

Girl Scout Silver Award



Information Packet

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council
3110 Southwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77098
T 713-292-0313 or 800 392-4340 ext. 1313
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Going for the Girl Scout Silver Award

Have you ever looked around your neighborhood or school and wondered how you could make a change for the better? Going for the Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn—gives you the chance to show that you are a leader who is organized, determined, and dedicated to improving your community. Earning the award puts you among an exceptional group of girls who have used their knowledge and leadership skills to make a difference in the world.

It's important to keep accurate records, documenting your work. So let's talk about being organized. You will want to purchase a 3 ring binder and a set of 10 dividers (one section for each of the steps). Within the binder you will also want to keep a complete copy of this Girl Scout Silver Award Information Packet.

All paperwork must be submitted and completed by the end of your last membership year of Cadettes, which is by September 30th following your 8th-grade year. To ensure that your Take Action Project meets the required guidelines for the Girl Scout Silver Award, it is recommended that The Girl Scout Silver Award Project Intent form be submitted to GSSJC after you have begun STEP 7 and made a plan for your project. Within 3 weeks of submitting your plan you will receive a Project Confirmation form. Once you have received the form, you may put your plan into motion. The Final Report should be submitted to Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council in order to obtain the Silver Award Pin. Troop Advisors are responsible for purchasing the Girl Scout Silver Award Pin from the Council shop. Parents may purchase the pin for Girl Scout Cadettes who are registered as Juliettes.

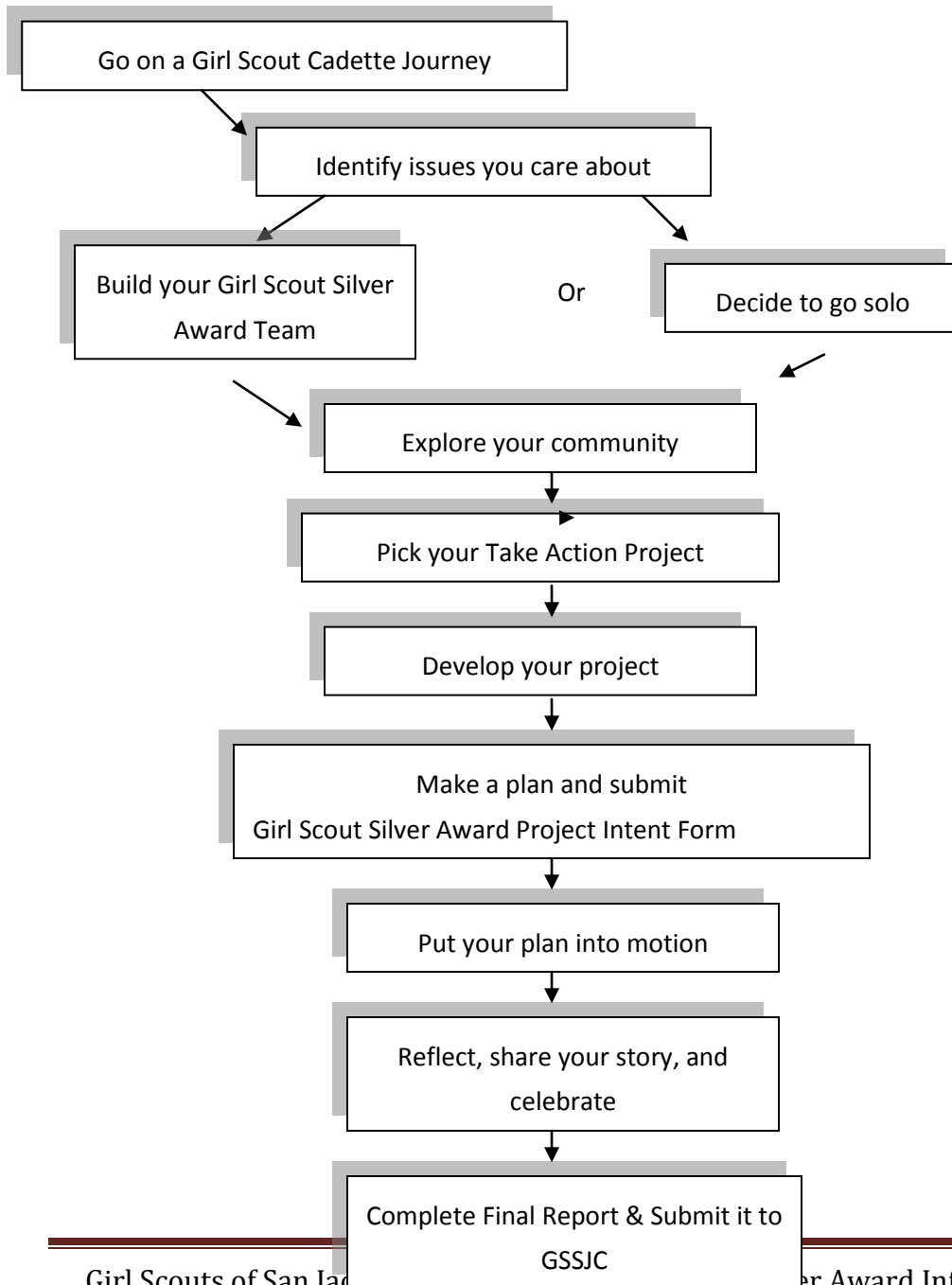
Girl Scout Silver Award Information Packet/ forms can be obtained in three ways:

