

Table of Contents

Gold Award Overview-----	2
Gold Award Pre Requisites-----	2
Important Deadlines-----	2
Gold Award Checklist-----	3
Parent/Guardian: What is your role? -----	4
Troop Leader: What is your role?-----	4
Gold Award Project Advisor: What is their role?-----	5
Gold Award Committee: What is their role?-----	5
Gold Award Standards of Excellence and Project Examples-----	6-8
Project Red Flags-----	9
Key Elements of Your Gold Award Project: Sustainability, Measurability and the Root Cause-----	10
SMART Goals: What are they?-----	11
Establishing a National and/or Global Link-----	12
GoGold-----	12
Project Hours Breakdown-----	13
Financing Your Gold Award Project-----	14
Gold Award Project Proposal Rubric-----	16-17
GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship-----	18
Project Advisor Agreement Form-----	19



Gold Award Overview

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador can earn. Gold Award Girl Scouts will demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable Take Action projects that have a sustainable impact in their communities and beyond.

What are the benefits of earning the Gold Award?

- ✓ Higher Education/Career:
 - Distinguish yourself for college essays and job resumes
 - Earn college scholarships
 - You are entitled to enlist at a higher pay grade if you join the military
 - Be recognized as part of an elite network of Gold Award Girl Scouts
- ✓ Life Skills
 - Be a role model to girls
 - Empower yourself to lead
 - Learn how to complete applications, stick to deadlines and time management
- ✓ Community
 - Tackle an issue; locally, regionally, nationally or globally
 - Learn to provide a sustainable solution
 - Establish a lifetime network of peers and advisors

Pre-requisites

- ✓ Be in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades
- ✓ Be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador
- ✓ Have completed two Senior or Ambassador* Journeys OR have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award and completed one Senior or Ambassador Journey

*Girl Scout Seniors complete Senior Journeys and Girl Scout Ambassadors complete Ambassador Journeys.

Important Deadlines

Project Proposal

- If you are a graduating senior, you must submit your project proposal through GoGold by May 1st of your senior year to allow time for your proposal to be approved and complete your project.

Final Report

- September 30th of the year you graduate from high school, or turn 18, whichever ever allows you the most time.

National Gold Award Girl Scout recognition

- To be considered for nomination by GSMW for the National Gold Award Girl Scout, your final report must be submitted to GSMW through GoGold by March 20th.

Gold Award FAQ

Do I need to submit a project proposal for approval?

Yes!

Please submit your proposal online through GoGold. You will hear from the Gold Award Committee in about 2 weeks however allow 4-6 weeks for the approval process.

GOLD AWARD CHECKLIST

- ❑ **Step 1:** Complete the pre-requisites. Earn two Senior/Ambassador Journeys including the Take Action Project OR earn the Girl Scout Silver Award and one Senior/Ambassador Journey including the Take Action Project.
- ❑ **Step 2:** Read the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit and [GSUSA Gold Award Girl Guidelines](#) and watch the [GSMW Gold Award training video](#). When you are ready take the [GSMW Gold Award Quiz](#). These are all found at www.gsmw.org. Please have your Troop Leader and Parent/Guardian read the [GSUSA Gold Award Adult Guide](#) and GSMW Gold Award Toolkit as well as watch the [GSMW Gold Award training video](#). Questions? Please email customercare@gsmw.org or call 1-800-736-5243.
- ❑ **Step 3:** Research and brainstorm project ideas. You can create a GoGold account even if you don't have a project idea. GoGold steps 1 and 2 can be used to brainstorm and mind map topic/issue ideas.
- ❑ **Step 4:** Find a Project Advisor, choosing someone who is an expert on your issue. The Project Advisor cannot be a parent/guardian or Troop Leader. Please give your Project Advisor copies of the [GSMW Gold Award Toolkit](#), [GSUSA Gold Award Adult Guidelines](#), the link to the [GSMW Gold Award training video](#) and Project Advisor Agreement form (p. 16).
- ❑ **Step 5:** Complete your project proposal, adhering to the May 1st deadline if you are a graduating senior, through GoGold online at www.girlscouts.org/gogoldonline. The Gold Award Committee will initially respond in about 2 weeks however please allow 4-6 weeks for the entire approval process.
- ❑ **Step 6:** Respond to all of the Gold Award Committee's feedback in a timely manner. The email provided in your project proposal will be used. You will make all of your updates and edits in GoGold and resubmit your proposal through GoGold.
- ❑ **Step 7:** Once your project proposal has been approved, you, your Troop Leader and Project Advisor will be notified by email. You will also receive a letter for your records.
- ❑ **Step 8:** Implement your project and use GoGold to log your project hours, income and expenses. We are here to support you, please contact GSMW by emailing customercare@gsmw.org or calling 1-800-736-5243 for assistance.
- ❑ **Step 9:** Submit your Final Report through GoGold no later than September 30th of the year you graduate from high school. Extensions will not be granted.
- ❑ **Step 10:** Celebrate your achievement and spread the word! GSMW would like to help you celebrate, let us know when your Gold Award ceremony will be and ask us for the latest Gold Award ceremony toolkit to help make your day special!

