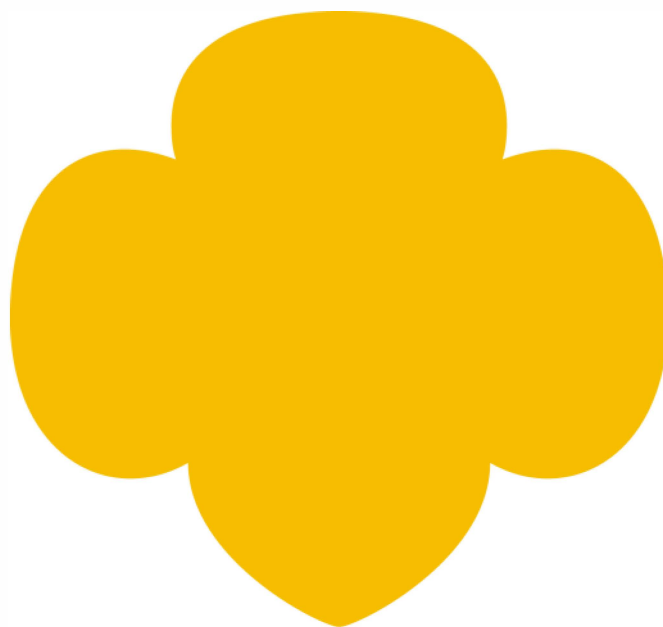




GSK Gold Award Roadmap & Tips



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Welcome to the Girl Scout Gold Award

We're so excited that you've decided to participate in the Girl Scout Gold Award! The Highest Awards program exemplifies Girl Scouting at its very best. Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors spend countless hours every year working on their projects that make a difference in their local communities, nationally, and even globally! This packet is designed to give you some helpful hints as you begin your Take Action project.

Before you begin, here are a few steps you should take:

1. Complete your Girl Scout Silver Award and one Senior or Ambassador Journey OR complete two Senior or Ambassador Journeys.
2. Attend a "Go Gold! Workshop" provided by Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana. This step is highly recommended, so use our website, www.gskentuckiana.org, to find a date and time that would be most convenient for you!
3. Consult with GSK's Gold Award Team and partner with a Gold Award Mentor who will help as you put together an awesome, complete project proposal.

As you plan ahead for completion of your Gold Award, there are some important dates that you should know about. Each spring Gold Award Girl Scouts are listed in our council's Annual Report and are recognized at the Annual Meeting. Your final report must be submitted by February 1 in order to be included in the publication and event. GSK will hold Older Girl Recognition Ceremonies in the spring and summer. You must submit your Final Report by April 1 for April ceremonies. You must submit your Final Report by May 10 for June ceremonies. Ceremony dates will be shared with all Gold Award Girl Scouts.

If you are finishing your Gold Award at the end of your high school graduation year, you must submit your Final Report by **September 10**.

History of the Girl Scout Gold Award

The highest leadership awards for Girl Scouts have included:

- The Golden Eagle of Merit (1916-1919)
- The Golden Eaglet (1919-1940)
- The Curved Bar (1940-1963)
- First Class (1963-1980)
- The Girl Scout Gold Award (1980-present)
- Delegates to the 1990 National Council Session approved a proposal to keep the name of the Girl Scout Gold Award in perpetuity.
- 1993: The National Council Session approved the establishment of the Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance.

Today the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting, recognizes the leadership, effort, and impact girls in grades 9-12 and registered as a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador have had on their communities. The path towards earning this prestigious award is rigorous, but those who complete their Gold Award Take Action Project change the lives of others and their own in amazing and significant ways.

The Highest Award in Girl Scouting Through the Years



Benefits of Earning the Gold Award

- The Girl Scout Gold Award is a national award with national standards. It represents girls' time, leadership, creativity and effort contributed to making their communities better.
- A young woman who has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award has become a community leader. Her accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set her apart.
- An increasing number of colleges and universities have recognized the achievements and leadership abilities of Gold Award Girl Scouts by establishing scholarship programs for them. Girl Scouts of the USA awards one scholarship per council per year to a selected Gold Award Girl Scout. GSUSA also publishes the Scholarships for Girl Scouts Directory, which lists schools which may have other scholarship opportunities. Copies of the directory are available online at www.girlscouts.org/scholarships.
- Gold Award Girl Scouts may enter the four branches of the United States Armed Services at an advanced level and salary, having been recognized for their level of leadership shown in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- The achievements of Gold Award Girl Scouts are acknowledged by many government and non-profit organizations.
- Many state and local organizations also acknowledge Gold Award Girl Scouts.
- Girls completing their Girl Scout Gold Award may apply their service hours to the President's Volunteer Service Awards at the Bronze, Silver or Gold levels. (www.presidentialserviceawards.gov)
- The Girl Scout Gold Award projects themselves solve community issues and improve lives.
- The Girl Scout Gold Award process creates assets for the community and the future.





