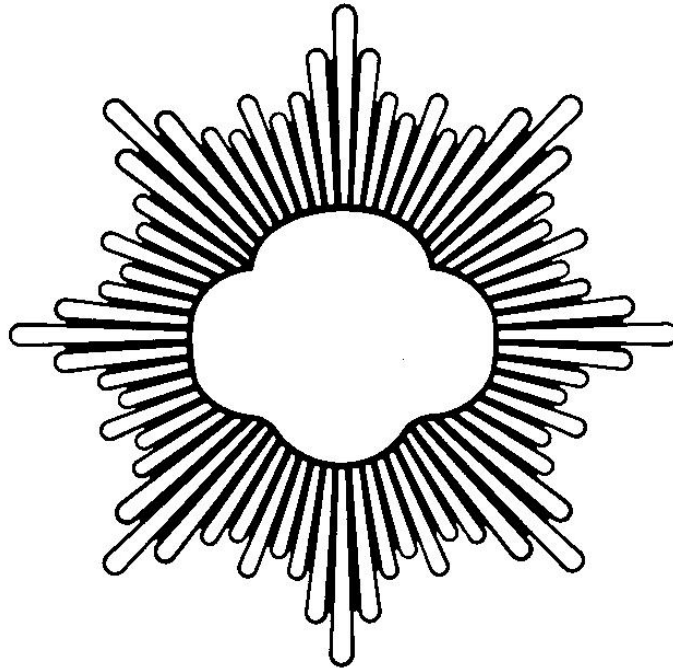


Going for the Gold

Girl Scout Gold Award Guidelines



Guidelines for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors

Updated for the Journey Path

Word version is available on the Volunteer Network

January 2012

Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
1. Choose an issue.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. ▪ Demonstrate civic responsibility.
2. Investigate.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations 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 others' beliefs. ▪ Identify national and/or global links to your community issue.
3. Get help.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of 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 Take Action project.
4. Create a plan.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead the planning of your Take Action project. ▪ Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.
5. Present your plan and get feedback.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit a Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive, and clear. ▪ Describe your plan including the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes you want to achieve and the

		<p>impact you plan to make on yourself and the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Articulate your issue clearly and explain why it matters to you. ▪ Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine your project.
6. Take action.		<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 Take Action project. ▪ Challenge yourself to try different ways to solve problems. ▪ Use resources wisely. ▪ Speak out and act on behalf of yourself and others.
7. Educate and inspire.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflect on what you have learned when you present your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to your council. ▪ 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.

Decision-Making Tips

You are about to make a big decision that will have a significant impact on your life and may even change it forever. Take some time to reflect and get inspired. Start with yourself.

- What inspires you? Is it something in your school, community, country, or the world?
- What motivates you into action? Is it people, events, activities, places?
- What skills, talents, and strengths do you have to offer?
- How do you want to make a difference? As an advocate for justice? A promoter of environmental awareness? As a trainer, mentor, or coach? As an artist, actor, or musician? As an organizer of petitions or campaigns? As an entrepreneur? Can you think of another role?
- What motivates, inspires, and interests others? Can you build a team to support your idea?
- What would benefit the community both immediately and long-term?
- Check back through your Girl Scout leadership journey(s). What interested you that you might be able to translate into an award project?

Need some inspiration? Search through these sites to see what others are doing to address issues in their community.

- **The Corporation for National and Community Service:** www.serve.gov
- **Global Citizens Corps:** www.globalcitizencorps.org
- **Global Youth Action Network:** www.youthlink.org
- **Global Youth Service Day:** <http://gysd.org/share>
- **Learn and Serve America:** www.learnandserve.gov
- **Prudential:** www.spirit.prudential.com
- **Taking IT Global:** www.tigweb.org
- **United Nations Millennium Development Goals:** www.un.org/millenniumgoals
- **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts:** www.waggg.org
- **Youth Venture:** www.genv.net

Interview Tips

Find out what you need to prepare and conduct an interview.

1. **Making arrangements:** Deciding who you would like to interview, contacting the person, and setting up a date and time.
2. **Preparation:** Gathering research and background information to help you formulate questions to ask the interview subject(s). Use these sample interview questions to get you started, and then add some of your own. If you need help choosing an issue, you'll want to ask the following types of questions:

- What are the biggest challenges/problems that you have faced or are facing?
- What do you think is the root cause of these issues?
- What will it take to address these issues?
- Are there any resources available to do that?
- What do you consider to be the strengths of the community?

If, on the other hand, you've already chosen an issue, move ahead to the interview.

