




Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold 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	Completed as a troop or group or solo . All Bronze Award earners share equal responsibilities and focus on team work and group decision-making. Focus on Girl-Led experience vs Adult-Led.	Small team (2–4 youth) or individual Silver Awards cannot be earned by more than 4 Cadettes working on one project. Silver Award earners <u>take the lead</u> on all aspects of the project.	Individually Earned by an individual youth who takes the lead as project manager for all aspects of the project.
Minimum number of hours a youth would spend to earn this award?	20 hours per youth	50 hours per youth	80 hours per youth
Approvals required	Approval is at the troop/group level. Final report submitted to Council.	Proposal submitted to Council . Final report submitted to Council .	All approval is at the Council level .
What does the team look like?	Help and guidance provided by troop volunteers and families. Individuals and experts from other community groups may volunteer.	Youth recruit people to help with the project (including other Girl Scouts or community members).	Volunteer team should involve five or more people who have diverse skillsets / areas of knowledge to contribute to the project.
Issue / Problem Statement vs. Root Cause	After the project is complete, youth begin to understand the difference between service that is done once and solutions that create a lasting impact over time.	Youth identify at least one root cause of their community issue. Youth 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, youth begin to understand sustainability by talking together about how solutions can be lasting.	Youth demonstrate an understanding of sustainability by creating a project plan that allows for it.	Project must include substantial provisions to be handed off and actively maintained after youth involvement.
Measurable	After the project is complete, youth begin to understand measurability by discussing aspects of the project that can be counted or tracked.	Youth 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	Project completion and Final Report due by September 30 after grade 12.

Challenge Yourself!

Choose a topic that is interesting and meaningful to you. This is an opportunity for your interests, skills, and strengths to shine.

Neurodivergent or specially abled youth should reach out to Council for support early on.

Be Bold. Dream Big. Reach farther. It's okay to make a few mistakes along the way.

Research

- 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

Community service projects help to solve an immediate need, but do not impact the root cause of an issue.

Take Action projects help solve an issue by discovering the cause and developing a project to affect or eliminate the cause of the problem.

Silver/Gold Award projects are Take Action projects!

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Timeline

- 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 in to a problem? Communication is key. Talk to your project advisor / troop leader / Council early. They are here to help you!

Money

Check your Council's guidelines on money earning


Raffles / Crowdsourcing are **not** allowed

Your project may **not** create a profit, nor may you donate funds directly to another organization

Awards projects may not be primarily fundraisers

Things to Avoid

 The project advisor can **not** be a parent or family member. Use your project as an opportunity to reach out to your community.

 Executing a "canned project" from a pre-existing plan, is **not** a Silver / Gold Award Take Action Project. (Example: a summer day camp from last year's plan).

A Take Action project can **not** be completed by you alone. You demonstrate leadership by building a team of volunteers who help execute your plan.

Sustainable Impact



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.

- Larger in scope
- Addresses root cause
- Long-term benefits
- Provides on-going support or benefits

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 problem (lack of water, food, insect invasion), can you take sustainable actions to fix what is wrong.