1. Downloading from the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council website
www.gssjc.org/forms/F-484.pdf
2. Requesting a packet at
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council
3110 Southwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77098
silveraward@sjgs.org
3. Calling for a packet at 713 292-0313 or 800 392-4340 ext.1313

Girl Scout Silver Award Blueprint

Designed by the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, and adapted with permission.

Start Here



*Remember that your project **must** meet a need in the community outside of Girl Scouting.*

Blueprint steps are explained fully in the following pages (6 thru 15)

Girl Scout Silver Award Guidelines

Once you complete your journey, the suggested minimum time for earning your Girl Scout Silver Award is 50 hours. These suggested hours are a guide. You can start by planning the time in chunks, and dividing it up by the activities listed on the following pages in steps 2 through 8.

As a Girl Scout, you are committed to doing your very best with each step, but how much time per step is different for every Girl Scout, so the hours aren't a rule. Remember, too, that the hours include the fun and challenges you'll share with your Silver Award team. Each step you take toward making a difference in the world around you gives you a great chance to learn and grow, and that will make your award project an amazing one!

Step 1: Go on a Girl Scout Cadette Journey

The first requirement for earning your Girl Scout Silver Award is completing one Cadette Journey. Choose either “Amaze” (part of the *It's Your World—Change It!* Series) or “Breathe” (from the *It's Your Planet—Love It!* Series). This important step helps you build the skills you need to take on your award project and understand how to show leadership through the discover, connect, and take action keys.

Once you've finished your Journey, celebrate your accomplishment and get ready to move forward toward your goal: earning a Girl Scout Silver Award! (**Tip:** Keep your Journey handy as you work toward your award—you might find yourself going back to it for ideas.)

Step 2: Identify Issues You Care About

To solve any problem, you must first identify it. Start by asking yourself what matters most to you.

- Do you find yourself reading articles about endangered species?
- Do you worry about where homeless children sleep at night?
- Do you wish that younger students had a cheerful place to stay after school while waiting for their parents to pick them up?

If so, what connections can you make between the issues that you care about and the issues in your own community?

Start by jotting down some issues that concern you in the following Issues Chart. You're not choosing your project yet, just tuning in to the topics you care about.

Issues Chart

Issues That Concern You	Why Is It Important to You?	How Does This Issue Affect Your Community?

Step 3: Build Your Girl Scout Silver Award Team

There are two ways to earn your Girl Scout Silver Award. You can share leadership responsibilities with a small team of three to four girls, or you can create and implement your own project.

- **Small team model:** The girls you work with can be Girl Scouts, non-Girl Scouts, or a combination of both. If the other Girl Scout Cadettes on your team also wish to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award, each girl must play an active role in choosing, planning, and developing the team's Take Action project. Keeping your team small ensures that everyone can participate fully. You and your team will also partner with others in the community to complete your project.
- **Solo model:** You can create and implement a project on your own. However, if you choose the solo option, you will still want to partner with others in your community (friends, neighbors, and

business owners) in order to complete your project and earn your award. After all, leaders like you know how to team up with others, even when they're in charge.

If you've decided to work independently, you can skip to step 4. If you're working with other Girl Scout Cadettes who also wish to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award, use the following tips to create a great team.