3. Conducting the interview: Bring a notebook to take notes. Here are some tips:

- Find a quiet place where you'll have each others' full attention, and agree to turn off your cell phones.
- Start by thanking the interviewee for her/his time, and then briefly describe your project.
- Keep questions simple and related to the issue at hand. Do your research. Preparation is key!
- Ask the person you interview if she or he would like to hear more about your project as it develops.
- Send a thank-you note to everyone you interview within a week of the interview. Mention the possibility of a follow-up interview.

4. Reviewing information and setting up a possible follow up interview: Your interview is over. Now what? You have to sift through to find the information that's relevant to what you are working on. If there are some gaps that you need to fill, contact your interview subject(s) to get more information and to find out whether or not you have your facts correct. Remember to check and recheck your facts!

Making Your Pitch

You've seen the advertisements and most times you even remember the slogans. What makes them memorable? It could be because they're clever or catchy or funny. Now that you've chosen your issue, think of a way that you can let people know about it. You should be able to describe the issue you've chosen in about 15 seconds. Here are some tips to help you do that.

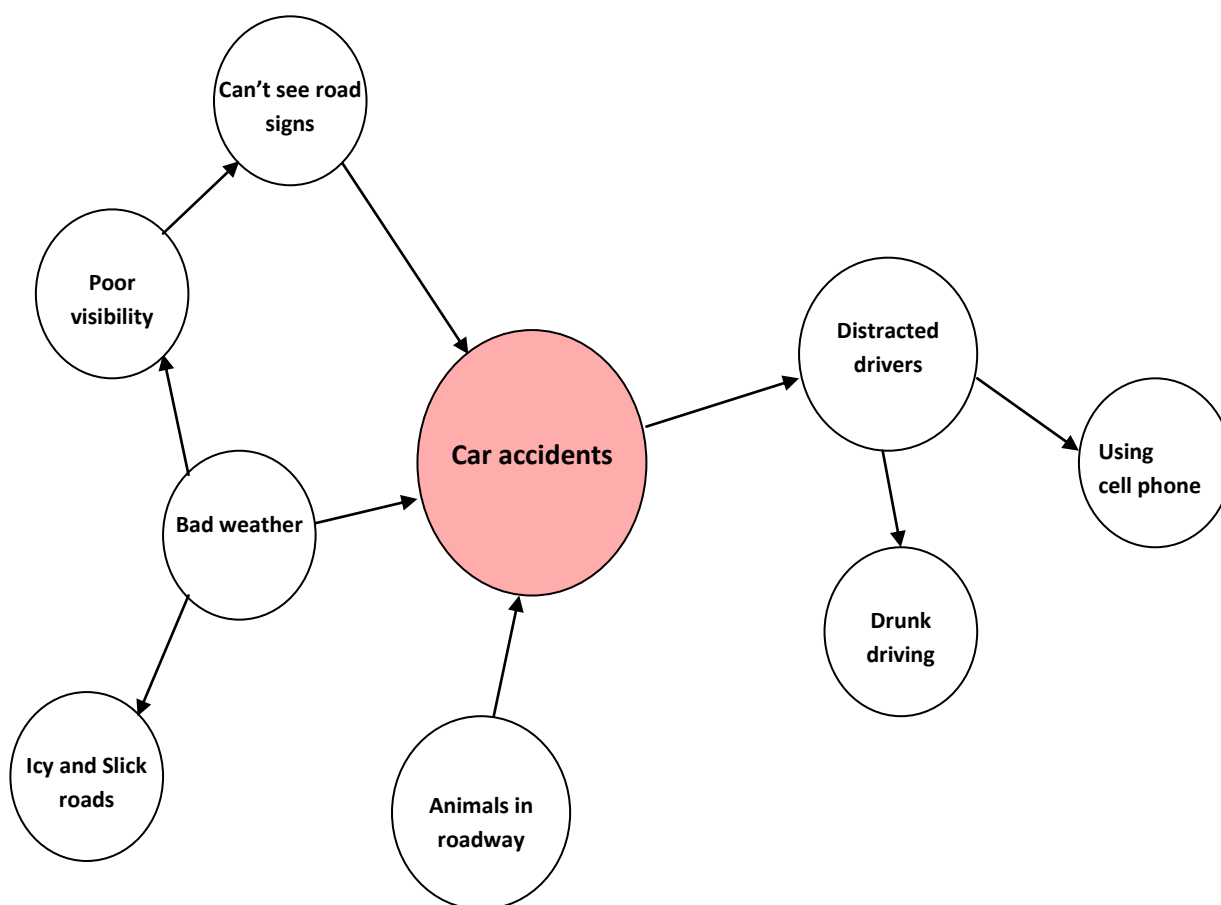
- **Make it memorable:** Develop a slogan. What makes you remember the slogan in those commercials on TV? How can you incorporate that into your pitch?
- **Target your audience:** Who are you trying to reach? If you are aiming for kids, think of a story or riddle that would relate this to them. Young kids love to rhyme. If you're reaching out to adults, no cute stories! Think about your audience and try to tailor your pitch so that it connects with them.
- **How you will help:** You've gotten their attention with your story. Now tell them what your project will do to make their lives better.
- **Personalize it:** Why this project? Why this target audience? How will doing this make you a better person?
- **Do it:** Put it all together. Explain your idea in a short and motivating way that clarifies for you, your potential team, target audience, and supporters. Remember, 15 seconds. Go!