Girl Scout Gold Award Seven Steps and Standards of Excellence

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps

1. Choose an issue. Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about.

2. Investigate. Research everything you can about the issue.

3. Get help. Invite others to support and take action with you.

4. Create a plan. Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.

5. Present your plan. Sum up your project plan.

6. Take action. Take the lead to carry out your plan.

7. Educate and inspire. Share what you have experienced with others.

Standards of Excellence

- Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
 - Demonstrate civic responsibility.
-

- 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.
-

- 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.
-

- Lead the planning of your Gold Award project.
 - Work collaboratively to develop a plan that creates lasting change.
-

- 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.
-

- 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.
-

- 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.



Adult Support Roles Related to Gold Award

Gold Award Troop Leader

The Troop Leader's role in the Gold Award process is to enthusiastically support girls in the troop who are earning their Gold Awards. The nature of this position requires the Troop Leader to provide direct service to girls, helping them to develop their leadership skills on an individual basis. The Troop Leader supports girls through the Gold Award prerequisites, and she documents completion of those pre-requisites. She also helps girls with administrative requirements, including documentation and money management of troop funds. The Troop Leader is a resource for all things Girl Scouts. Keep in mind that the Gold Award should not dominate troop activities.

Gold Award Families

Throughout the awards process, families have the unique opportunity to witness their Girl Scouts develop leadership skills by earning one of the highest awards in Girl Scouting. Families have a ring-side seat as they watch their Girl Scouts develop the courage, confidence, and character required to earn the Gold Award. The family's primary role is to step back, listen and provide moral support to their Girl Scout as the girl learns how to identify community needs, become resourceful problem solvers and advocate for themselves and others. There may be moments when girls need to be coached through how to resolve conflicts or build an effective team. At other times, families may need to cheer their Girl Scout on to achieve her goals. Families take a hands-off approach at this awards level and motivate girls to fully lead all aspects of their projects. If a girl has a disability, a family may need to collaborate with the council to meet her needs. Girls of all abilities are eligible to earn the Gold Award.

Gold Award Mentor

Here in Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, our volunteer Gold Award Team has members who are serving as Gold Award Mentors. Any girl who would like advice and guidance while creating her project proposal can get help from a mentor. The mentor can meet with a girl in person, talk by phone, email, text or use whatever style of communication will work for both the girl and the mentor. To be assigned a mentor, send an email to gskgogold@gmail.com.

Gold Award Project Advisor

Your project advisor will be an important resource. Look for an adult with knowledge and expertise in the subject of your project. An advisor does not need to have had Girl Scout experience necessarily. You'll look to this person for guidance, ideas, and expert advice along the way. Here are some things to remember and rules to follow:

You'll have to find an advisor who is not your troop leader, parent/caregiver, or a relative. Look to your teachers, religious community leaders, or other adults in your broader community who might want to get involved.

Tell your project advisor about your project and make sure they are on board. Be sure to have a correct email address for your project advisor. Alert the advisor that Girl Scouts will be contacting her/him to confirm that she/he has agreed to help you with your Gold Award plan.

You are welcome to have more than one person in the role of project advisor, but choose one as your primary advisor. This will be the person who advises Go Gold Online that you have completed your project.



Need a little help recruiting your project advisor? Here are some tips to work through the process:

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. (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 email, 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 list of areas where you think you'll need the most help.

Think Ahead When Asking for Help: Before you compose an email 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 you tell your project advisor (in a quick email 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/him to your Highest Award ceremony/your own celebration. Don't forget to send a thank you note!

The Go Gold Online system will contact your Project Advisor to get confirmation that he/she is assisting, consulting with, or otherwise being engaged with your project.



Prerequisites

You must have completed A.) the Girl Scout Silver Award and one Senior or Ambassador Journey, or B) two Senior or Ambassador Journeys.