Parent/Guardian: What is your role?

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador can earn and comes with a lot of history. Pursuing this award demonstrates a girl's commitment to herself, Girl Scouts, and her community. As she makes a plan, engages others and her community and leads a team toward a common goal to fix a problem that is important to her, you play an important role in supporting her. However she decides to tackle this challenge, it is her project and being her cheerleader is an exciting role to have! You can expect bumps along the way so here are some ways you can support her.

- ✓ Read the [GSMW Gold Award Toolkit](#) and [GSUSA Gold Award Adult Guidelines](#) as well as watch the [GSMW Gold Award training video](#) so you are familiar with the Gold Award if she has questions. These are all found at www.gsmw.org.
- ✓ Be there to brainstorm project ideas and help talk through the concepts of sustainability, root cause of an issue and measurability.
- ✓ Be there when she needs you but let her lead the way so she can find her own leadership and project management styles.
- ✓ Help her make the community connections that can lend insight, provide contacts and resources along the way.
- ✓ Let her be the communicator – with the council contact, her Project Advisor and team.
- ✓ Help her respond to the Gold Award Committee's feedback if necessary.
- ✓ Be her cheerleader! Celebrate her accomplishments, help her navigate any challenges along the way and encourage her to try new things.

Troop Leader: What is your role?

Your role is similar to the parent/guardian role; you are an important source of support and guidance for the girl in your troop pursuing her Gold Award. You can be there for her in the ways described for parents/guardians. You may have been through the Bronze and Silver Award process with her in the past. You would have played a very active role while girls worked toward these awards. However, pursuing the Gold Award needs to be the girl's own leadership experience.

- ✓ To ensure that you are familiar with the Girl Scout Gold Award we recommend that you read the [GSMW Gold Award Toolkit](#) and [GSUSA Gold Award Adult Guidelines](#) as well as watch the [GSMW Gold Award training video](#) so you are familiar with the Gold Award if she has questions. These are all found at www.gsmw.org.

Important note: The GoGold system will send you an email with a link to the applicant's Project Proposal and Final Report for your endorsement. At these times please help proofread her Project Proposal and Final Report.

Gold Award FAQ

Can my Troop Leader or parent/guardian be my Project Advisor?

No!

Your Project Advisor needs to be someone in the community who is an expert in their field. A Project Advisor will be able to help guide you through your project, answer key questions and help you navigate any challenges you encounter along the way all while contributing their expertise on your topic.

Gold Award Project Advisor: What is their role?

A Gold Award Project Advisor provides one-on-one mentorship to a Girl Scout working toward her Gold Award. A Project Advisor is selected by the Gold Award earner and has specific knowledge, skills or expertise related to the topic of her Gold Award project. The Project Advisor cannot be the girl's Troop Leader or Parent/Guardian even if they have expertise on the topic.

The Gold Award Project Advisor will:

- ✓ Be a registered Girl Scout and complete a background check. Please email customercare@gsmw.org with questions or for assistance.
- ✓ Complete the GSMW Gold Award Project Advisor Agreement provided by the Gold Award applicant or GSMW and email to customercare@gsmw.org.
- ✓ Read the [GSMW Gold Award Toolkit](#) and [GSUSA Gold Award Adult Guidelines](#) as well as watch the [GSMW Gold Award training video](#) so you are familiar with the Gold Award. These are all found at www.gsmw.org.
- ✓ Agree to support the Gold Award earner through the entire process.
- ✓ Foster leadership, project management and communication skills in the Gold Award earner.
- ✓ The GoGold system will send you an email with the applicant's reports prior to submission for your endorsement. At these times please help proofread her Project Proposal and Final Report.
- ✓ Share expertise, provide access to resources and other knowledge where appropriate.

Gold Award Committee: What is their role?