Mind-Mapping Tool

Create your own mind-mapping diagram like the one shown here, using one of the issues facing your community. Follow these instructions.

- Write the community issue in the middle of the paper or any where that works for you.
- Think about what some of the causes of this issue could be. In this example, one of the main causes of car accidents is bad weather. Notice how many different causes connect from bad weather.
- Now, try connecting the different causes you come up with to each other and to the main issue. How do the causes connect to each other?
- Do you see a pattern?

This activity will help you come up with different ways to approach a problem, as well as different ways you might go about addressing it.



Teaming Tips

Think about the people who might be able to help you put your project into action. Choose people who will stick it out until the project is complete. You don't have to limit your team to people your age or just Girl Scouts.

Working in a group will help you make a bigger impact and cover more ground than you would on your own. It might be challenging at times, but remember to always be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, and responsible for what you say and do. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you build your team:

- Promote a sense of trust and belonging
- Share ownership
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Communicate regularly and openly
- Respect diversity
- Have fun and be creative
- Be open to new ideas and different ways of working
- Keep learning and growing

Project Advisor Tips

Here you'll find tips for selecting and working with your project advisor.

- **Reach out:** You've figured out the issue you're going to address with your project. Now it's time to find an expert to help along the way and give you advice and suggestions. Ask your troop/group volunteer or your council for suggestions. Then, select a few people who are related to your issue area with whom you'd like to work.
- **Safety first:** Before you meet with new people, talk to your troop/group volunteer for some safety tips and do's and don'ts. Make sure your family knows who you're talking to and meeting with.
- **Ask:** Start with your first choice, and if she or he can't help, go to your next choice. (**Hint:** There may be many others who are willing to help!) Approach the people you selected one at a time. Introduce yourself by sending a brief letter or e-mail, explaining what you're working on and the advice you would like. Give some background. Give an estimate, asking about time commitments and which way would be best to communicate.
- **Say thanks:** When an individual accepts, send her or him a thank-you note, along with a brief description of your project and a list of areas where you think you'll need the most help.
- **Think ahead when asking for help:** Before you compose an e-mail or call your project advisor, think about how you can simplify a problem you're having, so that she or he can offer quick suggestions.
- **Share your progress:** Make sure to tell your project advisor (in a quick e-mail or phone call) about your progress and how her or his help is making your project better, easier, and so on.
- **Celebrate together:** After your project is completed, invite her or him to your Gold Award ceremony and/or your own celebration. Don't forget to send a thank-you note!

Project Planner

A Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project addresses the root cause of an issue, produces impact that is measurable and sustainable, and is a local project that links to a national and/or global issue. Here are a few tips to help you lay out your project plan:

- **Set project goals:**

What is your project? _____

Why does it matter? _____

Who will it help? _____

The difference I intend to make in the world is _____

- **Steps to meet the goals:** List step-by-step what it will take to reach your goal. Be as specific as possible so that you can put together a timeline and draw on your team to help you reach your goals.
- **Develop a timeline:** This will help you determine how much time should be allotted to each part of your project.
- **Think about money-earning:** Brainstorm ways to finance your project, if needed, speak with your Girl Scout troop/group volunteer to make sure that your ideas are in line with the Girl Scout policies. Check with your council. Remember, you can make an impact without spending money by influencing policy and so on.
- **Establish a global link:** Consider how to connect your project to an issue that affects people in other parts of the country or the world.

Use the following questions to help you determine what you need and what you need to do.

- What is the goal that you would you like to achieve with your project?
- How do you plan to achieve this project goal?
- What are the foreseeable obstacles?
- Aside from your team, troop/group volunteer, and project advisor, do you need any one else to help with your project?
- What supplies will you need?
- If necessary, how will you earn money or fundraise?
- How will you measure your success as you go?
- How will your project create lasting change?

Planning and Budgeting Tips

It's budget time! Start by figuring out what you need and where you can get it for little or no cost, if possible. If it's not possible, think about how much it is going to cost and how you can cover those expenses. Many projects are possible when you concentrate on the issue at hand. Use your influence and leadership skills to come up with ways that you can make a difference that might not include earning money.