Build a team whose members all commit to:

- Respecting different points of view and ways of work
- Contributing to the project—everyone needs to help out!
- Accepting constructive suggestions
- Working together to create and develop a plan
- Resolving conflicts

Team members don't always agree, but leaders know how to help others get along. When disagreements arise, remember:

- To be considerate and respectful of your fellow teammates
- To be a sister to every Girl Scout on your team
- That cooperation is very important when working with others

After you've built your team, hold your first meeting! If you don't know each other well—or even if you do!—play a team game to get better acquainted. Spend some time discussing what makes a great team and how you'd like your team to work together. Write everyone's suggestions on a large piece of paper and post that paper on the wall every time you have team meetings. Before the end of your first meeting, discuss how often you want to get together and where you'll meet.

Step 4: Explore Your Community

Now that you have begun to think about issues that concern you, it's time to do some exploring to find out what your community needs are and where your areas of interest and the community needs may overlap.

Communities are groups of people who have something in common. You belong to many communities. Your school is a community, for example. So is your math class or your debate team. Even kids who ride the same bus every day are a community. Other communities include your neighborhood, your place of worship, your town, and so on. Think about what communities you belong to.

After you've listed your communities, think of ways to "map" them. A community map is a drawing that shows the community's needs and resources, including contacts who might help you when you start working on your Take Action project. Use the blank space on page 25 to draw your map.

The key to making a community map is *observation*. Because a community is made up of people, you'll be looking for what people *need*—that is, what will improve their lives, help them out, or make them happier. To get started, try walking through your school, biking around your neighborhood, or taking a bus ride through your town. During the course of your travels, you'll naturally see different aspects of your community as you shop at stores, gather at your Girl Scout meeting place, and go to school, and so on.

You can also visit places (such as the library, town hall, or community center; or your church, synagogue, or mosque) where there are people and resources that can help you identify community needs. You might even attend one or more town meetings to find out what concerns people in your area.

Continue to draw your map by writing down the things you see that could be improved or places where your special talents and skills could be used. (**Tip:** Go back to your Journey(s) for more ideas about spotting community needs.) When you meet people who might be able to help you with your project, jot down their names and contact information in the following Community Contact List.

Community Contact List

Community Contact	Organization	Contact Information	How They Can Help

Now it's time to talk to people to get in-depth information about community issues. As you conduct interviews, you'll improve your communication skills, begin to see how your time and talents can make an impact, and build a network of contacts you may need when you do your Take Action project.

Start by talking to people you know, such as neighbors or teachers, and then asking them to introduce you to other people in your community, such as business owners, neighbors, teachers or school officials,

religious leaders, council members, police officers, and staff members at community centers.

Note: Always be safe when you talk to new people! Discuss safety tips with your troop/group advisor and family, and always go with a friend or team member. Also, before going online, remember to take the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge at www.girlscouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp. And of course never give out your address or any other personal information when you're on the Internet.

Prepare your questions ahead of time so you can use your interview time wisely. Here are some questions to get you started:

- I'm interested in doing a project that will help the community. What are some of the issues affecting our community? Do you know about how people have tried to work on these issues in the past? What worked? What didn't work?
- Can you suggest a project I could do to address one of these issues?

Step 5: Pick Your Take Action Project

You've come a long way to get to this point! Now that you've thought about the issues you care about and explored your community, it's time to choose a project based on what you've learned.

Before you pick your project:

- Review your Issues Chart, Community Contact List, Community Map, and interview notes. If you are working with a team, do this together, of course! If you are on your own, pull a few people together (such as your troop/group advisor, friends, sisters or brothers, a teacher, and so on) to help you sort through all you have gathered.
- Choose a project based on what matters most to you or where you think you can create some positive change. If you have a hard time deciding, write a pro/con list for each choice. If you are working on this part solo, ask your troop/group advisor for help.
- Many issues are big and complicated—and hard to fix! It might be a good idea to narrow your focus. Pick just one aspect of your issue, and then develop a solution to that specific problem. (Imagine focusing a camera lens in order to get a clear picture. The process of focusing an idea so that it's simple and clear is just like that.)
- Remember, you can always go back to your Journeys for project ideas and examples.

After you've chosen your project, make sure everyone is clear about what you want to do and why. As a team, answer these questions:

- What is our project?
- Why does it matter?
- Who will it help?

Think about the following:

- Which of your leadership skills do you think you'll use as you work on your Take Action project?
- How will these skills help you better understand who you are and what you can do?
- How will you live the Girl Scout Promise and Law while earning your Girl Scout Silver Award?