The Gold Award Committee is comprised of Girl Scout Volunteers and Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming staff committed to helping girls achieve great things. Many of the committee members have earned their Gold Award. The primary responsibilities of the Gold Award Committee is to review all Gold Award project proposals and provide positive feedback to the Gold Award applicant as well as ensure that the Gold Award standards and criteria are met. Think of your proposal as a professional application; complete everything and answer every question thoroughly. Their feedback will be sent to the email address that is on the project proposal paperwork. It is the responsibility of the Gold Award applicant to respond to all of their feedback, please respond in a timely manner and your project proposal is not approved until GSMW has notified you. The approval process can take up to 4 - 6 weeks to complete so make sure you submit your proposal in a timely manner. You will be notified that your project has been approved by email and a letter.

Gold Award FAQ

When is the deadline to finish my Gold Award?

The deadline to complete your project and submit your Final Report online through GoGold is September 30th of the year you graduate high school or until you turn 18 years old, whichever gives you the longest time to complete it.

Gold Award Standards of Excellence

The Gold Award Standards of Excellence are set by Girl Scouts of the USA as universal standards for all girls across the country working toward the Gold Award. These standards invite you to think deeply, explore opportunities and challenge yourself. Refer to these as you develop your proposal and move through the stages of your project.

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p>1. Choose an issue. Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. • Demonstrate civic responsibility.
<p>2. Investigate. Research everything you can about the issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations (in the community and online). Remember to evaluate each source’s reliability and accuracy. • Demonstrate courage as you investigate your issue, knowing that what you learn may challenge your own and other’s beliefs. This is your time to put yourself outside your comfort zone. • Identify national and/or global links to your community issue.
<p>3. Get help. Invite others to support and take action with you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out and recognize skills and strengths in others. • Respect different points of view and ways of working. • Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special skills to your Gold Award project.
<p>4. Create a plan. Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the planning of your Gold Award project. • Work collaboratively to develop a plan that creates lasting change.
<p>5. Present your plan. Sum up your project plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a project proposal that is concise, comprehensive, detailed and clear. • Describe your plan including the Girl Scout leadership outcomes you want to achieve and the impact you plan to make on yourself and the community. • Articulate your issue clearly and explain why it matters to you. • Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine and enhance your project.
<p>6. Take Action. Take the lead to carry out your plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so that your solution has measurable and sustainable impact. • Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for your Gold Award project. • Challenge yourself to try different ways to solve problems. • Use resources wisely. • Speak out and act on behalf of yourself and others.
<p>7. Educate and inspire. Share what you have experienced with others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on what you have learned when you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award final report. • Summarize the effectiveness of your project and the impact it has had on you and your community. • Share the project beyond your local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities.

Gold Award Project Examples

The following charts provides examples of project proposals. For each issue there are 3 example project proposals and for each issue, only project proposal #3 would meet the Girl Scout Standard of Excellence and addresses the key elements of a Gold Award project. Project proposals #1 and 2 for each issue would require the proposal to be reworked and enhanced to meet the Gold Award criteria and standards.

Issue	Project Proposal #1	Project Proposal #2	Project Proposal #3
<p>Pet Care</p>	<p>A Gold Award applicant loves animals and plans to create New Pet Kits for families adopting animals at the local animal shelter. She asks the local animal shelter for advice on what to include in the kit. The kit will include pet care information, a grooming brush, a cat or dog food sample and a pet toy. She holds a community donation drive to make the kits. The kits will be donated to the local animal shelter for them to distribute.</p>	<p>A Gold Award applicant loves animals and she belongs to an after school club at her high school that volunteers at the local animal shelter. She researches needs in her community relating to pets as well as talks with the club advisor and identifies a need for a pet education workshop for people adopting an animal from the local shelter. She partners with the animal shelter and her after school club to plan and host a series of pet ownership workshops. During these workshops local vets will come and talk about pet health, spaying/neutering your pet, training your dog. The after school club agrees to continue to host the workshops.</p>	<p>A Gold Award applicant loves animals and volunteers at her local animal shelter. After a conversation with the shelter manager she identifies a need for a pet food pantry in her community. She works with the manager of the local food pantry to establish a pet food pantry on their premises. She runs a collection drive to stock the pet food pantry with food for dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, fish etc. and then secures and develops a space in the food pantry, creates a distribution and donation policy and creates a community education campaign so that the pet pantry can be continually stocked. She also works with the local animal shelter to educate the pantry recipients about the importance of spaying/neutering clinics and how to find help for animal behavior problems to prevent people from bringing their animals to the animal shelter.</p>