List the Steps to Achieve Your Goal	What Resources and Materials Will You Need?	Where Can You Get the Resources and Materials?	How Much Will They Cost?	How Do You Plan to Cover These Costs?

Does your plan sound doable? If not, take a step back and refocus. Try to find a different angle to pursue. Work with your troop/group volunteer, project advisor, and Take Action team to find solutions to problems and obstacles that come up along the way.

Sustainability Tips

Girl Scout Gold Award projects are not “one shot”—they create lasting change. You can ensure a lasting project by setting clear timelines, collaborating with community organizations, building alliances with adults and mentors, and keeping good records. Sustainability often involves influencing others to pitch in. Here are some examples of sustainable projects.

Example #1

Community issue: Food waste from school lunches poses a danger to the environment.

Root cause: No community composting or recycling program.

Take action: Create a food-waste composting program for the school.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Work with school officials to find biodegradable plates and cups to use in the cafeteria.
- Work with town/state food waste officials to ensure the system is in place.
- Implement a plan in your school to separate their cafeteria waste into composting, recycling, and trash bins. (Farmers can use the compost to fertilize crops, improve the quality of the soil, decrease soil runoff, and so on.)
- Get a commitment from school administrators to carry on when your project is complete.

Making your project bigger (national and/or global link): Recruit students at schools in the area to develop the program for their schools and/or contact local and state officials about adopting the program.

Global link: Find out how people in other parts of the world deal with food waste in schools. What kinds of programs do they have in place? How can you learn from this?

Example #2

Community issue: Teen suicide.

Root cause: Lack of awareness and prevention.

Take action: Establish an awareness and prevention program.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Produce a short video that can be used in other communities with an online brochure outlining the steps to an awareness and prevention program.
- Share the video and online brochure with schools and community organizations.

Making your project bigger (national and/or global link): Share the program with local youth groups, health/human services agencies, community centers, church/synagogue/mosque community centers, or school district.

Project Planning Checklist

The answers to all of the questions below must be yes before you submit your plan for council approval.

- Will your project demonstrate your leadership skills?
- Have you set your project goal and identified what you would like to learn?
- Have you chosen your Take Action team? Have you discussed the project with them?
- Have you created a budget for the project?
- Have you created a plan to raise funds, if necessary?
- Have you made a timeline for your project?
- Does your project address a need in the local community and have you found national and/or global links?
- Can your project be sustainable?
- Does your project challenge your abilities and your interests?

Once you answer yes to all the items on this checklist, you're ready to submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal.

Girl Scout Gold Award® Procedures

The following information is a general guide for you and your advisor:

Checklist

- You must be a Senior or Ambassador in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award. Journey earned prior to the summer of your 9th grade year cannot be used to fulfill the requirements with the exception of earning the Girl Scout Silver Award.
- You must be a registered Girl Scout when you are in the process of completing a journey and when submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal and Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report Form.
- You must complete the project and turn in the appropriate paperwork no later than September 30th of your high school graduation year. A Girl Scout who completes an accelerated high school program and begins college, and is still within the age definition of the membership standard, may complete work on the Girl Scout Gold Award during her first year of college. Girls with developmental disabilities must be completed by the age of 21.
- You must use the correct Girl Scout Gold Award Project Form (found in this booklet). The form must be complete and have all the appropriate signatures. Incomplete or incorrect forms will be returned for completion before the Girl Scout Gold Award Support Group reviews your plan. Forms may be downloaded from the GSCOC web site: www.gscoc.org. **Please DO NOT use the national forms found online at www.girlscouts.org.** Please word-process all the responses to the question in the Project Plan.
- You must provide complete answers to all questions. You may use additional pages if necessary to explain your project.
- Your project must be approved before you may start your project.**
- You must have a trained project advisor who will work with you on the project portion of your Gold Award. This is a requirement. Girls do not have to take the training but project advisors **MUST** be trained. Adults trained before January 2010 will need to be retrained to be eligible.