Step 6: Develop Your Project

Now that you've chosen a project, it's time to make a plan.

Before You Start

The following questions will help you think through your project before you get started:

- What steps do we need to take to reach our goal?
- What special talents can each girl use to help make the project a success?
- What did we learn when we earned our Girl Scout Cadette Journey awards that will help us make sure this project runs smoothly?
- Do we know enough to get started or do we need more background information? Where can we get that information?
- Which groups or organizations can we work with? Who can we ask for help?
- How can we get other people involved?
- What supplies will we need?
- How will we earn money for our project, if necessary? Your troop advisor can help you come up with money-earning ideas that follow Girl Scout policies. You can also ask for donations—for example, if you want to create a mural, the owner of the local hardware store may give you paint. And remember, your time and talents are often more important than money. For example, one girl was worried about food waste at her school. She could have raised money to buy compost bins. Instead, she used her advocacy skills to persuade school and town officials to set up a composting system. So be creative! You may realize you don't need that much money after all.
- How much time do we need to finish our project? Is that timeline realistic?

Make It Last

You'll be investing a lot of yourself in your project, so of course you'll want to develop it in such a way that it keeps going even after you're done. After all, this is a chance for you to make your mark in your community!

For example, if you think the kids at your local elementary school need more interesting stuff to do at recess, you might plan a week of special activities. But then what? Well, how about planning team games that the fourth-graders can do with the second-graders all the time! Your Take Action project keeps going and going and going. . . .

Remember to keep it simple! A clear, focused, and well-thought-out plan can often be more sustainable than taking on a huge project. Here are some examples of Take Action projects that will last:

Take Action Project #1

Problem: Kids can't walk to school safely because there aren't any sidewalks.

Root cause: Lack of planning when the roads were built.

Solution with long-term impact: Create a petition asking that a sidewalk be built, get local residents to sign it, and present it to the city council.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Once the sidewalk is built, it will be in place for years, offering a safe route for future generations.
- You may need to encourage kids to change their habits and walk—that can be a fun group activity.

Take Action Project #2

Problem: Children in homeless shelters often struggle in school.

Root cause: Lack of stability and family resources, both financial and emotional.

Solution with long-term impact: Work with a local homeless shelter and school to establish an ongoing tutoring program that matches student volunteers with children in the shelter.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Work with the school and shelter to find adult staff members who will continue to coordinate the program.
- Establish a transition tradition, such as an end-of-school-year party, where potential new student volunteers can meet current volunteers and people in the homeless shelter.

Find a Project Advisor

Your project advisor is an expert who can answer specific questions about your issue. Look at your list of the people you met while researching issues. Is there someone who can serve as a project advisor? If you have not yet met anyone who is familiar with your issue, talk to your troop advisor. She or he might be able to help you identify experts in your community.

Make a Global Connection

Think about others who may have worked on the same problem in the past, or check the Internet to see how others around the globe deal with your issue. What can you learn from their approach? Consider how you may be able to extend the reach of your project into other communities besides your own. Are there ways to share your plan with other communities who are facing the same issue? Can you create a plan that other people could use to replicate your project in their own communities?

Take One Last Look

By this point, you're probably anxious to get started. But before you get going, take a step back and look at your project one more time. You may need to narrow your focus a bit more or shift your approach slightly in order to make the project work. That's okay! Taking some time to fine-tune your project now will make it easier to actually get it done.

Ask other people for feedback, especially your troop advisor. She or he will make sure your project idea is complete and meets all the requirements for a Girl Scout Silver Award Take Action project.

Even though you've done a lot of work already, remember to be open to new ideas and suggestions. You may need to rethink certain parts of your project idea, but this will help you refine your project and make it better. Once your project idea meets the requirements, you'll be ready to get started!

Step 7: Make a Plan and Put It into Motion

It's time to get started! Your project needs to involve action by you and your Silver Award Team (if you have one), from the planning stages all the way to earning the Girl Scout Silver Award.

Build a list of what you need to do and how it can be done, and then figure out who will be doing what. Remember that you're a team, so one or more girls can volunteer for each task. Also decide when each task needs to be finished. Then write all the information in a Make a Plan chart like the one that follows.

