

# Frequently Asked Questions About the Girl Scout Gold Award

**Q. What is the scope of a Girl Scout Gold Award project?**

A. The Girl Scout Gold Award projects are meant to be more than a service project. Collecting food for a homeless shelter or cleaning up a park can be a wonderful Silver or Bronze project, but the Gold Award must go beyond that. The Girl Scout working toward her Gold Award must choose an issue she cares deeply about and develop a project that will have a positive impact on her community. How can she rally people to care about the environment? How will providing food for the homeless have a lasting impact? Will the project make any inroads in working toward a solution to the issue? How can she, in her own way, influence people to care about the homeless or the environment? Don't dismiss a project idea because it seems too small. Think about what components could be added to enhance the project and turn into a Girl Scout Award Project.

**Q. Can I use my own money on the Girl Scout Gold Award project?**

A. Yes. If you want to use your own money, you can. You may receive help from your family, too. However, we encourage you to work with others to earn the money. That's part of the process. The Gold Award is not meant to be a hardship on a family or an individual. Remember, when designing your project, it's important to think creatively about how you can make a difference with little or no money. Then talk to your Project Advisor, Troop/Group Advisor about ideas for financing the project or arranging for a donation of materials and services. All donations must be approved by council before you ask for them. Call your Staff Liaison for approval for money earning activities.

**Q. Can I ask friends and neighbors for financial help?**

A. You shouldn't ask for donations of money, but you can ask for donations of time and things, such as clothing drive or that pile of bricks left over from your neighbor's back yard project. However, if a neighbor wants to claim donation as a tax deduction, he or she will need to make the donation to the council for IRS purposes and get a receipt signed by the council staff person.

**Q. What if my Girl Scout Award project idea costs too much?**

A. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do. Work with your Project Advisor to develop a reasonable budget for a project. If your resources are not sufficient for you to realistically accomplish your goal, then you need to rethink the project. Planning is the key to a good Girl Scout Gold Award project. You should be prepared with a budget before you submit your project proposal. Think it through and do your homework! Your council has the right to put a cap on spending.

**Q. Is it alright to seek help from other organization?**

A. Yes, with some qualifications. Many service organizations have budgets for community projects. You can use their interest as leverage to support your project and get volunteers to help you - do your research. Even some business give workers time for community service hours and projects. However, remember the rule about having the adult doing the "ask" for actual money or gifts-in-kind, and clearing out joint approach with your local council. (Your council may be asking the same group for a major donation and you don't want to interfere with the council's "ask.") Don't let the organization's agenda drive your vision.

**Q. Can girls registered as an individual member earn the Gold Award?**

A. Any girl who is registered Girl Scout and meets the age and grade requirements can work toward the Girl Scout Gold Award.

**Q. Can a girl earn the Gold Award if she hasn't been a Girl Scout very long?**

A. Yes! She just needs to be a registered Girl Scout and willing to complete the activities required to earn this award.

**Q. I can't raise money as a Girl Scout for other organizations, but can I do it on my own?**

A. As an individual, you can volunteer for other organizations. But you should not identify work you do to raise funds for another organization as part of your time going toward the Girl Scout Gold Award. Additionally, you may present yourself as a Girl Scout to the public in the process since you are

volunteer for another organization. For example: If your local Red Cross needs money to purchase training mannequins, you may participate under their supervision as an individual volunteer to raise funds, but you cannot count that service as part of your time toward any Girl Scout award or service hours. However, you can plan a Girl Scout Award project using the equipment that was purchased as part as your efforts as a volunteer for the organization.

**Q. Is the Girl Scout Award an individual or group project?**

A. The Take Action project is an individual project. Girls are to gather team of individuals who will help her complete her project. Working on a project team is a life-skill.

**Q. Do you have to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award in order to earn the Girl Scout Award?**

A. No. However, it's great foundation for the process. The Silver Award can be used as a pre-requisite to earning the Gold Award.

**Q. Do I need to do the steps in any particular order?**

A. Step 1 must be completed before the project can be started.

**Q. If I did similar activities while earning other Girl Scout awards, can I count these toward my Gold Award?**

A. Yes. If you have completed a Journey at the Senior or Ambassador level, that can be used towards your award as your pre-requisites. If you liked your Journey project and can see a way to expand upon it, you may do so for your Gold Award Take Action project but cannot use any previous hours.