The Approval Process

- You must submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Form to the Girl Scout Gold Award Support Group prior to starting your project. Please submit your project plan to your troop advisor and project advisor first and give them enough time to look over your plan before the deadline.
- The deadline due date for project submission is the 1st day of September, November, February, May and July at 6:00 p.m. Forms must be received in the Girl Scout Service Center by that date and time. If your form is mailed, we suggest that you mail it at least 5 days before the due date to allow time for it to arrive in the Girl Scout Service Center. We DO NOT accept FAX copies. Once applications are received, you will be contacted with your interview time.**

- If the 1st is on a weekend or a holiday, the deadline is 6:00 p.m. the next business day. Please note that the Girl Scout Service Center is closed on Fridays. If the 1st is on a Friday, the deadline is 6:00 p.m. the next business day. **“Dates to Remember” including deadline due dates for project submission and interview dates can be found on the council web site at www.gscoc.org.**
- Forms received after the due date and time will be held until the next due date.**
- You will receive a letter acknowledging receipt of your Gold Award plan and letting you know when the Gold Award Support Group will meet with you. For interview dates see **“Dates to Remember” including deadline due dates for project submission and interview dates can be found on the council web site at www.gscoc.org.**
- You will be given an appointment time when you will be required to present your project plan to the Gold Award Support Group. **This is mandatory before you may begin your project.** Please plan on a short presentation (5 minutes) and a question period that should only last 15 minutes. If everything is in order, you will receive your approval at the time of the interview.
- The Gold Award Support Group will classify your plan in one of the following categories:

Approved – The project meets all expectations and may be started upon verbal notification by the Gold Award Panel. Some projects may be “approved with caution,” when the Support Group has included a comment or reminder to ensure a successful project.

Approved with clarification – The proposal is sound, but is missing some limited information. The requested information can be submitted to your Gold Award Support Group mentor who will then give final approval to begin the project. These projects do not have to be reviewed again by the Support Group.

Resubmit to mentor – As written, the project does not meet the standards of a Girl Scout Gold Award Project. The idea itself may be good, but the project is missing a key element. It may not be sufficient in scope to meet the leadership, vision or other criteria of a Gold Award project, or the Panel may question the project’s benefit to the community. Projects designated as resubmits have potential, but must be more thoroughly developed to address the areas of concern raised in the letter by the Support Group. Your Gold Award Support Group mentor should be consulted for suggestions on how to further develop this project, and will then give final approval to begin the project. When communicating with your mentor, please be sure to **bold** any changes in your proposal.

Denied – Project does not qualify as a Gold Award Project. Canned projects, such as blood drives, making blankets, scarves, hats wheelchair bags, greeting cards, chemo caps, and collection projects will be given this designation. Projects are rarely denied outright: most projects can be restructured to meet standards. Consult with your Gold Award Support Group mentor for clarification or suggestions. Your next proposal will go through the Panel.

After Your Project Plan Has Been Approved

- Once your project is approved, you may not change your project without completing a “Notification of Change” with the Girl Scout Gold Award Support Group.
- You should keep in close contact with your selected project advisor. She/he is a key resource for you as you complete the research, design and implementation of your Girl Scout Gold Award project.
- You have until September 30th of the year in which you graduate from high school to complete your project and turn in your paperwork. A Girl Scout who completes an accelerated high school program and begins college, and is still within the age definition of the membership standard, may complete work on the Girl Scout Gold Award during her first year of college.

Finalizing Your Project

- Upon completion of your project, you must submit the Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report Form.
- The form must be accompanied by the recorded a suggested minimum of 80 hours detailing the dates and activities you have done and the amount of time you have spent on each activity.
- You must also send in a letter from your Project Advisor or a representative of the institute or agency that observed or benefited from your project attesting to your contribution.**
- You and your project advisor must sign the form.
- After the Gold Award Support Group reviews your final paperwork you will receive a letter stating you have completed the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award.

**Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal for
Girl Scout Council of Orange County
Journey Pathway**

Retain a copy for yourself and your advisors. Mail projects to GSCOC, **Attn: Gold Award Support Group, 9500 Toledo Way, Irvine, CA 92618**

Submission deadlines are set. See the Dates to Remember handout. Interview dates are set we cannot accommodate special requests. Look at the dates and your calendar and plan accordingly.

The Gold Award process is girl-led. This means that YOU are responsible for writing your proposal, turning in your paperwork, preparing your presentation and contacting goldaward@gscoc.org with your questions. If your leader, advisor or parent has general questions about the process they may contact goldaward@gscoc.org with those questions. Specific question related to your project, from approval to implementation, must be asked by YOU.

Name			Troop #/GSI	Service Unit/Association
Address			City	
State	Zip Code	Phone	Email	
Age	Grade	School	Class of	
Project Title			Projected Completion Date	
Troop/group Leader			Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor	
Name			Name	
Address			Title/Organization	
City/State/ZIP			Address	
Daytime Phone			City/State/ZIP	
Evening			Phone	
E-Mail			E-Mail	

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal, continued

Prerequisites

Two Senior or Ambassador journeys or one journey and the Girl Scout Silver Award. List the journey(s) that you have completed along with your troop/group volunteer’s signature.