Make a Plan

What Is the Task?	Who Will Do It?	How Will the Task Be Done?	When Will It Be Done?
<i>Research how a petition is presented to the city council.</i>	<i>Monique</i>	<i>Talk to a council member or the mayor</i>	<i>September 7</i>

When your steps are identified and your plan is set . . . it's time to complete and submit to GSSJC the Girl Scout Silver Award Intent form. This step is highly recommended. It allows you to provide details of your planned money-earning activities, use of Girl Scout property, etc. This allows GSSJC the opportunity to confirm that your Silver Award Take Action Project meets the guidelines set by GSUSA and GSSJC, so you may confidently put your plan into action. You can expect a response within 3 weeks from the date of submitting. This time frame also applies to those forms submitted in person. Please allow for this time in your overall project schedule - you should not begin your Project until you receive the Project Confirmation form from the Silver Award Review Committee.

The Project Confirmation form must be attached to your Final Project Report in order to purchase your Silver Award Pin. Once you have received the Confirmation form... it's time to put your Take Action Project in motion! Keep a record as you go by taking photos, shooting video, or making a scrapbook. Not only will it make it easier to share your story when you're finished, but it's lots of fun!

Step 8: Reflect, Share Your Story, and Celebrate

Congratulations, you have completed a project that makes a difference! Take some time to reflect on what you have accomplished. These questions may get you started:

- What did you **discover** about yourself?
- How did you **connect** with your local and global communities? Who do you know now that you didn't know before?
- What did you learn from others who worked to solve the same problem?
- How did that help you make your project better?
- What skills did you gain (such as public speaking, team building, advocacy, blogging, and so on) that help you as a person and a leader?
- What impact did your **Take Action** project have on your community? How will it go on past your involvement?
- How did you live the Girl Scout Promise and Law?

Demonstrating to an audience what you have learned sets the stage for even broader impact, and is sometimes the best way for you to recognize what you have accomplished and see how much you have

grown. It will also help you get others inspired to act!

Here are some ideas for how you can share your story:

- Create a web-site or blog about what you have learned and how your project will help your community.
- Log on to some web-sites where you can share your story:
 - **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts:** www.waggs.org/en/projects
 - **Taking It Global:** www.tigweb.org
 - **Global Youth Service Day:** www.globalyouthserviceday.org
- At a workshop for community members, present what you have learned and what your project will do for the community. Or do a presentation for a group of younger Girl Scouts—you will definitely inspire them!
- Make a video about your project and post it online, if appropriate. Invite friends, community leaders, and people from organizations that are tackling a similar issue to watch and share your video with others.
- Write an essay or an article for your local or school newspaper. Also submit an article to the GSSJC Communications Department for publication in the *Golden Link*.

As you wind down your project, remember to thank all the people who helped you along the way, from the people you interviewed to those who drove you around town! Not only is this good manners, but also an inspiration to people when they hear what you've done—and they'll be proud to know they helped make it happen.

Now celebrate your accomplishment! You took the challenge and made a difference in your world!

Money and the Girl Scout Silver Award

As a girl member of Girl Scouts working toward your Silver Award, GSSJC allows you to ask for money, materials, or services to support your project. Find creative ways to enhance your request, such as designing a PowerPoint presentation, writing a letter, or creating a photo display.

All money earning activities and prospective donations (money or in-kind) benefiting or supporting your Silver Award Project must be detailed on the Girl Scout Silver Award Money Earning Activity/ In-Kind Donation Request form (page 31 of this information packet). These completed forms should be submitted with your Silver Award Intent form. Please note you must receive Confirmation prior to accepting a donation or contribution.

Activities Involving Money

“Group money earning” refers to activities following a planned budget and carried out by girls and adults, in partnership, to earn money for the group treasury. “Council-sponsored product sale activities” are council-wide sales of authorized products, such as Girl Scout Cookies or Fall Product Sales, in which groups participate. The funds are for Girl Scout activities and are not to be retained by individuals as their property.

Girls’ participation in group money-earning projects or council-sponsored product sale activities is based on the following:

- Voluntary participation
- Written permission of a parent or guardian
- Council guidelines
- An understanding of and ability to interpret to others why the money is needed
- Correct business procedures
- Observance of local ordinances related to involvement of children in money-earning activities
- Adherence to guidelines for personal protection
- Planned arrangements for safeguarding the money

Group Money-Earning Activities

Money-earning activities are valuable program activities for girls.

Group leaders obtain written approval from their council before starting a group money-earning project. Money-earning activities may not be conducted on the Internet. The number of money-earning projects may not exceed the amount of money needed to support group activities. The group determines the amount to be raised by preparing a group budget. Group money-earning activities need to be suited to the ages and abilities of the girls and consistent with the goals and principles of Girl Scout program. Review all procedures and equipment used to ensure that the activity is environmentally sound and the equipment is safe for girls to use. Some examples include making items and selling them; washing cars; dances for families; providing a gift-wrapping service; recycling beverage cans; working at special events in the community.