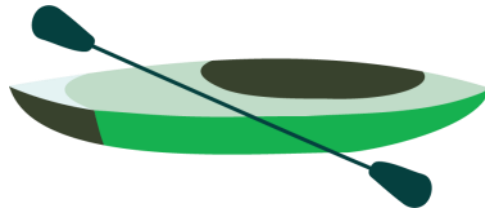
Senior/Ambassador Journey	Date Completed	Troop/Group Leader

Girl Scout Silver Award Completion Date	
Council where you earned the award	
Troop Leader/approval date	

Tip: After you complete the prerequisite information, the system will email your troop leader so that she can confirm the information that you entered. Be sure your troop leader's email address is entered accurately!

Senior and Ambassador Journeys

<p>Senior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sow What • GIRLtopia • Mission Sisterhood • Senior Outdoor Journey • Think Like a Programmer • Think Like an Engineer • Think Like a Citizen Scientist 	<p>Ambassador:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Voice Your World: The Power of Advocacy • Justice • BLISS: Live it! Give it! • Ambassador Outdoor Journey • Think Like a Programmer • Think Like an Engineer • Think Like a Citizen Scientist
--	--



If you would like to earn an Outdoor Journey, here is information about which badges comprise those journeys.

Senior Outdoor Journey

- Adventurer
- First Aid
- Adventure Camper
- Take Action Award

Ambassador Outdoor Journey

- Outdoor Art Master
- Water
- Survival Camper
- Take Action Award

Each Journey culminates with a Take Action Project. These are the steps that should be followed.

Girls team up to:

- Identify a problem
- Come up with a sustainable solution
- Develop a team plan
- Put the plan into action
- Reflect on what they learned



Your Team

Your Project Advisor

Go Gold online will ask you to provide your Project Advisor's name, organization, phone number, and email. After you have completed your project, there will be contact with your advisor to confirm the results of your project.



Your Team

List the names of individuals and organizations you plan to work with on your Gold Award project. This is a preliminary list that may grow over the course of your project. It is not appropriate to list just members of your family as part of your team.

Individual (if applicable)	Organization	How my team will help



Tip: Your team can include your project advisor, a Girl Scout troop that may work for you, another youth group or adult group that may work with you, and individuals who may bring skills or expertise. A Gold Award project needs to show your leadership, and so you need a team.

Theme

You will see a set of boxes to select from to identify broad themes that pertain to your project.

The theme(s) my Gold Award will address is/are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Relationships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art, Culture, Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Military/Veterans Affairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship | <input type="checkbox"/> STEM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment & Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | |

Tip: Select two or three themes at most.

Issue

After you select a theme you will be asked to identify the specific issue that your project will address.

The issue of your Gold Award is the problem that you want to address. No problem that you have discovered is unique. Do some research on your issue to see what experts say about it. Cite your research and give some statistics and other statements to back up the fact that your issue is real.

You may want to compose this information in editable software such as Word or Google Docs and later cut and paste into the Go Gold text box.

The reason I selected my issue:

Although there are four places to make an entry, one or two will be enough.

Tip: Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source's reliability and accuracy.



If Your Gold Award Benefits Girl Scouting

At Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, we know that doing something to benefit Girl Scouts may hold a special interest for you. If you have an idea that you are serious about wanting to pursue, you must have it cleared by a small staff panel BEFORE you spend a lot of time and effort writing a project plan. The form can be found at bit.ly/goldapproval. In most cases, you will have a result of your inquiry in about a week.

This added step is put in place to protect you from disappointment in case what you would like to do just will not work from the perspective of our council staff who deal with long term plans, insurance, maintenance, finance, liability, and all sorts of issues that are largely invisible.

Root Cause

It's important that your Gold Award project addresses your community 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 talking to others. The same issue might exist in many communities, but the root cause may be different. You'll need to dig down find yours!

Check out some examples of root cause below to help you think it through.



Sample Community Issue	Possible Root Cause (Why it's 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 at the parks, people in the community aren't aware of the negative effects of littering on the environment.
The local food shelf is often low on food	People in the community don't know how to donate food or aren't aware of the need. There is a lack of access to grocery stores. People are lacking the skills or resources to find a job.
Bats are intruding on the neighborhood and homes	New home construction has destroyed area bats' natural habitat. People don't understand the important role of bats in the local ecosystem. There is a lack of knowledge in the community about how to provide or restore bats' homes.

You will find a tool within Go Gold Online that will help you with finding an issue's root cause. Once you have found your root cause, you want your project to be centered on solving that. By working to solve the root cause, you are going to be making bigger strides to solve the bigger issue.



I will address the root cause by:

This question is not so much about the root cause as it is the opportunity for you to write about what you envision your project to be. Describe for your readers what you intend to do, who is going to help you, how you will obtain some of your needed supplies, and more. Go into as much detail as you can at this point.