Issue	Project Proposal #1	Project Proposal #2	Project Proposal #3
Recycling	<p>A Gold Award applicant notices that there are no recycling bins at her local park. She submits a proposal where she will work with her City Council and Parks and Recreation department to install recycling bins in all of the town's parks. She works with a local recycling company to make sure the bins are included on their pick up schedule.</p>	<p>A Gold Award applicant learns in her science class about waste reduction and its environmental impacts so she submits a proposal where she will establish a recycling program through her school district. She partners with the school board and sets up recycling stations at all of the schools as well as composting stations in the school cafeterias. She creates a recycling education campaign and holds a recycling challenge for schools to participate in to demonstrate what they have learned.</p>	<p>A Gold Award applicant is very interested in protecting the environment and "going green". She researches ideas that would address the fact that even though the town has recycling stations, the residents do not recycle much. She submits a proposal where she will host a "Go Green" fair. She recruits local experts to present at the fair and address topics such as composting, green cleaning products for the home, repurposing everyday items, recycling and impacts that waste has on the global environment. She will also work with local radio stations to promote her event as well as record a series of PSAs about recycling and the environment.</p>
Hunger and Food	<p>A Gold Award applicant is researching ideas for her project. She talks to the local food pantry who mentions there is a need for cleaning and reorganizing the food storage space. She submits a proposal where she will spend a few weekends cleaning the space and reorganizing the shelves in a way the food pantry volunteers have identifies as the most accessible.</p>	<p>A Gold Award applicant understands the importance of healthy eating so she meets with her local food pantry manager to discuss healthy eating. The manager tells her that they don't have resources available for people who use the food pantry to educate them about healthy eating. She submits a proposal where she will run a healthy eating food drive as well as research inexpensive healthy recipes so she can make recipe cards. She will then box up the items and attach a recipe card to each box. She will also leave a stack of recipe cards and digital copies for future distribution.</p>	<p>A Gold Award applicant discovers that one of her friends often does not have enough to eat at home so she researches food insecurity in her community and region. She meets with her local food pantry manager and discovers they often do not have enough fresh fruits and vegetables available for distribution. She submits a proposal where she will organize a community "Green the Pantry" event. At the event people can donate fresh fruits and vegetables, learn about gardening, healthy eating, and see cooking demonstrations. She will survey the attendees to measure the success of the event and what they learned. She also plans to create a handbook of everything she did to plan the event so the food pantry can hold another event in the future. To create an ongoing campaign to ensure that the pantry has fresh food available she meets with local gardeners, community gardens, restaurants and grocery stores who agree to donate their excess fresh produce to the food pantry.</p>

RED FLAGS

GSMW wants you to be successful! You have just looked at some sample Gold Award project proposals to see the depth, components and elements that a Gold Award project needs to have. To help prevent frustrations and feelings of being overwhelmed, especially after the Gold Award Committee has provided their feedback, being equipped to start off is important. Why are there so many rules, you ask? A Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Project is about creating the greatest impact and lasting change. Avoiding these traps will help you do just that!

What NOT to Do

Canned Projects – a canned project is pre-designed and implements someone else’s project. For example, a blood drive or annual clean-up or if you can find it on Facebook or Pinterest. A Gold Award project requires you to act in a leadership role by creating and designing your own sustainable project that you have carefully researched and implemented.

Collection Projects – collecting or making items to be donated to an organization does not elicit the leadership or creativity required by the Gold Award.

Fundraising Projects – Girl Scouts are not allowed to raise money for other organizations.

Girl Scout Inward-Focused Projects – While Gold Award projects can benefit the Girl Scout community, they also need to be outward-focused and include the community and beyond.

Community Service Projects – Gold Award projects are Take Action projects that require more depth than service hours.

Standalone Structure Projects – sustainability is not you continuing the project or hoping someone else will so a standalone structure such as a bench, sign, mural or garden will need more elements such as an educational piece built into the project to engage others.

Gold Award FAQ

Can I start working on my project before my project is approved?

No!

Your project needs to be approved by the Gold Award Committee before you start your project. The committee may ask you some questions or ask you to rework your proposal. Please make sure you respond to the committee. You will be notified when your project has been approved.