Obtain the permission of a parent or guardian and make sure adults are present at all times when girls participate in money-earning activities outside their group meeting place.

Fund Raising for Other Organizations

Girl Scouts, in their Girl Scout capacities, may not solicit money for other organizations. Girl members may support other organizations through service projects or a donation from their group treasury.

Some examples of suitable service projects to support other organizations include stuffing envelopes, delivering informational pamphlets to businesses, helping to organize and catalog books for a library book sale, serving as aides, or providing record-keeping assistance.

Money-Earning Activities

Suggested activities

- Pet sitting, dog wash, or walking service
- Car wash
- Yard sale
- Auction
- Raking leaves, shoveling walks, weeding gardens
- Babysitting at Town Meeting, Service Unit meeting, school meeting, or other public places
- Delivery service
- Birthday party service
- Ironing or laundry service
- Collect and redeem recyclable materials
- Put on a play, fashion show, talent show, karaoke night, family dance, game night, or costume party
- Conduct classes for younger children in crafts, bike repair, sports clinics
- Craft sale
- Holiday gift-wrapping
- House cleaning service

Not Appropriate

- Games of chance, raffles
- Casino nights
- Home demonstration parties
- Receiving a percentage of sales from a business during a specific time frame
- "A-thons" (walk-a-thon, bike-a-thon, etc.)
- Selling baked goods or food items.

Questions about appropriate money-earning activities should be directed to:

George Ann Barrett
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council
3110 Southwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77098
T 713 292-0313 or 800 392-4340 ext. 1313
F713 292-0330
gbarrett@sigs.org
silveraward@sigs.org



Girl Scout Silver Award Project Intent Form
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council

Please type or print in black ink (use additional sheets if necessary). Make a copy of this completed form for your records. Once you have received the Project Confirmation Form from the committee, you may begin your project. **(Remember to allow three weeks for your confirmation form to be received).** You will submit the Project Confirmation Form with your final report.

Contact Information

Name: _____ Date submitted: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____
Grade: _____ School: _____
Troop/Group Number: _____ Troop/Group Advisor: _____
Troop/Group Advisor's Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____
Girl Scout Silver Award Project Advisor: _____
Project Advisor's Organization: _____
Project Advisor's Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Take Action Project

Give a brief description of your project: _____

I plan to begin my project on (date): _____ Target completion date: _____

Please answer all of the questions below. Additional pages may be attached if necessary.

I want to do a Money Earning Activity (MEA) to pay for my project. Yes _____ No _____ *(Remember that*

you must have participated in the GSSJC Fall Product Sale and Cookie Sale to request this approval).

If yes, please explain fully below. **You will also need to complete and submit the GSSJC Money-Earning Activities/Donation Request Form (F-30) with this Intent Form. (See page 31 of this information packet.)**

I need to use a Council camp or other Girl Scout property. Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please explain fully below.

My project will involve Girl Scouts. Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please explain fully below.

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Mail completed form to: Silver Award Project Review Committee
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council -- 3110 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098
(or email to silveraward@sjgs.org)**

You can expect an answer within 3 weeks from the date you submit your form. Your response will be received by email. Please print a copy of your email confirmation and save with your Silver Award paperwork.

Committee Use Only:

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Confirmation sent on: _____



Girl Scout Silver Award Final Report Form
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council

Please type or print in black ink (use additional sheets if necessary). Submit the original completed form to your council shop. When you submit your final report, please include the project confirmation form, copies of any written material, documentation, photographs (digital preferred), or evaluations that were part of your project. Make copies of your Girl Scout Silver Award final project report for your troop advisor and you to keep.

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

Troop/Group Number: _____ Troop/Group Advisor: _____

Troop/Group Advisor's Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Girl Scout Silver Award Project Advisor: _____

Project Advisor's Organization: _____

Project Advisor's Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Prerequisites: One Cadette Journey book. List the one Journey that you have completed along with your troop/group advisor signature.

Cadette Journey Book	Date Completed	Troop/Group Advisor Signature

Your Team: List the names of individuals and organizations that worked with you on your Take Action Project.