Senior/Ambassador Journey Books	Date Completed	Troop/Group Volunteer’s Signature
1		
(2)		

Girl Scout Silver Award Completion Date	
Council Where You Earned the Award	

Your Team

List the names of individuals and organizations that you plan to work with on your Take Action project. This is a preliminary list that may grow through the course of your project.

Team Members	Affiliation	Role

Take Action Project

Project Title:	
Proposed Start Date:	Proposed Completion Date:

- A. Describe the issue your project will address and who is your target audience. Remember your 15-second pitch.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal, continued

- B. Discuss your reasons for selecting this project.

- C. Outline the strengths, talents, and skills that you plan to put into action. What skills do you hope to develop?

- D. Describe the steps involved in putting your plan into action, including resources, facilities, equipment, and approvals needed. (Attach a detailed project plan.)

- E. Enter the names of people or organizations you plan to inform and involve.

- F. Estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs.

- G. What methods or tools will you use to evaluate the impact of your project?

- H. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?

- I. Describe how you plan to tell others about your project, the project's impact, and what you have learned (Web site, blog, presentations, posters, videos, articles, and so on).

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal, continued

Impact Planning

Using the Impact Planning Chart, describe the impact you hope your project will have on your community, your target audience, and you.

Impact On . . .	Goals	Potential Impact
Community	What community issue do you plan to address?	What examples of the project impact might you see in future?
Target Audience (workshop participants, other youth, community members, and so on)	What skills, knowledge, or attitudes will your target audience gain?	How will you know that the target audience gained skills or knowledge?

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal, continued

Impact Planning, continued

The following is a list of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes.* Which do think you will develop through this project?

Discover:

- I will develop a stronger sense of self.
- I will develop positive values.
- I will gain practical life skills.
- I will seek challenges in the world.
- I will develop critical thinking.

Connect:

- I will develop healthy relationships.
- I will promote cooperation and team building.
- I will resolve conflicts.
- I will advance diversity in a multicultural world.
- I will feel more connected to my community, locally and globally.

Take Action:

- I will identify community issues.
- I will be a resourceful problem solver.
- I will advocate for myself and others, locally and globally.
- I will educate and inspire others to act.
- I will feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

*Want more information on the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes? Visit www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/outcomes/transforming_leadership.asp.

Your Signature:	Date:
Troop/Group Volunteer's Signature:	Date:
Project Advisor's Signature:	Date:

Sharing Tips

It's time to tell others about what you did, what you have learned, and the impact you hope your project will have on its intended audience. Your story may inspire others to take action to do something to make their community better!

Here are a few suggestions for how you can demonstrate your project achievements and share what you learned:

- Create a Web site or blog or join a social networking site (Facebook, MySpace, and so on) to post updates and details about your project and its impact on the national and/or global 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
- Create a campaign that showcases your cause. Make buttons, posters, and flyers to let people know about your cause.
- Present what you have learned and what your project will do for the community at a workshop for community members.
- Make a video about the effects of your project. Post it online. Invite friends, community leaders, and people from organizations who are tackling the same or a similar issue to take a look at it.
- Write an article for your local newspaper or create a newsletter about your project.

Reflection Tool

Reflection is more than talking about your feelings; it's about thinking critically, solving problems, and interpreting and analyzing the results of your experiences so you can gain a better understanding of who you are. After you complete your project, take some time to assess yourself.

1. Which values from the Girl Scout Promise and Law did you employ?
2. Which new leadership skills have you developed?
3. How are you better able to advocate for yourself and others?
4. How has your access to community resources and relationships with adults changed as a result of this experience?
5. How important has cooperation and team building been in developing your leadership skills?

6. What changes would you make if you were to do this project again?

7. Has this helped you get an idea of what your future career might be?

8. Now that you have planned, developed, and taken action on your project, how are you better equipped to pursue future/life goals?

Girl Scout Council of Orange County

Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report

This form is available at www.gscoc.org. Please word process your answers to the questions. Print. Retain a copy for yourself and your advisors. Mail projects to GSCOC, Attn: Gold Award Support Group, 9500 Toledo Way, Irvine, CA, 92618.

Submission deadline is indicated on Dates to Remember. Remember you can turn your final report in at anytime but some deadlines are indicated if you want your certificates for yearend ceremonies.

Final Reports must be received by September 30 of the year in which you graduate or the year you turn 18, whichever is later. Girls with developmental delays have until age 21.