KEY ELEMENTS OF A GOLD AWARD PROJECT: SUSTAINABILITY, MEASURABILITY AND ROOT CAUSE OF AN ISSUE

SUSTAINABILITY

Design a project that creates lasting change! Once you have done all your work to find an issue you will need to take measures to ensure your efforts are sustainable. Find a way to make sure things don't revert back to the way they were and make sure that the results of your project continues to live on in the future and your work has a lasting impact. How can you do this? Here are some ideas:

- Work with a community organization, local government or school administrators
- Develop educational materials, inspire others to make a change
- Teach new skills

MEASURABILITY

Your project proposal and final report will need to include how you are going to measure or evaluate your impact and the success of your project. There are various tools and ways you can demonstrate this.

- Using data you have found while researching your project
- Establishing targets/goals
- Using tools such as surveys and spreadsheets

TARGETING A ROOT CAUSE OF AN ISSUE

It's important that your Gold Award project addresses your issue's root cause or underlying issue. This is the "why" of the issue and how it became a problem in your community. Finding the root cause of your issue takes thought, research and time to talk to others. The same issue might exist in many communities but the root cause may be different.

Here are some examples of the root cause of an issue.

Sample Community Issue	Possible Root Causes ("Why" this is an issue)
The parks in your community are often full of litter	People in the community aren't invested in their community parks. No trash cans are available. People in the community aren't aware of the negative effects of littering on the environment. Recycling centers are not available to reduce trash.
The local food shelf is often low on food.	People in the community don't know how or where to donate food. People aren't aware of the need. People are lacking the skills or resources to find a job so they rely on the food pantry.
Bats are intruding on neighborhoods and homes.	New home construction has destroyed bat's natural habitat. People don't understand the important role bats play in the local ecosystem. There is a lack of knowledge in the community about how to provide or restore bats' homes.

SMART Goals: What Are They?

S = Specific: Your project goals should be written in a way that anyone can understand the project even if they aren't part of your team. Specific goals help the Gold Award Committee envision your project. These goals should address who, what, where, when, why and how.

- **What** are you going to do? Use action words such as direct, develop, organize, coordinate, lead, build.
- **Why** is this important to do at this time? What do you want to ultimately accomplish?
- **How** are you going to do it?

M = Measurable: It's not enough to say my project is completed and I think it was a success. You need facts and figures to demonstrate the success of your project. Ask questions like how many, how much? If you can't measure it, you can't manage it. Establish concrete criteria for measuring progress toward your goals. When you measure progress, you stay on track, reach your target dates, and experience the achievement that will push you to continue your efforts to reach the goal.

A = Achievable/Attainable: Your goals should neither be too easy or too difficult to reach. When you identify goals that are important to you, you begin to figure out ways that you can make them come true. You develop abilities, skills and attitudes to reach those goals. A goal needs to stretch you slightly so you feel that you can achieve it and stay committed to the cause. The feeling of success will keep you motivated.

R = Relevant: It is essential to pick a project that matters. Ask yourself, does this seem worthwhile? Is this something I care about? Is this something that others care about?

T = Timely: Your goals must have end dates. Deadline and timeframes help to focus your planning. It is important to set an overall deadline as well as smaller ones throughout your project.

Gold Award FAQ

Once I create my GoGold account, do I need to do steps 1 and 2 if I already know what I would like to do for my project?

No!


GSMW recommends you complete these steps but they are not required.

Establishing a National and/or Global Link

Your project has a national and/or global link when you explain how it connects to an issues that is relevant nationally and/or globally. Remember local to global to local. National and global issues just don't happen "somewhere else". You can address a global issue that is evident in your local community like hunger, illiteracy, homelessness or climate change. Your issue may be as local as saving trees in the town park. Now step back and look around. Ask yourself if this is happening in other regions, nationally or globally? Forests and trees across the country are being devastated by disease or cut down. Your issue is now linked!

GoGold

Ready to get started? The GoGold platform can be found at www.girlscouts.org/gogoldonline. You can create a GoGold account as soon as you turn 13, you do not need to have a project idea to get started. After you have created your profile, steps 1 and 2 are perfect tools to use if you aren't sure what you would like to do. You can explore and discover topics that interest you as well as use the mind mapping to help you investigate and dig deeper to find root causes of the issue you are passionate about. GSMW does not require you to complete steps 1 and 2 but highly recommends these tools even if you know what you would like to do.

GoGold provides coaching tools along the way to help write your proposal ensuring that you have the depth and components as well as address the key elements so your project meets the Gold Award Standards of Excellence. Wherever you see this symbol  you can click on it for more information. GoGold is mobile friendly and auto saves your work and helps you track what you have completed.

Once you have completed your project proposal, but before you submit it to GSMW for approval, GoGold will ask you to email your proposal to your Troop Leader and Project Advisor for their endorsement. This step is done from GoGold. After each person has reviewed your proposal and endorsed it, you will be able to submit it to GSMW.

