

## **Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards**



### **General Overview**

The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are Girl Scouting's highest awards. These awards offer girls relevant, grade-level-appropriate challenges related to teamwork, goal setting, community networking and leadership. They also engage girls in building networks that not only support them in their award project, but in new educational and career opportunities.

Like everything girls do in Girl Scouting, the steps to earning these awards are rooted in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE). This is why, to earn each of these awards, girls first complete a grade-level Journey (two Journeys for the Gold Award or one Journey for the Silver and Bronze Awards). With Journeys, girls experience the keys to leadership and learn to identify community needs, work in partnership with their communities, and carry out Take Action projects that make a lasting difference. They can then use the skills they developed during a Journey to plan and execute projects for their Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Girl Scouts has introduced a web app that takes girls step-by-step through the Gold Award requirements.

Visit [http://www.girlscouts.org/program/highest\\_awards/gold\\_award/asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/highest_awards/gold_award/asp) to take a peek.

GSNorCal's website [www.GSNorCal.org/awards](http://www.GSNorCal.org/awards) provides all information for awards, including council specific requirements. Girls, parents, and volunteers must view or attend a GSNorCal training. GSNorCal's in-person trainings, webinars, and online training are offered for Silver and Gold Awards. Bronze Award training is offered online only. Online training can be found at [training.gsnorcal.org](http://training.gsnorcal.org) for all three levels. Webinars can be found in the Activity Finder. In-person trainings can be found at Fall Festival and Discoveree, two of GSNorCal's yearly adult learning events, and listed monthly in the Volunteer View electronic newsletter. Girls must submit the online final report for the Bronze and Silver Award (both available at [www.GSNorCal.org/forms](http://www.GSNorCal.org/forms)). Girls must submit online proposal for approval and the online Final Report for Gold Award at [www.GirlScouts.org/GoGoldOnline](http://www.GirlScouts.org/GoGoldOnline).

Did you know that a Girl Scout who has earned her Gold Award is entitled to enlist at a higher pay grade when she joins the U.S. Military? A number of college-scholarship opportunities also await Gold Award Girl Scouts. A girl does not, however, have to earn a Bronze or Silver Award before earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. She is eligible to earn any recognition at the grade level in which she is registered.

As a Girl Scout volunteer, encourage girls to go for it by earning these awards at the Junior through Ambassador levels. Check out some of the award projects girls are doing by visiting [forgirls.GirlScouts.org/wp-content/themes/theMap.html](http://forgirls.GirlScouts.org/wp-content/themes/theMap.html) or talk to a few past recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award. You'll be inspired when you see and hear what girls can accomplish as leaders—and by the confidence, values, and team-building expertise they gain while doing so. And imagine the impact girls have on their communities, country, and even the world as they identify problems they care about, team with others, and act to make change happen!

All this, of course, starts with you—a Girl Scout volunteer! Encourage girls to go after Girl Scouting's highest awards—information on the awards and guidelines for you to use when helping girls earn their awards are also available online [www.gsnorcal.org/awards](http://www.gsnorcal.org/awards)

For information regarding troop bank accounts and funding awards, go to [[MONEY: Options for Funding](#)]

Girls work with GSNorCal when applying for small grants to support their awards' take action projects. Contact [info@gsnorcal.org](mailto:info@gsnorcal.org) if you plan on applying for a grant at least 21 days prior to submitting your grant application. More information about grants can be found here:

[DoSomething.org](http://DoSomething.org)  
[www.YSA.org](http://www.YSA.org)

## Snapshot View of Prerequisites and Requirements



### **Bronze Award**

- Complete a Girl Scout Junior Journey (including the Take Action project at the end)
- Build your Girl Scout Bronze Award team.
- Explore your community.
- Choose your Girl Scout Bronze Award project.
- Make a plan.
- Put your plan in motion.
- Spread the word.



## Silver Award

- Complete a Cadette Journey (including the Take Action project at the end)
- Identify issues you care about through online and in-person research.
- Build your Girl Scout Silver Award team or decide to go solo.
- Explore your community. Consider how your issue impacts the community and who you can partner with to address the issue.
- Pick your Silver Award Take Action project.
- Develop your project. Determine the steps to your project and who will lead each step.
- Make a plan and put it into motion. Take leadership and complete the project.
- Reflect, share your story, and celebrate.



