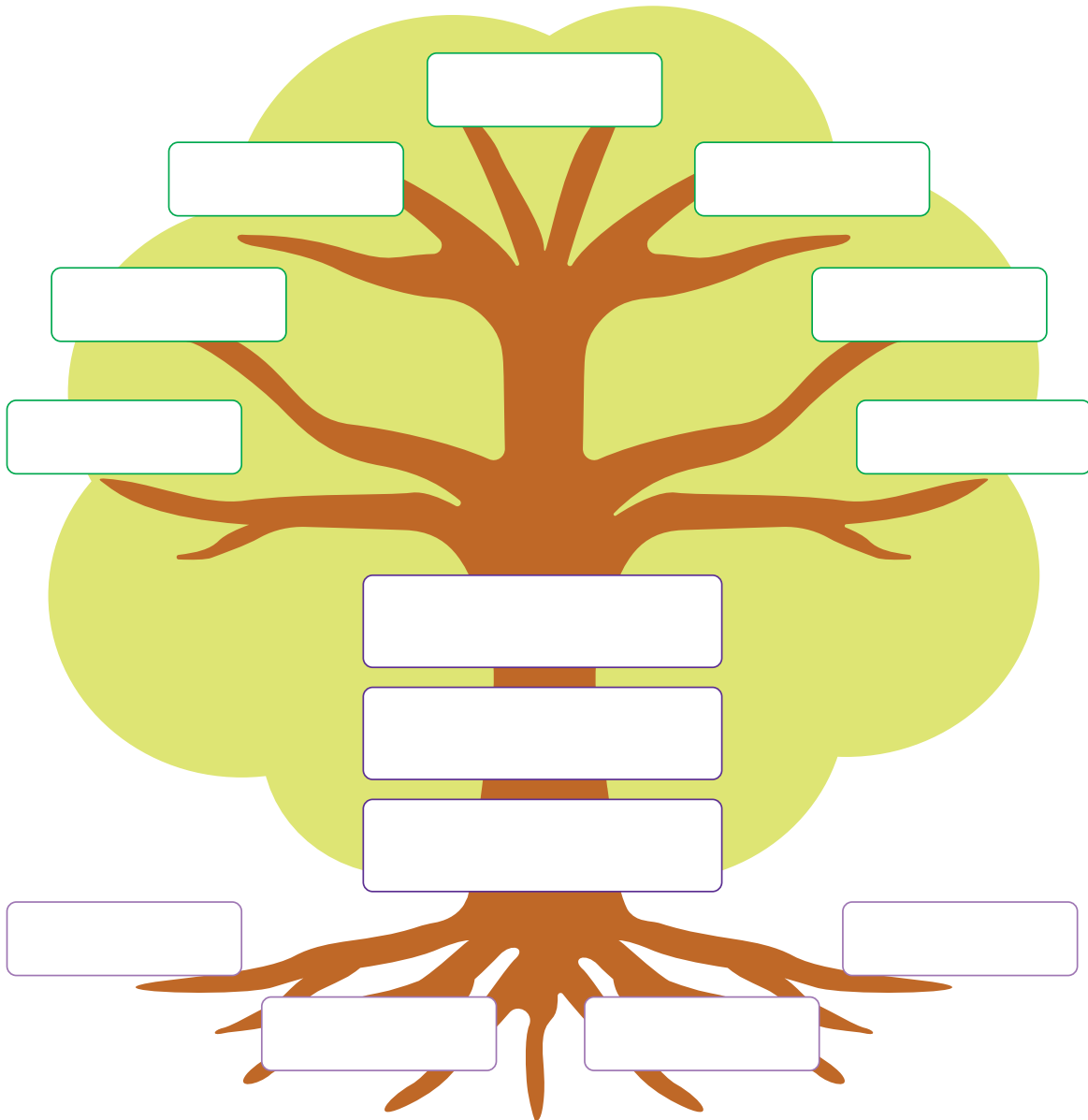
Step 2 continued

Map your issue with a tree diagram

In the trunk: Write the community issue you want to address.

In the roots: Who and what is causing the issue? Write why it's happening. (Once you have an answer, ask "why?" again to see if there's another "root" underneath.)

In the branches: Who is most affected? Write how it affects people, animals, and the environment.