Feel free to write your response to this question in editable software of your choice and then upload it along with your project plan. You could leave a note in this text box to indicate that is where your scorers will find your response.

Tip: Sometimes Gold Award projects fall into the category of advocacy. The Girl Scout sets out to bring about a change in a local law, in a state regulation, or in another way of work of an organization. The attempt to bring about a change in knowledge and with it, a change in attitudes can be an appropriate project even though the change might not succeed in the end.

Target Audience

Who will be influenced by your project? Is it a group of children at a shelter? An adult group in your community? Your peers at school, at church, in Girl Scouts? Often a project impacts more than one audience. Lasting educational pieces that you create may influence countless others for years to come. Think about who you will aim to reach.

Tip: After you determine who your project will affect, then identify what they will learn or how their feelings about an issue may change.

How will you know what they have learned or how they feel? Will you use a survey? Make observations? Interview them for feedback? Tell us what your measurement plan will be.

If you can answer these three questions about target audience, what they will learn, and how you will know they learned it, you have a solid foundation for your Gold Award proposal.

Example Target Audiences

Your target audience may include one or more of the following groups:

- Adults
- Educators
- Elected officials
- Business owners
- Infants and toddlers
- Children of preschool age
- Children of elementary school age
- Children of middle school age
- Retired adults
- People with physical disabilities
- People with mental illness

Make sure to be specific. For instance, you might be reaching elementary school children in sciences classes, high school students in band, or parents of kids with mental illness.

The target audience(s) for my Gold Award project is/are:

The skills, knowledge and/or attitudes that my target audience(s) will gain are:

I will know that my audience has gained the desired skills/knowledge because:

Defining National and/or Global Link

Your project has a national and/or global link when you can explain how it connects to an issue that is relevant worldwide. Remember: local to global to local. Global issues don't just happen "somewhere else". You can address a global issue that is evident in your local and/or national community, like poverty, hunger, illiteracy, homelessness, or climate injustice.

Whatever you choose as your Gold Award issue will be something that people have addressed elsewhere in the USA or in the world. Do some research to find out how people have worked on the same issue in other places. This research is what makes your response for this text box.

Tip: Do some research and cite statistics related to your proposal's topic. For example, a proposal might be targeting children who live in poverty in your community.



Create Your Plan: Define Your Measurable Goals

Your project is measurable when you collect information, or data, throughout your project and use it to show that your actions have had an impact on the community issue you've chosen. So, think about what you can count in your project. How much? How many?

Look back at the section on Target Audience (page 14) and what you listed as the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will hopefully change due to the impact of your project. Use these same responses to create the chart for Measuring My Gold Awards' Project Success (page 17). Once you have completed the chart, then use those same ideas to write goals in sentences for the text box.



How to Set Measurable Goals

Your goals should be detailed, relevant to your project, and include information that can be measured. They should also include a target date of completion.

Use your target audience(s), the skills, knowledge or attitude changes and write a goal that is somewhat like this:

By the end of my project, (the target audience) will have learned _____ or will have shown that they can _____ or will have been influenced by _____ and will be changed. I will know this has happened because I have (used a survey, made observations, other).

You can have a couple of goal statements, especially if you have more than one target audience.



Tip: Within Go Gold Online, you will see a drop-down menu that allows you to complete row by row items that will complete a chart like the one below.

What my audience will learn/gain	How I will measure impact	When I will measure impact

Tip: Use your notes in the chart above to write the goals in paragraph form in the provided response space.

My Gold Award project's goals are:

Sustainability

Sustainability is having a plan

A school or organization agreeing to continue your Gold Award

Creating materials (i.e., a binder, pamphlet, video, website, or social media campaign) to be used as a resource and to continue to engage others with your issue

Sustainability is not YOU continuing your project or hoping someone else will. It's also not:

- A collection drive or make/donate project
- A fundraiser
- A standalone structure (i.e., bench, mural, sign, or garden)

Design a project that creates lasting change! Once you've done all the work to find an issue, gotten at the root cause, rallied your friends, family, and community, and solved the problem, you'll need to make sure your efforts are sustainable. This means making sure things don't revert back to the way they were. Find a way to make sure the results of your project continue to live on in the future, and that your work has a lasting impact on your community.

Here are some ideas of community groups you might pursue a commitment from to continue the accomplishments of your project in the future:

- Community group related to your project
- Younger Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop
- Your church or place of worship
- School administrators
- School club like the National Honor Society, STEM club, or another related to the subject of your project
- Local government

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.



