



# Girl Scouts Highest Awards Fact Sheet

The Highest Awards—the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards—are leadership awards for Take Action projects that address the root cause of a community issue with a sustainable and measurable solution. They must be leadership projects.

## Take Action Projects:

Do you know the difference between a community service project and a Take Action project? A Girl Scout Highest Award must include a Take Action project that addresses the root cause of a community issue while actively working with the community for a sustainable and measurable solution.

Community service projects are important as they address an immediate need in the community, however, they only help for a short period. A Take Action project is lasting and creates long-term change.

Community Service	Take Action Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addresses an immediate need</li><li>• Sometimes with or for the community partner</li><li>• Short-term solution</li><li>• Improves the community for some people right now</li><li>• Contribution is usually measurable</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addresses the root cause of problem and is done with (not for) the community</li><li>• Creates lasting impact in community that is measurable</li><li>• Includes provision to ensure sustainability long after a Girl Scout's involvement and the project has ended</li></ul>

There are **components** to the highest awards that should be present in each project. Just like everything in Girl Scouts, these components should progress at each level:

1. **Root Cause**—The root cause of an issue should be addressed with the project. As Girl Scouts, we want to make a positive change in our community, and we want long-lasting effects. By looking at the root cause of a problem, we figure out why the issue is happening in the first place and create a solution to stop it from happening again.
2. **Measurability**—The success of a project can be determined based on the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, the reduction of the community's need, or other concrete numbers.
3. **Sustainability**—Projects should create a lasting change and not just a one-time event. This can be done by collaborating with community leaders and/or organizations and building alliances with mentors. The project should continue to have an impact after it is completed. Lasting change can have any of these characteristics:
  - a. Change someone's mindset
  - b. Advocate to change a rule, regulation, or law and engage others in their advocacy
  - c. Create a permanent solution and ensure it's future use.

4. **Leadership**—The girl(s) working towards the award should lead a team to accomplish her goals. Girl(s) should recruit a team to help with the project, delegate the work, and manage the team.
5. **Community Engagement/ Volunteers**—The project shows leadership by involving appropriate members of the community it is serving. Girl(s) lead a team of peers to accomplish their goals.
6. **National and/or Global Link**—The girl(s) should be able to explain how the project connects to an issue that is relevant beyond the immediate community.
7. **Advocacy**—Educate and inspire! Girl(s) need to incorporate an educational component that teaches their community and inspires them to take action.

Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Up to 12 Juniors in a troop	Small groups of 2-4 Girl Scout Cadettes or individually	Individual only
20 hours per girl	50 hours per girl	80 hours
Pre-approval is not required	<a href="#">A Silver Award Proposal</a> is required prior to starting the project. Only 10 hours of work will be allowed prior to proposal approval	Proposal must be approved prior to starting project. Up to 20 hours will be permitted prior to approval. Proposal must be submitted through <a href="#">GoGold Online</a>
Project advisor* is not required but is recommended	Project advisor* highly recommended	Project advisor* is required. A Gold Award Coach will be assigned to you by council
<a href="#">Final report</a> required. Girls work together to complete one set of paperwork. Reports can be email to <a href="mailto:bronzeaward@gswcf.org">bronzeaward@gswcf.org</a>	Final report required. Girls work together to complete one set of paperwork. Email reports to <a href="mailto:silveraward@gswcf.org">silveraward@gswcf.org</a>	Final report required for mentor/ council approval. Should be submitted through GoGold Online.
**Project budget cannot exceed \$750	** <a href="#">The Project budget</a> is not to exceed \$5,000 dollar value. If over \$2,000 please contact council at <a href="mailto:silveraward@gswcf.org">silveraward@gswcf.org</a>	**Project budget does not have a limit. Budget must be reviewed by council at <a href="mailto:goldaward@gswcf.org">goldaward@gswcf.org</a>

\*Project Advisors are a specialist in the field and cannot be a parent or troop leader.

\*\*For more info on [fundraising and Supplemental Earning](#), check our [website](#).

### Bronze

- **Sept. 30** of the year they complete 5th grade
- **March 31:** All Bronze Award finals submitted by this date will be invited to that year's Gold Award Ceremony. All final reports submitted after this date, will be invited to the following year's ceremony.

### Silver

- **July 1:** Last day to submit proposals for bridging Cadettes.
- **September 30:** Absolute last day for bridging Cadettes to submit their Silver Award Final Report.
- **March 31:** All Silver Award finals submitted by this date will be invited to that year's Gold Award Ceremony. All final reports submitted after this date, will be invited to the following year's ceremony.

### Gold

- **April 1:** Recommended last day to submit proposals for graduating high school seniors. **Please note that proposals will NOT be accepted from high school graduates after July 1st.**
- **September 30:** Deadline for graduated high school seniors to submit their Gold Award Final Report in GoGold.
- **March 31:** Final reports must be submitted in GoGold, to be invited to that year's Gold Award Ceremony. Final reports submitted after this date, will be invited to the following year's ceremony.