Team members	Affiliation	Role

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Attach the Project Confirmation form you received from the GSSJC Silver Award Project Review Committee before you began your project. If you have misplaced the letter, please contact the Girl Scout office at 713-292-0313 or send an e-mail to silveraward@sjgs.org.

Take Action Project

Project Title: _____ Start Date: ____ Completion Date: _____ Total Hours: ____

A. Describe the issue your project addressed, what impact you had hoped to make, and who benefited.

B. What was the root cause of the issue? How did you address it?

C. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?

D. Explain the national and/or global link to your project.

E. Describe any obstacles you encountered and what you did to overcome them.

F. Describe what steps you took to inspire others through sharing your project. (Web-site, blog, presentations, posters, videos, articles, and so on). _____

G. Describe what you learned from this project including leadership skills you developed. What did you learn about yourself as a result of this project?

H. What was the most successful aspect of your project?



I. What aspects of your project would you change or do differently if you could start over?

Possible Future Impact

How do you think your leadership skills will grow in the future because of this project?

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return this three-page form AND your Girl Scout Silver Award Review Committee Confirmation Form to one of the Girl Scout Shops in San Jacinto Council when you have completed all of the requirements. You will be allowed to purchase the Girl Scout Silver Award pin when you turn in this paperwork.

Office Use Only:	
Received by: _____	Date: _____
Shop: _____ Forward to the Program Department	



My Silver Award Community Map



Girl Scout Silver Award Project – FAQs

Q. What is a Girl Scout Silver Award Project?

The Silver Award Project is a community service project created, planned and implemented by a Girl Scout Cadette. It is her chance to put into action the leadership skills and other things she has learned and her chance to change something and to make a difference in the world, even if it may seem like a very small difference. Its focus should be on addressing an issue in the community, NOT Girl Scouting.

Q. Why are journeys prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award?

The journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their Silver Award Take Action projects.

Q. How do girls know when a journey is "completed"?

A journey is completed when a girl has earned the journey awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

Q. What makes the awards' guidelines different from the journeys?

In contrast to journey Take Action projects, which give girls themes on which to base their journey Take Action project, the Girl Scout Silver Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. Girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action project.

Q. What are the suggested hours for earning The Girl Scout Silver award?

Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. 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 suggested number of hours is a minimum 50 hours for The Silver Award.

Q. What is happening with the prerequisites for the awards (i.e. the signs, interest patches, and career and leadership awards)?

Girls can continue to earn these awards, and should be encouraged to do so. However, the awards will no longer be prerequisites for the Silver Award under the new guidelines.

Q. What is the transition timeline?

There is a two-year transition period. Girls will have until September 30, 2011 to transition to the new guidelines. The guidelines will become official on October 1, 2011 (beginning of the 2012 membership year). If a girl starts working on the award in 2011 and the majority of work will be done during the 2012 membership year, the new guidelines should be used.

Silver Award FAQs continued

Q. Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) from one Girl Scout level to the next?

Yes. Girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer.

Q. Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

No. The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are done to the best of a girl's ability. There is no need to have special requirements for girls with disabilities — encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors who can work with the girl individually.

Q. Can the girls do a project with other girls wanting to earn the Silver Award?

Yes, but it is difficult to have a project that would allow each girl to contribute an independent 50 hours. Each girl must have specific responsibilities, and each girl should plan to spend the suggested minimum of 50 hours. These hours cannot include sitting around while someone else is doing her part. Each girl must also complete a separate Silver Award Project Intent Form (GSSJC F-485) and a separate Silver Award Final Report Form (GSSJC F-486). See information regarding the Small team model page 7 of this packet. Small teams can have a ***maximum of 4 members***.

Q. Can others help a girl with her project?

Yes, girls are encouraged to use their leadership skills to enlist and direct others to help them complete their project. However, the Silver Project is a girl's own, and each step of planning and implementing it is her responsibility.

Q. Does each girl need an adult involved?

Yes. Encourage the girls to use resource people whose knowledge or careers can make their Silver Award the best that it can be. You as troop advisor can act as a girl's Silver Award Advisor. Juliettes (individual members of Girl Scouts in-grades 6,

7 & 8) should ask their Service Unit Juliette Coordinator or the Program Department at GSSJC to help them find an advisor for the process.

Q. The girls really want to help raise money for our local hospital, because someone in our troop is sick. Can they do this?