As you work in Go Gold Online, you will open a menu that looks like this:

For Team Member Role, please list who is doing the activity. For example, you can list "myself" if only you are involved. You can list "my troop helpers". You can list "my project advisor and me". You can list John Doe and Jane Doe-naming your team people specifically.

✕

Add Activity

Approximate Date

mm/yyyy
📅

Activity Description

Activity Description

Team Member Role

Team Member Role

Resources needed

Resources needed

Approx. Hours of Work

Approx. Hours of Work

Cancel

Save

When the chart is created and becomes part of your Gold Award plan, it looks different. The item in the menu, Team Member Role, prints out as Teammate(s) Needed. This is why you need to complete the menu with the people who are involved with each activity that you include. It is a little glitch in the software.

Create Your Plan

I will put my plan into action by:

Date	Activity	Teammate(s) Needed	Resources Needed	Hours of Work

Timeline Considerations

Managing your time, working in all of your other commitments—school, sports, band, church, jobs, and friends—is an enormous challenge.

Think ahead about the time of year that you really do want to work on your project.

- Does it need to be during growing season for a garden project?
- Does it need to be done outdoors in good weather?
- Do you want to work during Spring Break?
- Are you going to work with children during the school year?
- When will your team members be available?

Plan Backwards!

You want to be finished → You submit Final Report → You share your project results

You ensure sustainability → You do main project work → You get approval

You make adjustments to your plan → You submit your plan →

You do research, design, and write your plan → **Your start date!**

So how long does all that take? Probably the very fastest you can do all the steps is three months and that is when school is out. It is more likely that you will spread out your work over six to nine months. Plan for interruptions like band season, family vacations, cookie selling, final exams and more.

If you are already a senior and still attempting your Gold Award this is the latest timeline you can use for your project. As of October 1, you are considered an adult Girl Scout member.

May 1—June 14	Research, Design, and Write Plan
June 15	Submit Plan
June 30	Get Approval
July 1—September 5	Project Work
September 10	Submit Final Report
September 30	Absolute Deadline to Complete

Gold Award Budget Estimation

Estimate your project expenses and how you plan to meet those costs (e.g., donations, cookie proceeds, money-earning project):

Tip: When you enter this information on Go Gold online, each budget row will appear as an item in a dropdown menu. After you have made several entries, the software will create a table for you.

Item	Source of Funding	Amount

Funding Your Girl Scout Gold Award Project

As a Senior or Ambassador member of Girl Scouts, you CAN ask for money, materials, or services! You can also have a garage sale, a used book sale, a handmade crafts sale, a plant sale, a carwash, a bake sale, etc.

This asking is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout council policies.

- Complete a Gold Award Fundraising Permission Form. Return the completed form to GSK Fund Development department: dsiravo@gskentuckiana.org
- Provide a Gold Award Donor Form to the organization from which you are seeking donations. This provides the organization an opportunity to seek a tax letter from the council.
- Both forms can be found at bit.ly/gskgold.

There are also other options besides asking for donations:

- Break open your piggy bank. You can use your own money to fund your project.
- Get a job. You can earn money to fund your project.
- You can ask friends and neighbors for donations of time and stuff, such as clothing for a clothing drive or that pile of bricks left over from your neighbor's backyard project.
- Service work. Babysitting, mowing, weeding, etc. You should not take over someone else's job for less money, but if it's available and up for grabs, you can use it for money-earning.
- Ask your troop to use troop funds. If the whole troop agrees, you can use troop funds for your project.

If what you want to do costs too much:

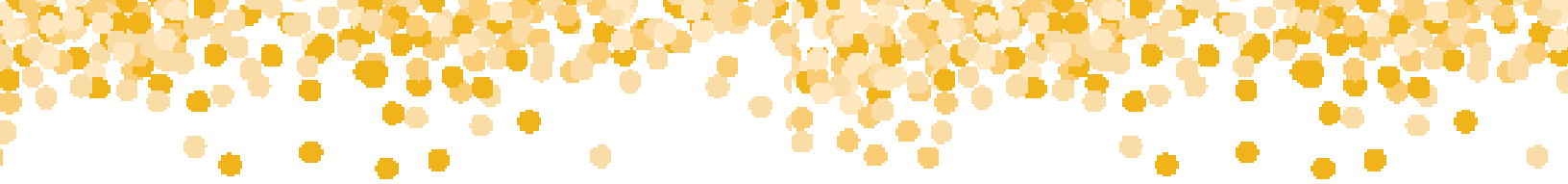
- It's better to succeed with a smaller project that is within your budget than to be unable to complete a larger project because it exceeds your budget.
- Be realistic about what you can and can't do. Work with your adult advisor to develop a reasonable budget for your project.
- If your resources are insufficient for you to realistically accomplish your goal, then you need to rethink the project.