**Q. What is the role of the Gold Award Advisory Panel?**

A. This is a group of volunteers, including past recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, dedicated to helping you succeed. The panel will review the size, scope, and cost of a project and make recommendations to ensure that it is an appropriate Gold Award project. Your individual Project Advisor job is to support you by answering questions you may have about the requirements and project.

**Q. Can I count hours put into planning and researching toward the Gold Award Project?**

A. Yes. All hours spent on the Gold Award can be used.

**Q. If I am 17 and graduating from high school, can I work on my project while in college?**

A. Yes. You have until you turn 18 or September 30 of the year you graduate from high school. Talk with your Project Advisor if you find any deadlines confusing. You don't want to miss out on earning your Gold Award because of missing a deadline.

**Q. If I'm 18 and graduating from high school, do I still have time to complete my project?**

A. Yes. You have until September 30 of the year you graduate to complete your project and submit your final report. Talk to your Project Advisor if you are confused with the deadlines.

**If you have any other questions about the Girl Scout Gold Award  
contact your Teen Leadership Specialist/Staff Liaison to GAAP  
Cristina C. Kirkland at 410.358.9711 Ext 254**

# Do's and Don'ts for Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award

## DO

- Follow all instructions
- Carefully read all information about the Girl Scout Gold Award
- Use Girl Scouts of Central Maryland forms
- Communicate regularly with your Project Advisor
- Type or neatly print your Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Project Proposal and Final Report
- Check spelling and grammar
- Be sure to follow all the deadlines listed in the booklet for submitting your paperwork
- Include as much information as possible in your Project Proposal, Final Report and Log

## DON'T

- Begin your project without the Gold Award Advisory Panel's approval
- Lose your vision and leadership in the course of the project – **you** are the one in charge, even when facilitating the works of others
- Ask for money or donations yourself – work with an adult who may do “the ask” after getting council approval
- Use GSUSA or other council's forms
- Earn the Girl Scout Gold Award for the wrong reasons – it is a personal thing. Earn it if YOU want to; do not let others pressure you to do something YOU don't want to do.

## REMEMBER

*Your project must be approved by  
Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's  
Girl Scout Gold Award Advisory Panel*

*Please do not start the actual project until you have approval*

# Girl Scout Gold Award Proposal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop/Group Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Group Volunteer's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Advisor's Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Advisor's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award Workshop You Attended:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Take Action Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this Project Proposal 8 weeks prior to starting date to:  
Girl Scouts of Central Maryland  
4806 Seton Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
Attn: Girl Scout Gold Award**



# GOLD AWARD TAKE ACTION PROJECT PROPOSED BUDGET

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Take Action Project Title \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENSES:**

Type of expenses

Dollar Amount

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TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Additional expenses can be written on the reverse side of this page.

**INCOME:**

Resources

Projected Income

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TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

## **GOLD AWARD TAKE ACTION PROJECT TROOP/GROUP ADVISOR AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to participate as a Troop/Group Project Advisor  
(Advisor, please print your name)

for the Girl Scout Senior/Girl Scout Ambassador \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Advisor, please print girl's name)

In doing this I will:

- Understand the intent of her Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Discuss the Take Action Project with her.
- Make sure that the project fulfills the goals of GSUSA and maintains *Safety-Wise* standards.
- Sign her Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal/Application.
- Assist her in planning, designing, facilitating and evaluating the project.
- Keep close communication with her, allowing her to take the lead in bringing the project to completion.
- Make myself available for consultation and discussion.
- Advise in the area of my expertise and support the program in its entirety.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troop/Group Advisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troop Number

**GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD TAKE ACTION PROJECT  
PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FOR GIRL PARTICIPATION IN  
THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give my permission for my daughter,  
(Please print your name)

Girl Scout Senior/Girl Scout Ambassador \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in her  
(Please print girl's name)

Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Project.