No. Girls must follow national and council guidelines for fundraising. According to GSUSA policy, girls and adults (in their roles as Girl Scouts) are not allowed to raise money for other organizations. They can, however, volunteer for those organizations. For example: instead of walking in a walk-a-thon, girls could volunteer to help with registration or first aid.

Silver Award FAQs continued

Girls can conduct money-earning activities in order to have the monies necessary for troop / group activities, trips, and special projects such as their Silver Awards. It is really important that girls clear any money earning plans with the Council. All planned money earning activities should be listed on the Project Intent form and submitted to Council prior to implementing.

Q. Do the girls need to submit a plan to the council for approval?

Yes and no. Girls should submit a Project Intent form prior to putting their project in motion, providing details of their planned money-earning activities, use of Girl Scout property, etc. The troop advisor, however, gives approval to the CONTENT of a Girl Scout Silver Award project.

Q. How does a girl get money to do her project?

First, let's be clear: most Silver Award Projects cost nothing or very little. Before a girl begins her project, she should complete a budget for the project and have it approved by you as the troop advisor. She may need to do extra money earning activities; these activities must be approved by the Council by using GSSJC Form F-30. She may wish to ask the troop for some of its funds, but be sure she understands that the girls' decision may be "no" for a variety of reasons and not to take it personally. She cannot ask the community directly for any funds, nor can she request any donations from any businesses without getting approval first from the council office. BUT she can certainly earn the money needed on her own, by babysitting or any other parent-approved route. She *cannot*, however, advertise her services for payment in the community by saying she's trying to earn money as a Girl Scout for a project—that's considered using the Girl Scout name and is a very big "no-no."

Q. How can we assure that a girl's project will be safe for the participants?

First of all, the girl and you will need to carefully review *safety guidelines*. If you as troop advisor have any further concerns, e-mail your question to silveraward@sigs.org.

Q. The place a girl has chosen to do her project requires her or an adult to sign a contract. What do we do?

Your only option is to brainstorm with the girl for an alternative site where no contract is required, because only the CEO of GSSJC or her designee can approve/sign a contract.

Silver Award FAQs continued

Q: Help! I can't think of a Silver Award Project! What should I do?

Try using the “creative thinking” techniques described below:

Creative thinking

The traditional or “old” approach is to brainstorm, trying to **suck** ideas from your head. It uses the brain as the primary source of ideas as if it were a library.

A different approach is to use outside **stimuli** to tap unexplored corners of your imagination and make it fun!

Newsstand

This tool uses newspapers, magazines, and radio and TV news outlets to open your mind through current events and trends, and through the eyes of the media.

1. Just browse through a heap of magazines and newspapers and allow your mind to fill with images, statements, thoughts. The jumbled result can produce brand new connections.
2. Use magazines with lots of photographs and which are at least tied in to a limited extent with your task in hand.
3. Write captions, titles, names, brief descriptions as they begin to flow from your brain.
4. Attach sticky notes to the various magazine photos, or newspaper captions, as the ideas come to you.
5. Spread the photos & sticky notes across the floor and start borrowing and swapping even more ideas.

Hitchhiking

This tool for creative thinking involves hitchhiking on other people's ideas and imaginations.

1. Find ordinary, commonsense people who are unaware of the preconceptions, laws, and facts surrounding your problem—friends, teachers, coaches, anyone you know.
2. Ask for an off-the-top-of-the-head commonsense answer.
3. Write down all their ideas – put each one on an index card.
4. Post the index cards around your room. Study them for a week; jot down any random thoughts you have about each one.
5. At the end of the week, gather up the index cards and study each one, eliminating

those that have no interest.

6. With the cards you have left set aside some time to do some "what if?" questioning for each ("If I chose this, what would be the result?")

Portions adapted from "Creative Thinking: 3 Brain Programs"

<http://www.about-goal-setting.com/creative-thinking.html>

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guide.



Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council

Girl Scout Silver Award MONEY-EARNING ACTIVITY/ IN -KIND DONATION Request Form

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City/ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Money earning activity (where and what): _____

Date planned: _____ Dollars goal: \$ _____

Total Amount Needed for Silver Award Project: \$ _____

COMPLETE BUDGET FOR SILVER AWARD PROJECT

	Income	Expenses
Donations from Troop or Service Unit	\$ _____	
Donations from parents or family	\$ _____	
Non-solicited donations from the public	\$ _____	

Supplies need for project:

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

TOTAL INCOME: \$ _____ TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ _____

Girl signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Committee Use Only	
Approval Given	Approval Declined
Date _____	
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