When your proposal has been approved you can start your project and use GoGold to track your hours, income and expenses as well as make notes and upload pictures, videos and files. At the completion of your final report you will be required to email it to your Project Advisor from GoGold so they can endorse and support your final report and completed project.

Using GoGold to submit your Gold Award project is the only way GSMW can consider your Gold Award project for nomination for the National Gold Award Girl Scout recognition. Annually GSMW can nominate up to 3 completed Gold Award projects for this recognition and GSUSA selects 10 young women to receive this honor as well as receive a college scholarship.

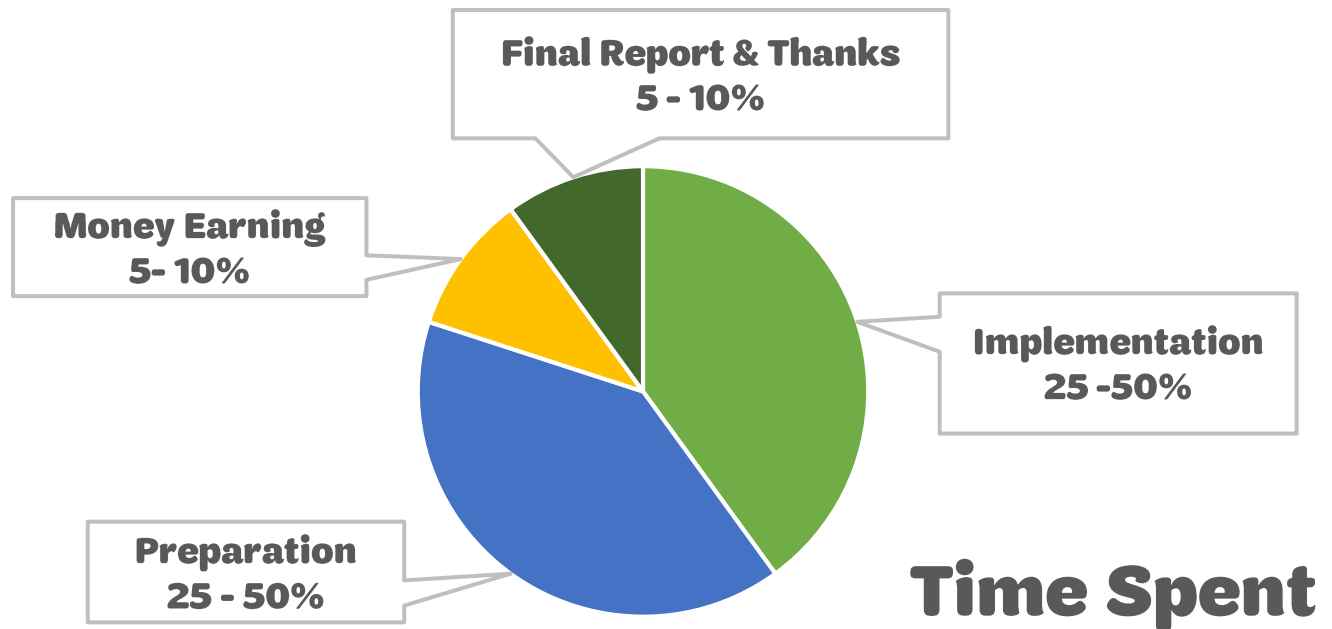


PROJECT HOURS BREAKDOWN

How much time does it take to do my Gold Award project?

Plan to spend at least 80 hours on your Gold Award project. You'll keep track of your time log in GoGold and you should do this as you go along. Hours your volunteers donate to your project, or time spent driving, getting gas, picking up volunteers, attending training and other secondary activities do not count.

Use this chart to guide you in how you will spend your project time.



Preparation is the process of researching your issue, formulating your project plan, contacting community partners and building your team. Don't start implementing your project until your project is approved by GSMW's Gold Award Committee.

Implementation is the process of leading and executing your project plan as defined in the proposal and making changes, when necessary, to achieve the project's goal.

Gold Award FAQ

**Should someone edit and review my proposal?
YES!**

Consider asking more than one person. You might ask one person to edit for grammar, spelling and structure and another for content, checking for complete answers and details as well as ask them if they can envision your plan. Your reviewers should be from outside your family and troop.

FINANCING YOUR GOLD AWARD PROJECT

Your Gold Award project doesn't have to cost anything. If your project will cost money to carry out, make sure you are following all Girl Scout guidelines for additional money earning and donations. You will also need to submit an estimated budget with your proposal and a final budget with your final report so be sure to keep track of everything. There are many ways to fund your project as well.