[Trunk] For example, if the community issue is...	[Branches] Its impacts might include...	[Roots] It might be happening because...
<p>Too many pets in animal shelters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The shelter is overcrowded—there isn't enough room for all the animals.</i> • <i>The shelter needs more resources (food, blankets, toys, people) to care for all the animals.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>People don't know how to find adoptable pets.</i> • <i>People don't know why it's important to spay or neuter pets.</i>

Step 3: Brainstorm project ideas

Come up with ideas to help your community.

Now that you've identified a community issue and mapped its impact and root causes, you're ready to brainstorm project ideas that address it!

In this step:

- 1. Think of ideas that make use of your group's talents and interests.** What are some of your favorite activities—maybe you like sewing or sports? What are your talents—are you great at public speaking or creating videos? Brainstorm how you might use your talents and interests to address your issue. Make a list of your ideas. This way, you'll have fun creating the project and people will be inspired by your enthusiasm!
- 2. Add ideas inspired by your research.** Look back at your notes from step 2. How are people already helping in your community? If you're creating a Global Action project, how are others addressing your issue around the world? Write down project ideas inspired by what you learned.
- 3. Choose one project idea.** Review all your ideas—what are the pros and cons of each? Which address a root cause of the issue and could have a lasting impact? Are there ideas you can meaningfully combine from both lists? Then narrow down your list, considering 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 even a month!) Discuss your remaining options and choose the one you're most excited about for your project.

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.

Take Action and Global Action Plan

Step 3: Brainstorm project ideas

Come up with ideas that will help your community.

Ideas that put to use your group's talents and interests

Grid for brainstorming ideas based on group talents and interests.

Ideas inspired by your group's research

Grid for brainstorming ideas inspired by group research.



The project our group chose:

Grid for describing the chosen project.

Why we chose this project:

Grid for explaining why the project was chosen.

How our project will address a root cause of the issue and could create lasting impact:

Reminder: The root cause is why the issue happens!

Grid for describing how the project will address the root cause and create lasting impact.

Step 4: Make a plan

Get organized and create a plan

Strong projects need both careful planning and people who can help. Think of planning like putting together a puzzle—you need all the pieces to see the full picture.

In this step:

- 1. Choose a goal.** How will you know your project is successful? Work with your group to identify a goal for your project. For example, if you want to host a booth at a farmer's market to raise awareness about pet adoptions, your goal might be to encourage the people who stop by to adopt. Remember, no goal is too small!
- 2. Create your plan.** Together with your group, build a timeline outlining key steps and everyone's roles. Explore ways for each person to contribute in a way that showcases their interests and talents. Then decide what supplies you'll need and create a budget. Think about ways to highlight the people or organizations you've learned from.
- 3. Share your plan.** Talk with your troop leader or another trusted adult about your group's plan—they can help you think through your ideas, connect you with people who can help, and guide you in getting any supplies.



Step 5: Take Action and celebrate!

Make your project happen and share what you've done.

Once your plan is ready, it's time to take action!

In this step:

- 1. Put your plan into action.** Start working on the project you've planned. Track your progress as you go. Take pictures or keep a project diary to remember all the important moments.
- 2. Evaluate your project.** Gather everyone's thoughts: Were you able to reach your goal? How could your project continue to address the root cause of your issue? While important to think about, continuing to address the issue is not required.
- 3. Celebrate!** Reflect on your experience and celebrate your accomplishments with your group. If you'd like, share the story of your project to show people why it matters and maybe even inspire them to make a difference, too.

Reflect and Grow

You did it! Your efforts contributed to positive change in the community.

As you look back at your experience, think about...

- **What worked:** What parts of your project made the biggest difference? How did working with your team make your project better?
- **What challenged you:** What parts were harder than you expected? What might you do differently next time?
- **What's different:** Reflect on the ways your project has contributed to the community—what changes have you seen? How will your project have an ongoing impact on others?
- **What's next:** Are there new ideas you'd like to explore? What other kinds of projects would you like to try in the future?



Keep Going!

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

- Keep practicing leadership with other [Leadership Awards](#)
- Become a [Bronze Award Girl Scout](#)



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Take Action and Global Action Plan


Step 5: Take Action and inspire!

Make your project happen and share what you've done.



Project progress notes:
Track your progress with pictures, videos, and notes.

A large rectangular area with a green border and a light gray dotted grid for writing notes.



When you're done:
Were you able to reach your goal? Why or why not?

How could your project continue to address the issue and root cause?

A large rectangular area with a purple border and a light gray dotted grid for writing reflections and future plans.

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.