You absolutely SHOULD NOT:

- Sell retail items or selling via the internet to earn money.
- Use your project as a fundraiser for any organization, including Girl Scouts. Gold Award Projects are not fundraisers.
- Hold raffles, bingos, poker night, or other games of chance to raise money. GSUSA is very clear that games of chance are not an acceptable activity or means of money earning for Girl Scouts.
- Apply for any grants to fund your project.
- Girl Scouts pursuing their Gold Award can raise awareness for another organization. If you plan an awareness event, create an item or product as part of your project, it should be budgeted to be as self-supporting as possible. For example, if you host an event to raise awareness, any proceeds must be funneled back into the Gold Award project. For example, the fee to attend an event is \$10 per person with a cost of \$8/person resulting in proceeds of \$2 per person. The Girl Scout can use those proceeds to further support her Take Action Project.

As a Girl Scout, you cannot state or imply in any way that your project is raising funds for another organization or present them with cash or checks. You CAN help raise awareness for an organization, but cannot raise funds for them.





Strengths, Talents, and Skills

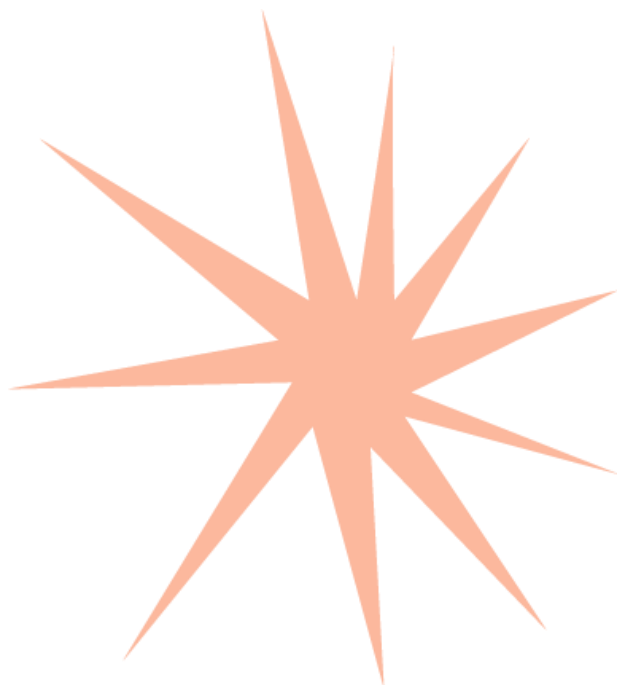
Tip: You will be asked to identify what you already know and can do as well as skills that you plan to develop as you do your project. Take a few minutes and circle the skills that you will likely check. Be thinking about the skills you'd like to develop.

There are no truly correct and incorrect selections, but your proposed project plan needs to coordinate with your selections to some extent.

The strengths, talents, and skills I currently have and will put into action are:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Project Management | Public Speaking | Budgeting |
| Courage | Confidence | Character |
| Collaboration | Community Building | Decision Making |
| Empathy | Implementation | Presentation Skills |
| Problem Solving | Time Management | Research |
| Organization | Risk Taking | Innovation |

The skills I plan to develop as I work toward earning my Gold Award are:



Tell the World!

Sharing Tips

It's time to tell others about what you did, what you have learned, and the effect you hope your project will have on its intended audience. Your story may inspire others to take action 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 website or blog or social media page (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) to post updates and details about your project and its influence on the national and/or global community.
- Log on to some websites where you can share your story:
 - »World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
 - »Taking IT Global
 - »Global Youth Service Day
- Create a campaign that showcases your cause. Make buttons, posters, and flyers to hand out.
- Present what you have learned and what your project will do for the community at a local workshop.
- Make a video about the effects of your project. Post it online. Invite friends, community leaders, and people from like-minded organizations to take a look at it.
- Write an article for your local newspaper, or create a newsletter about your project.

Tip: When you are using Go Gold Online, you will see a series of checkboxes to select from that is similar to what is listed below:

Tell the World!

I will let others know about my Gold Award (the impact of my project, what the Gold Award is, and what I learned in earning it). Pick a couple of these ways that you will share your Gold Award. Be realistic. More is not better in this case. Note: This is NOT about your Gold Award's sustainability.