Name				Troop #/GSI	Service Unit/Association
Address				City	
State	Zip Code	Phone	Email		
Grade	School			Class of	
Ceremony Date					
Project Title			Date Started	Date Completed	
I am including or submitting within 5 business days the following:					
<input type="checkbox"/> A letter of recommendation from a group or organization that my Gold Award project benefited					
<input type="checkbox"/> A recent school picture (or similar picture) for our PR department files					
<input type="checkbox"/> A detailed hour log.					
Troop/group Volunteer			Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor		
Name			Name		
Address			Title/Organization		
City/State/ZIP			Address		
Daytime Phone			City/State/ZIP		
Evening			Phone		
E-Mail			E-Mail		

Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued

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

Team members	Affiliation	Role

Take Action Project

Project Title:		
Start Date:	Completion Date:	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).

Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued

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?

Impact

Using the Impact Chart, describe the impact signs your project has had and will have on your community and your target audience.

Impact On . . .	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact	Possible Future Impact
Community	What community issue was addressed?	What are concrete examples that you made a difference?	What examples of the project impact might you see in future?

Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued

Impact, continued

Impact On . . .	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact	Possible Future Impact
Target Audience (workshop participants, other youth, community members, and so on)	What skills, knowledge, or attitudes did your target audience gain?	What examples demonstrate that the target audience gained skills or knowledge?	What would be examples of a long-term impact on your target audience?
Impact On . . .	Goals		Examples of Immediate Impact
You	Which of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes* listed do you think you were able to develop through this project? Discover: <input type="checkbox"/> I developed a stronger sense of self. <input type="checkbox"/> I developed positive values. <input type="checkbox"/> I gained practical life skills. <input type="checkbox"/> I sought challenges in the world. <input type="checkbox"/> I developed critical thinking. Connect: <input type="checkbox"/> I developed healthy relationships. <input type="checkbox"/> I promoted cooperation and team building. <input type="checkbox"/> I resolved conflicts. <input type="checkbox"/> I advanced diversity in a multicultural world. <input type="checkbox"/> I felt more connected to my community, locally and globally.		Within each leadership key (Discover, Connect and Take Action) list one or two examples of your growth as a leader.

	<p>Take Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I will identify community issues. <input type="checkbox"/> I will be a resourceful problem solver. <input type="checkbox"/> I will advocate for myself and others, locally and globally. <input type="checkbox"/> I will educate and inspire others to act. <input type="checkbox"/> I will feel empowered to make a difference in the world. <p>*Want more information on the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes? Visit www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/outcomes/transferring_leadership.asp.</p>	
--	--	--

Possible Future Impact

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

Your Signature:	Date:
Troop/Group Volunteer's Signature:	Date:
Project Advisor's Signature:	Date:

GSOC Actions	
Received by Council	Date:
Final Approval Given	Date:
Signature:	Date:

Girl Scout Council of Orange County

**GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD
GOLD AWARD PROJECT HOURS LOG**

While there is no hour requirement for the project, there is a suggested 80 hour guideline. 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. Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. Quality projects, that have a positive impact on the community, should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours to use as a guide is 80 hours.

We have included this time log so that you can track the time you spend working on the Gold Award. Tracking your time will help you remember all of the steps you took to earn the Gold Award. Seeing the steps you took during the project will help you reflect on your success, share your project with others, and fill out your final paperwork. We suggest that you submit this log with your final report. The final approval of your project will be easier if the steps you took are clear.

Please submit this log with your Final Report.

Date	Start Time	Activities	End Time	Hours /mins
Total Hours this page				

Gold Award Project Hours Log – page 2

Date	Start Time	Activities	End Time	Hours/ mins
Total hours this page				
Total hours for Gold Award Project				

Girl Scout Council of Orange County

Notification of Change

Retain a copy for yourself and your advisors. Mail projects to GSCOC, **Attn: Gold Award Support Group, 9500 Toledo Way, Irvine, CA 92618**

Word process the answers to the questions listed.

Name			Troop #/GSI	Service Unit/Association
Address			City	
State	Zip Code	Phone		Email
Age	Grade	School		Class of
Project Title			Projected Completion Date	
Troop/group Leader			Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor	
Name			Name	
Address			Title/Organization	
City/State/ZIP			Address	
Daytime Phone			City/State/ZIP	
Evening			Phone	
E-Mail			E-Mail	

J. Describe the issue your project will address and who is your target audience. Remember your 15-second pitch.

K. Discuss your reasons for selecting this project.

L. Outline the strengths, talents, and skills that you plan to put into action. What skills do you hope to develop?

- M. Describe the steps involved in putting your plan into action, including resources, facilities, equipment, and approvals needed. (Attach a detailed project plan.)

- N. Enter the names of people or organizations you plan to inform and involve.

- O. Estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs.

- P. What methods or tools will you use to evaluate the impact of your project?

- Q. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?

- R. Describe how you plan to tell others about your project, the project’s impact, and what you have learned (Web site, blog, presentations, posters, videos, articles, and so on).

