

## Highest Awards

# Project Funding Guidelines

Below is a list of things that girls who are pursuing a Girl Scout Highest Award must avoid while determining how to fund their project. For more information on funding a highest award project, visit the Money chapter of [Volunteer Essentials](#).

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### Solicitation of Money

Solicitation of money from organizations at the Bronze or Silver Award level is only done by adults. At the Gold Award level, girls may solicit money from organizations, however, they must first gain Council approval. Gold Award applicants should email [awards@gsnorcal.org](mailto:awards@gsnorcal.org) to gain this approval.

### Selling Retail Items

Girls are not allowed to sell retail items, nor are they allowed to sell items via the internet to raise money for their projects.

### Donating money

Highest Award projects are not fundraisers. Donating money to an organization, group, or individual, including leftover money, is not allowed as it threatens our non-profit status. Money for projects must be budgeted to spend the entire amount on the project. This may mean adding components to the project towards the end. If you cannot use up all of the money on your project directly, it must be returned to where it came from. Left over money cannot be used by the troop for any of their troop expenses.

### Fundraisers

Award Projects are not fundraisers. Holding raffles, bingos, poker night, or other games of chance to raise money is not allowed. It's gambling and we do not support gambling as Girl Scouts.

### Money-earning Projects

Money-earning projects where girls are potentially doing an activity that someone else normally is hired to do is banned. Girls cannot take a job away from people, including store workers, maintenance staff, gardeners, cleaners, or other service providers.

### Endorsing a Product

Projects where GSUSA might be perceived as endorsing a product, political viewpoint, or cause must be avoided. This includes retail product sales, demonstration parties, being paid to pass out flyers for a candidate, or freebies at a business with the exception of restaurant nights.

### Individual Money

Projects where the money goes to an individual rather than to the troop are not permitted. GSNorCal has guidelines and restrictions regarding crowd funding and Go Fund Me Accounts. Troops should follow the guidelines outlined in the Money chapter of Volunteer Essentials to determine the do's and don'ts of [money-earning options](#).