



# The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Adults

## *What is the Gold Award?*

The Gold Award is the highest award that Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn. It has a rich history of recognizing extraordinary efforts by extraordinary girls. To become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a girl identifies an issue she cares about, then plans and carries out a project to address it, which will have a lasting impact in her community and beyond.

## *What are the prerequisites?*

Girls must be registered Senior or Ambassador Girl Scouts. Before beginning her application, a Girl Scout must have completed two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or have completed one Senior or Ambassador Journey and have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award.

## *How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?*

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from Girl Scouts. The timeline is designed by each individual Girl Scout. A project might be completed over the course of a summer—or in the span of a year or more.

## *What should Girl Scouts consider in their decision to become a Gold Award Girl Scout?*

They should consider the time commitment and decide for themselves whether they truly want to take it on. The decision to do so should be a girl's own.

## *Who else is involved in a Girl Scout's Gold Award project?*

Girl Scouts select a project advisor, who is an adult expert on their chosen issue. (Note: a girl's parent or caregiver can't hold this role.) The project advisor provides advice

and expertise throughout the project. And because the Gold Award emphasizes leadership, Girl Scouts assemble a team of volunteers to help with their project. The volunteer pool is not limited to fellow Girl Scouts and can include anyone.

## *What are helpful ways for parents to support their daughter as she becomes a Gold Award Girl Scout?*

- **Get to know more about the Gold Award**, including the associated council's Gold Award process and its safety, insurance, and travel guidelines. The council's Gold Award page [gssjc.org/goldaward](https://gssjc.org/goldaward) has great resources.
- **Discussing project ideas** with her, to help her identify her passions.
- **Encourage**—but don't pressure.
- **Help her develop a network of contacts** that can provide insight, skills, and resources.
- **Acknowledge that she is capable** and that she can assume leadership and responsibility in her own way.
- **Prompt her to take the lead** in working with her council, project advisor, and team.
- **Let her grow** by working through challenges she encounters along the way.
- **Recognize that her project is as unique as she is**, so don't compare her—or her project—to other girls and their Gold Awards.
- **Be a cheerleader** from the sidelines, and help when asked.
- **Celebrate big-time** as she's honored as a Gold Award Girl Scout!