## Gold Award

- If you earned the Silver Award, complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey, or if you did not earn the Silver Award, complete two Senior or Ambassador Journeys. Journeys include the Take Action project at the end!
- Use your values and skills to identify a *community* or *global issue* you care about.
- Investigate it thoroughly. Use online searches and in-person interviews to ensure that it is an issue.
- Get help. Build your team by inviting others to support and Take Action with you.
- Create a plan. Identify the root cause of the issue and create a project plan to tackle it.
- Present your plan and get feedback. Submit a Project Proposal Form to GSNorCal for approval, clearly identifying how the project will address the issue in a sustainable way.
- Take Action: Take the lead and manage your team to carry out the plan.
- Educate and inspire: Share what you have experienced with others.

**Note: Girls use GoGoldOnline:** [www.GirlScouts.org/GoGoldOnline](http://www.GirlScouts.org/GoGoldOnline)

## GSNorCal Procedures

Information and electronic forms for girls working on the Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards can be found on the GSNorCal website at [www.GSNorCal.org/awards](http://www.GSNorCal.org/awards). Each award has specific prerequisites and requirements that must be met in order for a girl to complete a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Take Action project and earn the award.



## Bronze Award

The Bronze Award is the highest award for Junior Girl Scouts, girls in grades 4-5, and is designed to be completed within the group setting, but can be done individually. Adults and girls take the online Bronze Award training to learn how to do the Bronze Award prior to planning the project. For training, please visit [training.gsnorcal.org](http://training.gsnorcal.org).

GSNorcal approval is not needed to begin the work or to purchase the award. Approval is given by the supervising adult. Troop leaders notify GSNorcal upon project completion by submitting the Bronze Award final report form found on our website: [www.GSNorCal.org/forms](http://www.GSNorCal.org/forms).



### **Silver Award**

The Silver Award is the highest award for Cadette Girl Scouts, girls in grades 6-8. This award is primarily completed within a group setting in teams of no more than four, however, individual girls may also earn the award with a team of her own volunteers. Adults and girls take a Silver Award training to learn how to do the Silver Award prior to planning the project. For training, please visit [training.gsnorcal.org](http://training.gsnorcal.org).

GSNorCal approval is not needed to begin the Silver Award, but an electronic final report form must be submitted to council Program Department for final approval immediately after completion of the work. The Silver Award Final Report can be found at [www.GSNorCal.org/forms](http://www.GSNorCal.org/forms). The Silver Award pin can be purchased at the council store once the girl's final report has been accepted by the program department. Silver Awards must be completed by September 30th of the year in which girls complete 8th grade.



### **Gold Award**

The Gold Award is the highest recognition a girl can earn in Girl Scouts. This award is for Senior (grades 9-10) and Ambassador (grades 11-12) girls. Preliminary research is completed with approval of a supervising adult, but pre-approval by GSNorcal must be obtained before work can begin on the bulk of the project. Adults and girls take a Gold Award training to learn how to do the Gold Award prior to planning the project. For training, please visit [training.gsnorcal.org](http://training.gsnorcal.org).

GSNorCal's volunteer Gold Award Committee works directly with girls, and pre-approves projects, monitors progress, receives final reports, and approves completions. Work for the Gold Award must be completed by September 30th directly following high school graduation, or their eighteenth birthday, whichever is the later date. Gold Award pins are available at the council store. You'll receive instructions on how to pick up your Gold Award Pin upon acceptance from council.

### **Questions?**

For more information about these procedures, please visit: [www.GSNorCal.org/awards](http://www.GSNorCal.org/awards). It will be very helpful for you to read the general information on the website first so we can better assist you with your specific questions.

For more information, please contact: [info@gsnorcal.org](mailto:info@gsnorcal.org) or (800) 447-4475 Ext. 0

**Please Note:** The Bronze, Silver and Gold Award pins may not be purchased until after a girl has earned the award.

### **Resources**

Everything you need to know about awards is on the council website. The following are available at [www.GSNorCal.org/awards](http://www.GSNorCal.org/awards)

<b>Bronze Award Resources</b>	<b>Silver Award Resources</b>	<b>Gold Award Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze Award Online Training</li> <li>• Bronze Award Packet</li> <li>• Bronze Award Electronic Final Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silver Award Online Training</li> <li>• Silver Award Packet</li> <li>• Silver Award Electronic Final Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold Award Online Training</li> <li>• Gold Award Packet</li> <li>• Go Gold Online</li> </ul>