





Highest Awards

Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Comparison

Question	Bronze 	Silver 	Gold 
Grade level to earn this award	Junior, Grades 4-5	Cadette, Grades 6-8	Senior/Ambassador, Grades 9-12
Individual vs. Group work	Usually completed as a troop or group . All Bronze Award earners share equal responsibilities and focus on team work and group decision-making.	Small team (2–4 girls) or individual Silver Awards cannot be earned by more than 4 Cadettes working on one project. Silver Award earners— <u>the girls</u> —take the lead on all aspects of the project.	Individually Earned by an individual girl who takes the lead as project manager for all aspects of the project.
Minimum number of hours a girl would spend to earn this award?	20 hours per girl	50 hours per girl	80 hours per girl
Approvals required	Approval is at the troop/group level	Approval is at the troop/group level.	Approval is at the Council level.
What does the team look like?	Help and guidance provided by troop/group volunteers and families. Individuals and experts from other community groups may volunteer.	Silver Award earners may recruit people to help with the project (including other Girl Scouts or community members).	Gold Award Projects should involve two or more people (besides the girl) who have diverse skillsets / areas of knowledge to contribute to the project.
Issue / Problem Statement vs. Root Cause	By the time the project is complete, girls begin to understand the difference between service that is done once and solutions that create a lasting impact over time.	Girls identify at least one root cause of their community issue. Girls discuss ways to target a root cause, and explain how it was addressed through the project in the final report.	Project proposal identifies at least one root cause of the issue , with specific actions for addressing it. The final report describes how the root cause was addressed through the project.
Sustainability	After the project is complete, girls develop an understanding of sustainability by talking together about how solutions can be lasting	Girls demonstrate an understanding of sustainability by creating a project plan that allows for it.	Project must include substantial provisions to be actively maintained after girl involvement.
Measurability	By the time the project is complete, girls understand measurability by discussing aspects of the project that can be counted or tracked.	Girls set at least one measurable goal related to her project topic. Girls evaluate project results relative to the target they set.	Project includes a specific plan to measure results. Measurement includes quantitative and/or qualitative tools or data.
Final Deadline	September 30 after grade 5 is completed/beginning of grade 6	September 30 after grade 8 is completed/beginning of grade 9	Final Report must be turned in no later than September 30 after grade 12 - or the girl's 18th birthday, whichever is later.

<p>Challenge Yourself!</p> <p>The Silver and Gold Awards are two of the three highest awards in Girl Scouts. Choose a topic that is interesting and meaningful to you. This is an opportunity for your interests, skills, and strengths to shine. Be Bold. Dream Big. Reach farther. It's okay to make a few mistakes along the way.</p>	<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with a community area or topic that interests you • Ask lots of questions • Use open-ended questions to draw out answers • Seek to understand the root cause(s), rather than find a "home" for a predetermined project idea 	<p>Community Service projects help to solve an immediate need, but do not impact the root cause of an issue.</p> <p>Take Action projects help solve an issue by discovering the cause and developing a project to affect or eliminate the cause of the problem.</p> <p>Silver/Gold Award projects are Take Action projects!</p>
<p>Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start as early as you can! Time gives you options and flexibility to adjust when things happen. • Keep it practical. Break down your timeline by key tasks. • Run into a problem? Communication is key. Talk to your project advisor / troop leader / Council early. They are here to help you! 		
<p>Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check GSNorCal guidelines on money earning in Volunteer Essentials • Raffles / other types of gambling are not allowed • Your project may not create a profit, nor may you donate funds directly to another organization • Only adults may ask organizations or companies for donations (... girls are there too, to explain the project and how the donation will be used) 		<p>Sustainable impact</p> <p>Community service projects stop when you stop, but Take Action projects do not. Take Action projects are continual, sustainable. Take Action projects are with the community, not just for the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger in scope • Addresses root cause • Long-term benefits • Provides on-going support or benefits <p>Consider a dying plant... to determine what is causing the plant to die, you must look at the roots. Only when you identify the cause of the problem (lack of water, food, insect invasion), can you take sustainable actions to fix what is wrong.</p>
<p>Things to Avoid</p> <p>The project advisor cannot be a parent or family member. Use your project as an opportunity to reach out to your community.</p> <p>Executing a "canned project" from a pre-existing plan, is not a Silver / Gold Take Action project. (Example: a summer day camp from last year's plan).</p> <p>A Take Action project cannot be completed by you alone. You demonstrate leadership by building a team of volunteers who help execute your plan.</p>		<p>Girl Scouts of Northern California thanks the following sister councils for ideas and materials referenced in creating this guide: GS of Wisconsin Southeast, GS of Virginia Skyline (VA), Black Diamond GS (WV), Heart of Central California GS, GS Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont (NC)</p>