Donations

You may ask for donations of money or in-kind donations of supplies, services or volunteer time. You must also get council approval prior to seeking monetary donations for Highest Awards. If you receive an individual donation that is \$250 or more, please contact customercare@gsmw.org for further directions.

Troop Funds or Juliette Funds

You may use money from your troop account or Juliette Funds (submit a Juliette Funds Request form along with your receipts for reimbursement) but the decision to use troop funds for a Gold Award project needs to be approved by the whole troop.

Personal and Family Contributions

You and/or your family are welcome to make personal contributions to carry out your project.

Additional Money-Earning Activities

Please read the Additional Money-Earning Activity guidelines found at www.gsmw.org and submit a request for approval at least 2 weeks in advance of the additional money-earning activity.

Grants

If you would like to pursue a grant for your project, please contact customercare@gsmw.org.

Event Fees

If you are hosting an event to raise funds for your project costs please include that in your project proposal. Please also submit an Additional Money Earning Activity request found at www.gsmw.org

Money Don'ts

If you have any questions about money and your Gold Award project please contact customercare@gsmw.org with any questions.

- Don't use a donation or tip jar.
- Gold Award projects cannot make a profit or raise funds for other organizations. Your income and expenses should match.

Gold Award Proposal Rubric

	Does Not Meet Standard	Needs Improvements	Meets Criteria
<i>Prerequisites</i>	Has not completed 2 Journeys OR Silver Award + 1 Journey.	Completed 2 Journeys but not the Take Action Projects OR Silver Award + 1 Journey but not the Take Action project.	Completed 2 Journeys with the Take Action Projects OR Silver Award + 1 Journey with the Take Action project.
<i>Gold Award Training</i>	Has not watched the GSMW Gold Award Training video or read the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit and taken the Gold Award Quiz.	Has watched the GSMW Gold Award Training video and read the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit and has taken the Gold Award Quiz but has not achieved a score of 8/10.	Has watched the GSMW Gold Award Training video and read the GSMW Gold Award Toolkit and has taken the Gold Award Quiz and achieved a score of 8/10.
Related Proposal Questions - My Gold Award aims to address this issue: AND The root cause of my issue is:			
Root cause and identifies a community need	Issue is based on girl interests only. Root cause is not identified and/or no action is identified or issue is too broad.	Issue has potential but lacks identification of root cause. Has at least 1 action to address issue but lacks detail.	Issue addresses/targets a need. Root cause (s) identified and fully explained and has at least 1 unique action with a detailed plan.
Related Proposal Question - The target audience (s) for my Gold Award project is/are:			
Target audience (s) is clearly identified	Audience is only immediate network (family, Girl Scout troop). No set target audience or vaguely describes audience.	Audience is only immediate community (family, friends, Girl Scouts, athletic team, youth organization). Target audience is identified but needs more definition.	Reaches beyond current network and target audience is clear and fully described.
Related Proposal Question - The reasons I selected my issue are:			
Research sources are cited and thoroughly investigated	Community need is not validated. No research conducted.	Little or no research is provided or only 1-2 research points cited.	Highlights 2-3 research sources to validate community need.
Related Proposal Question - My Gold Award's national and /or global link:			
Project plans for national or global connection to the issue	Lacks link to larger context (national/global link).	Evidence at the local level or national/global inference with no evidence cited.	Includes research and project shows clear link to larger context (national/global).
Related Proposal Question - List the names of individuals and organizations you plan to work with on your Gold Award project:			
Project team members are identified	Self and family only.	Self, family and Girl Scouts only OR less than 3 team members. Team has some diversity of expertise but most are from the same organization.	3-5 team members from local network beyond self, family and Girl Scouts. Team members are from several varying backgrounds with diverse skills.
Related Proposal Question - Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor Information:			
Project Advisor is identified and appropriate for the issue	Advisor is family member or troop leader/volunteer.	Advisor is family member or troop leader/volunteer OR does not have knowledge of selected issue.	Advisor has knowledge of the selected issue.