Website
Posters
Workshops

Blogs
Videos

Social Media
Articles

Presentations
Public Demonstrations

Steps for Approval

Tip: Work with a Gold Award Team mentor BEFORE you submit your proposal so that she can advise you on sections that need a little work in advance.

Tip: Create an editable document in Google Docs, Word, or other software, so that you and your mentor can easily share ideas and edit. Then you can copy and paste into text boxes on Go Gold Online.

Here are the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana steps for project approval:

1. Complete your project proposal electronically at Go Gold Online at girlscouts.org/gogoldonline. Do not submit your proposal in any other form!
2. Think of your proposal as a professional application. Complete every item. Answer questions thoroughly! Where it is appropriate, include factual data from your research of the issue.
3. Once you have submitted your completed proposal, Go Gold Online will notify GSK that your plan is there. You will be sent an email acknowledging its receipt.
4. Once initial checks are done to ensure that you are currently registered and in a correct grade in school, your plan will be forwarded to GSK's volunteer Gold Award Team.
5. If, at first look, it appears that your plan will not score well, a Gold Award Team member will be assigned to offer you assistance. She will reach out to you. You need to schedule time to conference with her in person or electronically.
6. Your proposal will be sent to a small group of Gold Award Team members for scoring.
7. Once the scores are returned and averaged, it will be determined if you plan is approvable as it is written or if it needs a few clarifications or adjustment. You will be notified of the results. It is very normal that a proposal does need a little extra work. Don't worry! A Gold Award Team member is on your side and ready to help you make suggested edits.
8. Once your project is approved, you may begin the actual work of your project. You may start logging hours while you are researching your issue and speaking with experts while creating your plan. Be sure that your project advisor hears from you that you have received approval! The Go Gold Online system will lock in your project plan, and your next entries will be part of our Final Report.

Tip: Once you have an approved proposal and have begun work, you may find that you need to make changes in your plan. That is not unusual, but communicate with the Gold Award Team member who has become your liaison so that your changes are OK'd and everything can continue smoothly.



Your Final Report

If you look at Steps 6 and 7 in Go Gold Online, you will see the items that you need to complete to create the Final Report. Don't wait until you are finished with your work. As you go along, track your actual income and expenses, your actual dates and hours of work and who helped. Prepare ahead of time to collect the needed data. Take photos. Collect receipts. If you are creating a product such as a brochure, a webpage, a video, make sure you have evidence of it.

Deadlines at Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana

Each spring, Gold Award Girl Scouts are listed in our council's Annual Report and are recognized at the Annual Meeting. Your Final Report must be submitted by February 1 in order to be included in that publication and event. GSK will hold Older Girl Recognition Ceremonies in the spring and summer. You must submit your Final Report by April 1 for April ceremonies. You must submit your Final Report by May 10 for June ceremonies. Ceremony dates will be shared with all Gold Award Girl Scouts.

If you are finishing your Gold Award at the end of your high school graduation year, you must submit your Final Report by September 10.

Tip: Don't wait until the last minute to meet these deadlines. Allow time for the report to be received and reviewed as needed. Sometimes the person who will receive your electronic report is not able to check email every day.

Be aware: Final Reports require approval, too. Have you done what your plan stated? Have you submitted evidence of your project and its sustainability? When your Final Report is submitted, the Gold Award Team will compare your plan to your report and will look at your uploaded materials as well to ensure that your project is approvable.

If you wait until the last moment to file your Final Report and there are any issues that must be fixed in order for it to be approved, there is NO provision for an extension of the September 10 deadline.



Quick Dos and Don'ts of Gold Award

- **Do** establish and use your own “adult” email address, preferably not one through your high school. There are many options for free accounts.
- **Do** reach out to the Gold Award Team for info and assistance! Your success rate at getting a plan approved on first read will be greatly increased! Contact them at gskgogold@gmail.com.
- **Do** reach out yourself versus having your parent or troop leader do that.
- **Do** envision how you will lead a team as you work to impact your issue. A Gold Award is not about you doing all of the work yourself.
- **Do** focus on how you are going to impact people!
- **Do** spend time on researching your issue! It is not enough that you think there is a need for what you propose to do.
- **Do** have others read your proposal before you submit it. Best if you have a Gold Award Mentor for this purpose. If she gives advice, take it. If she asks for another draft, send it!
- **Do** pay attention to writing clearly and following basic English rules. Capitalize as needed. Use sentences where there is space for them. A good plan makes a poor impression if the first thing that catches a reader’s eye is something like Gold Award written in lower case.
- **Don’t** use a family member or your troop leader as a project advisor.
- **Don’t** use family members or just your troop as your Gold Award Team.
- **Don’t** focus on the 80-hour suggested minimum. A Gold Award project is so much more than hours. Most Gold Award projects go beyond that number of hours anyway.
- **Don’t** focus on building something or collecting items. Either might be a portion of your plan, but a Gold Award plan requires many more elements to be approvable.



Project Planning Checklist

Go through this checklist before you submit your project proposal for council approval to help determine if you're ready to go. If you can't check something off, revisit that piece to make sure you've got everything covered.

- My project is unique. It is my own, can stand on its own, and is not dependent on another girl's project or another organization's event.
- I have a project goal, and I know what I want to learn.
- I dug down to the root cause, and my project will address it.
- I feel good about the level of challenge and scale. My project is doable! (If not, you may need to step back and refocus. Talk to your advisor, troop volunteer, or council contact for help.)
- My project plans fit within the Girl Scouts Safety Activity Checkpoints (found on Girl Scouts of Kentuckian's website).
- My project plan demonstrates active leadership!
- I have recruited my team, and have discussed the project plan with them.
- I created a budget for my project.
- I have a plan for how I'll raise funds (if necessary).
- I have created a timeline for my project that includes a minimum of 80 hours, not including writing my proposal, fundraising, or writing my final report.
- My project addresses a need in my community, and I have found national and/or global links.
- I have a plan for how my project will be sustainable.
- My project challenges my abilities and interests, and will help me grow.
- I will submit my project proposal electronically through the Go Gold Online.
- I saved a copy of my project proposal and any other supporting documents for myself.
- I'm ready to get started!

Gold Award Take Action Project Ideas

Community Development

- _ Civic/Public Infrastructure
- _ Homeless Assistance
- _ Transportation
- _ Community Clean-up
- _ Social Services
- _ Volunteer Capacity/Management
- _ Historic Preservation
- _ Animal Care Services
- _ Independent Living Assistance
- _ Other Community Development (specify)

Economic Development

- _ Financial Literacy
- _ Workforce Development
- _ Financial Asset Development
- _ Economic Revitalization
- _ Technology Access
- _ Other Economic Development (specify)

Disaster Recovery and Relief

- _ Disaster Mitigation
- _ Disaster Recovery
- _ Other Disaster
- _ Disaster Preparedness
- _ Disaster Relief

Education

- _ Adult Literacy
- _ Computer Literacy
- _ Special Education Programs
- _ After School Programs
- _ English Language Learning
- _ Classroom Education
- _ Child Literacy
- _ Job Preparedness
- _ Cultural Heritage
- _ School Preparedness
- _ Other Education (specify)

Environment and Energy

- _ Clean Air
- _ Environmental Protection
- _ Waste Reduction/Recycling
- _ Clean Water
- _ Environmental Restoration
- _ Weatherization
- _ Energy Conservation
- _ Indoor Environment
- _ Environmental Awareness
- _ Other Environment (specify)

Health & Wellness/Nutrition

- _ Disabilities Services
- _ HIV/AIDS Prevention
- _ Nutrition Education
- _ Food Distribution/Collection
- _ Health & Wellness Education
- _ Substance Abuse Prevention/Rehabilitation
- _ Food Production
- _ Maternal/Child Health Services
- _ Aid to Seniors/Elders
- _ Health Service Delivery
- _ Mental Health Services
- _ Other Health/Nutrition (specify)

Public Safety

- _ Accident Prevention
- _ Crisis Intervention
- _ Victim/Witness Services
- _ Community Policing
- _ Fire Prevention
- _ Public Safety Education
- _ Conflict Resolution/Mediation
- _ Legal Assistance
- _ Crime Awareness/Prevention
- _ Offender/Ex-Offender Services/Rehabilitation
- _ Children and Youth Safety
- _ Other Public Safety (specify)

Youth Development

- _ Children and Youth Safety
- _ Juvenile Justice Services
- _ Bullying Prevention
- _ Delinquency Prevention
- _ Teen Pregnancy/Parenting Services
- _ Other Youth Development (specify)
- _ Gang Prevention/Rehabilitation
- _ Youth Leadership Development

Veterans Assistance

- _ Housing Assistance
- _ Military Family Assistance
- _ Veteran Employment Services
- _ Outreach and Counseling
- _ Veteran Disabilities/Rehabilitation Assistance
- _ Other Veterans (specify)