In giving permission, I will:

- Have knowledge of the scope and intent of her project.
- Lend assistance when requested.
- Know or have met her Project Advisor.
- Provide on-going support for her and her project

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

## **GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD TAKE ACTION PROJECT PROJECT ADVISOR AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to participate as the  
(Please print your name)

Project Advisor for Girl Scout Senior/Girl Scout Ambassador, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print girl's name)

In doing this, I will:

- Understand the intent of her Gold Award Project.
- Discuss her Take Action Project with her.
- Make sure the project fulfills the goals of Girl Scout of the USA and maintains *Safety-Wise* Standards
- Sign her Gold Award Take Action Project Proposal/Application.
- Assists her in planning, designing, facilitating and evaluating the project.
- Keep in close communication with her, but allow her to take the lead in bringing the project to completion.
- Make myself available for consultation and discussion.
- Advise in the area of my expertise and support the program in its entirety.
- Write an end-of-project evaluation relating to the Girl Scout Gold Award Final Project Report.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Project Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advisor's Organization or Background

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

**GOLD AWARD TAKE ACTION PROJECT  
SAFETY-WISE STANDARDS PERTINENT TO MY PROJECT**

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Take Action Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

#	(SAFETY-WISE STANDARDS/SAFETY ACTIVITY CHECKPOINT)	PAGE/S

(Please use additional pages, if needed)



## Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report

Submit the original completed form to: Girl Scouts of Central Maryland  
 4806 Seton Drive  
 Baltimore, MD 21215  
 Attn: Girl Scouts Gold Award

**Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop/Group Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Group Volunteer's Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Advisor's Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Advisor's Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Team members	Affiliation	Role

Girl Scout Gold Award  
**Final Report**  
Biographical information and Picture Guidelines

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School/College: \_\_\_\_\_  
Troop Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Girl Scouting: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scouts Awards: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Summary of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Impact Goals:  
Discover: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Connect: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Take Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Photo requirements:

Personal photo

Color, above shoulder, head shot  
Resolution: 300dpi  
File type: pdf, tiff, jpeg or eps  
File name: last name, fist name

Project photos

Provide two or three pictures of your project.  
Follow the same requirements on personal photo.

## 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes did you develop through your Girl Scout Gold Award Project?

### Discover:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I developed a stronger sense of self.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I developed positive values.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I gained practical life skills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I sought challenges in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I developed critical thinking.

### Connect:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I developed healthy relationship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I promoted cooperation and team building.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I resolved conflicts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I advanced diversity in a multicultural world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I felt more connected to my community, locally and globally.

### Take Action:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I identified community issues/needs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I became a resourceful problem solver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I advocated for myself and others, locally and globally.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I educated and inspired others to act.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I felt empowered to make a difference in the world.





**Girl Scouts Central Maryland**  
 4806 Seton Drive  
 Baltimore, MD 21215-3247  
 T 410 358.9711, 800 492.2521  
 F 410 358.9918  
 www.gscm.org

**PHOTO RELEASE FOR MINORS**

**DATE(S):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTOGRAPHER/PRODUCER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ASSIGNMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNCIL (IF APPROPRIATE):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ACTIVITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, I hereby consent and agree to the following:

- I hereby grant to **Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (GSCM)**, and others working for **GSCM** or on its behalf, and each of its respective licensees, successors and assigns (each a "Releasee"), the irrevocable, royalty-free, perpetual, unlimited right and permission to use, distribute, publish, exhibit, digitize, broadcast, display, modify, create derivative works of, reproduce or otherwise exploit my name, picture, likeness and voice (including any video footage of the same) (collectively, "Media"), or to refrain from so doing, anywhere in the world, by any persons or entities deemed appropriate by **Girl Scouts of Central Maryland**, for any purpose (except defamatory) including, without limitation, any use for educational, advertising, non-commercial or commercial purposes in any manner or media whatsoever (whether known or hereafter devised) including, without limitation, on the internet, in print campaigns, in-store and via television. I agree that I have no interest or ownership in any of the Media.
- I shall have no right of approval, no claim to compensation and no claim (including, without limitation, claims based upon invasion of privacy, defamation or right of publicity) arising out of any use, alteration, blurring, illusionary effect or use in any composite form of my name, picture, likeness and voice. I agree that nothing in this Release will create any obligation on GSUSA to make any use of the Media or the rights granted in this Release. I hereby release and hold harmless Releasees from any claim for injury, compensation or negligence resulting or arising from any activities authorized by this Release and any use of the Media by **Girl Scouts of Central Maryland**.

NAME OF MINOR (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL PHONE (optional) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Release for Minors (those under the age of eighteen): I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of the minor, hereby consent to the foregoing conditions and warrant that I have the authority to give such consent.

NAME OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (REQUIRED):** \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN EMAIL ADDRESS\*: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\*will not be used for any other purposes or distributed to third parties)

**Any revisions to the text of this Release must be approved in writing by Girl Scouts of Central Maryland prior to the activity in order for the changes to be effective.**

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED AND SIGNED RELEASE TO GSCM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS