

Highest Awards Project Funding Q&A

Below are some of the most common questions asked about money and Girl Scouts Highest Awards projects. For more information on funding a highest award project, visit the Money chapter of [Volunteer Essentials](#).

Can you use your own money on your Highest Award project?

Yes, you may also receive help from your family and friends. However, part of the Highest Award process is working with others to earn money. The Highest Awards are not meant to be a hardship on a family or individual, but rather a learning opportunity on how to creatively fund your project. When designing your project, it is important to think creatively about how you can make a difference without personally continuing to fund the project. Some ideas for activities to earn money include: pet walking, pet care, babysitting, lawn mowing, plant/house sitting, recycling, homework helping/tutoring, respite care for family caregivers, making jewelry, creating cards, calligraphy, and helping at parties. The possibilities are endless!

What if my project costs more than the money I can potentially earn?

If you feel that you will not be able to fund your project, but it's truly what you want to do, you should think creatively about how to fund it. There are many different ways you can go about funding your project from in-kind donations, to money earning events, badge events, bake sales, grants, and many more! Through many types of funding we have had girls build hospital wings and bathrooms without spending a dime of their own money.

Can I charge for a Girl Scout event to earn money?

If you are conducting an event as a Girl Scout (badge workshop, etc.) and plan to charge a fee above the cost of materials, you must first have this approved as a Money-Earning Event by submitting the Money-Earning Application Form. In addition, you must be clear in your advertisements and materials that this is a money-earning event for your Highest Award project. The money you earn has to go into a Girl Scout account. This is generally your troop, but they must agree to be the custodial account. If your troop does not agree to be the custodial account then you can get help from another troop, or your service unit.

I know you can't raise money for other organizations, but can I do it on my own?

As an individual, you can volunteer for other organizations and raise money on their behalf; however, any funds raised cannot be put towards your Highest Award project nor can you count the hours toward your Highest Award service hours. Additionally, you may not present yourself as a Girl Scout to the public in this process since you are volunteering for another organization. This includes not wearing your GS uniform or insignia. For example, if your local Red Cross chapter is raising money to purchase training dummies, you may participate under their supervision as an individual volunteer, but you cannot count that service as part of your time toward ANY Girl Scout award or service hours. However, you CAN plan a Highest Award project using the equipment that was purchased as part of your efforts as a volunteer for that organization.