	Does Not Meet Standard	Needs Improvements	Meets Criteria
Related Proposal Question – I will address the root cause by:			
Clear project description	Project description is confusing or lacks details.	The project is vaguely described and has minimal details. It is unclear what will be done and the project is only somewhat understood.	The project is clearly described, easily understood and the reviewer understands exactly what will be done.
Related Proposal Questions – The skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes my target audience will gain are: I will know that my audience has gained the desired skills/knowledge because: Measurement of my project's success chart:			
Project has measurable impact	Impact does not relate to issue or no impact defined. No measurement methods or tools.	Impact is a vague impression or by observation or not realistically measured (measured by feelings).	Impact is defined and at least one measurement tool identified.
Related Proposal Question – My Gold Award project goals are:			
Project goals are clearly defined and realistic	No SMART goals.	1-2 SMART goals. Goals stated as feelings.	2+ SMART goals clearly stated and are directly related to project's purpose.
Related Proposal Question – My Gold Award will be sustained by:			
Project ensures sustainability	Lacks idea of who will continue project. Only includes a website or video as sustainability. Is community service/volunteer hours.	Includes an idea of who will continue. Implied or little attempt to be sustainable. Other Girl Scouts will continue.	Partner/Group/individual will continue using/promoting project. Educational component clearly outlined and included.
Related Proposal Question – I will put my plan into action by:			
Timeline is realistic and appropriate for the project	Less than 80 hours are outlined. Doesn't outline any action steps. Includes time of other volunteers.	Somewhat realistic. Highlights only major steps/milestones. Is fairly easy to understand. Is approximately 80 hours.	Major steps/milestones clearly defined. Easy to understand exactly what and how candidate plans to achieve. Is 80 + hours.
Project will allow candidate to demonstrate active leadership role	Teammates not used in timeline, project is primarily done by the candidate. No information about personal strengths.	Teammates only have minor roles or does not describe how the team will be used or only highlights 1-2 ways candidate will use the team. Includes vague strengths.	Clear strategies described for using the team. Information about personal strengths.
Related Proposal Question – Estimate your project expenses and how you plan to meet those costs:			
Budget is realistic	No thoughts about potential expenses. Budget is unrealistic (not enough money planned or over planned).	Most expenses have been anticipated. Sources of income are unclear.	Well defined, realistic income and expenses outlined. Sources of income clearly described.
Income and money earning activities are explained	No explanations or disregard to money earning policy.	Explained but it is unclear if following policy.	Explained and clear that money following policy is understood and will be followed.
Related Proposal Question – I will let others know about my Gold Award by promoting via; I will put my plan in action:			
Plan to actively share project	No plan.	Passive sharing only (social media, brochure) OR only sharing with target audience.	Plan for mix of sharing beyond target audience.

GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship

Every year, GSMW recognizes 1 Gold Award Girl Scout with a GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship. This scholarship program replaces the National Gold Award Girl Scout distinction. GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship recipients demonstrate extraordinary leadership, address a local challenge related to a national and/or global issue of significance, and had measurable and sustainable impact. GSMW will only consider projects submitted through GoGold and the final report must be submitted to GSMW no later than March 20th, 2022 to be considered for the eligibility cycle of April 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022. This allows GSMW sufficient time to review and approve your completed project before the eligibility cycle ends on March 31st, 2022. Every Gold Award Girl Scout who meets the eligibility cycle will receive information and guidance from GSMW on how to apply.





Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor Agreement Form

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador can earn. It represents a process and commitment to developing and understanding leadership skills to affect a positive, lasting change in a girl's community. By agreeing to act as a project advisor, you are taking steps towards helping a young woman become an asset to her community.

The volunteer experience involves a commitment of time and a mentoring relationship to help a girl succeed in her goal-setting, planning and the actual fulfillment of her project. Please review the Gold Award Adult Guidelines and the Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming (GSMW) Gold Award Toolkit that have been provided for you by either the Gold Award applicant or GSMW. GSMW requires that all its volunteers working with girls become a registered Girl Scout and complete a background check. Please submit any questions you may have or for assistance completing your membership and/or background check to the council's Highest Awards Coordinator by sending an email to customercare@gsmw.org or calling 1-800-736-5243.

Girl Scout Gold Award Applicant Name: _____
Project Advisor Name: _____
Organization: _____
Advisor Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Preferred Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

I have reviewed the process involved in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award and I have met with the applicant listed above to begin the process of planning for her success. I agree to act as her Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor and to be a member of Girl Scouts and complete a background check. I agree to endorse her project proposal and final report prior to her submitting it to GSMW and understand these will come to me by email from GoGold, the online Gold Award submission portal. I also agree to assist her with proofreading her proposal and final report. I understand that her project requires approval from GSMW before she can move forward and that I will receive notification by email when her project has been approved.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please email this form to GSMW at customercare@gsmw.org