

Take Action to Earn a Highest Award Sustainability

Sustainability is the ongoing impact of a project after the girls have completed their involvement. Using this table, take a look at how Take Action and sustainability differs for each program level.

Award	Take Action at this level	Expectation of sustainability	Example of sustainability at this level
Bronze	Girls at the Bronze Award level work individually or as a big group to learn how to Take Action and what sustainability means.	At the Bronze Award level, sustainability is encouraged but not mandatory. Girls should understand the issue, root cause, and how their solution is making a lasting impact, despite the fact that their project may not be forever sustainable.	Junior girls can collaborate with a local computer lab teacher to develop a workshop series on how to use Scratch and learn basic HTML. Over the course of 4 sessions. *At the end of the project they can develop ideas on how to prolong their solution indefinitely, despite not carrying it out.
Silver	At the Silver Award level girls work individually or in groups of up to 4 girls to Take Action and make a long-term impact on the root cause of their issue.	Silver Award projects must make a long-term impact on the issue, but complete sustainability is not mandatory. This can be done by utilizing at least one method of creating sustainability. The impact should continue for some time after the girls themselves stop working on the project, but is not expected to last a life time.	Cadettes can collaborate with an afterschool program to develop STEM workshops that the students need to enhance their technology skills. They take the time to train the staff to be able to lead those sessions after the initial project launch.
Gold	By the Gold Award level girls lead their projects individually, Take Action and directly address the root causes of their issue in ways that are fully sustainable.	Seniors and Ambassadors must make sure their projects fully sustainable. This can be done by utilizing at least 2-3 methods of creating sustainability. This level of sustainability should have the capacity to last a lifetime.	Seniors or/and Ambassadors can collaborate with an afterschool program to develop STEM workshops that the students need to enhance their technology skills. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They train the staff to be able to lead those sessions after the initial project launch. 2. They develop a partnership with a local tech company to continue providing needed

Gold (cont.)			<p>materials and curriculum improvements and updates as they become available.</p> <p>3. Additionally, they create a go-to reference binder as part of their sustainability plan. Keeping in mind who will be using the binder, they include the contact information of their project partners, the accumulated insights, knowledge, and plans developed over the course of implementing her project.</p>
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3 Ways to Make a Project Sustainable

Depending on the Award level girls are following, you can use these 3 sustainability guidelines to help them ensure their projects are making a long-term impact.

1. Make the solution permanent. For example:

- Persuade the city council to build a new sidewalk or add a stoplight to a busy intersection.
- Create a section in the local park that is specifically adapted for kids with physical disabilities.
- Create a ropes course at camp.

2. Educate and inspire other people so they'll help make change happen (also known as “the ripple effect”), and get their commitment to keep spreading the word. For example:

- Create and perform a skit about how to save water at a school assembly.
- Create a social media campaign about the dangers of texting and driving, or post an online video about how to stop bullying to your school’s website.
- Create works of art based on different people’s definitions of “true beauty” and hold an annual art show for the public.
- Organize a workshop series for younger girls to teach them how to code.

3. Change a law or regulation. For example:

Make a presentation to city council asking for the speed limit to be lowered on a dangerous road.

- Work with the school to create “no idling” zones for parents who are dropping off or picking up their children.
- Advocate for sign language to be accepted as a second language throughout a school district.