Your Signature:	Date:
Troop/Group Volunteer’s Signature:	Date:
Project Advisor’s Signature:	Date:

GSCOC Actions	
Received by Council	Date:
Final Approval Given	Date:
Signature:	Date:

MONEY and Your Leadership Project

One of the challenges facing every girl “going for the Gold” is financial. Often, when the planning gets serious, adjustments have to be made in the doing. On the one hand you are asked to meet a need in your community; on the other hand, you have some major constraints outlined in *Safety-Wise* and by your council. So what’s a girl to do?

OK: The reality first, then some possible ways to approach it. Think of those who have gone before you. They figured it out, and so can you! Then clear the adjustments you have made in your plan with the council.

1. You can’t ask for money as a girl member of Girl Scouts. You can’t ask for materials or services (technically called gifts-in-kind) either. This asking is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout policies — and for a lot of reasons (legal and otherwise), adults are the only people who can raise money for Girl Scouting.

What you can do: Since adults can solicit money, work with an adult partner if you really need to get a donation of materials or need some funds. You **can** describe your project to others, write a letter, create a PowerPoint presentation or write the grant, but an adult has to do the actual ask and sign on the dotted line. And don’t forget to clear the solicitation with your council. No way around it.

2. You can’t raise money for another organization as a Girl Scout. That means you can’t have a bake sale and tell people that you are giving the proceeds to a homeless shelter for meals, you can’t ask for pledges for a walk-a-thon to benefit breast cancer research, and you can’t hold a benefit dance to raise money for Sally’s kidney operation.

What you can do: This is where it gets a bit tricky. Your troop/group **can** hold a bake sale or birdhouse sale and can charge a fee to an approved event that you put on to earn money **for our troop/group’s activities**. However, **your troop/group must have council permission for any money-earning activity. Your troop/group may then decide to use that money toward** the completion of a Girl Scout Gold Award Project, such as the purchase of materials. It must be a troop/group decision on how to allocate the funds, which can be used for group or individual projects. If you are an individually registered member, things are slightly different. You cannot earn money as an individual Girl Scout for yourself. The money you earn must go to an account held by a group troop/group, service unit, or your council). Next, you must present your need for funds to that group. There is no guarantee that you will get back the amount of money you earned for the group, as the dispersal of funds will be a group decision.

Hot Group Money-Earning Ideas

Reminder: All Girl Scout activities should meet *Safety-Wise* and council guidelines.

- Sell Girl Scout cookies. (Think big — why not fax order forms to businesses in your area, or arrange for booths at sports events or college dorms. You end up helping your council as well as your group.)
- Provide childcare at special events during the holiday season or community events. (Be sure to have an adult trained in first aid present.)
- Recycle aluminum cans. (How about a community can-a-thon? Involve small businesses as well as families.)

- Put on a gigantic garage sale. Don't forget to make refreshments to sell!
- Offer clown activities and face painting at family events or malls.
- Wrap gift packages at holiday fairs.
- Apply for a community improvement grant. (Check with the mayor's or governor's office and the council. Arrange for an adult to be the signer. The money may need to go through the council or service unit, as well.)
- Hold a penny drive. Appeal to friends and family members to save loose change for you. (Donations of coins can accumulate really fast, and can present you with the nice problem of hauling a heavy load to the bank.)
- Recruit "shareholders" for your group's budget. Figure out the total budget and prepare an "ask" for sponsors who support your year's activities. (As shareholders, they deserve an annual report.)
- Provide classroom or home birthday parties on order (cupcakes and games for the busy mom).

Do Not Engage In The Following Kinds Of Activities:

1. **Money-earning projects where you are performing an activity that someone normally gets paid to do** — in other words, taking jobs away from people, such as store workers, maintenance staff, or service providers. (**However**, if certain activities — for example, cleaning a stadium after a game or gift wrapping at a store — have previously been defined clearly as opportunities for nonprofits to earn money, you can undertake these activities **with council approval**.)
2. **"Cheap labor" projects disguised as money-earning projects.** At first it may sound like a great idea, but you are actually being taken advantage of and taking away the job of someone who should be paid more money than you are being offered. That's why there are child labor and minimum wage laws!
3. **Money earning projects where Girl Scouts of the USA might be perceived as endorsing a product or political viewpoint or cause.** This includes getting paid to pass out flyers for political candidates or freebees at a business opening. When in doubt, check with your council.
4. **Money earning projects where the money goes to individuals rather than to your group as a group donation.** You cannot be employed *as a Girl Scout* to earn money.
5. **Selling anything on the Internet as a Girl Scout.** Safety issues and council boundaries are of primary concern here.