

## GSNorCal Bronze Award Rubric for Troop Leaders

Troop Leaders are responsible for approving their Girl Scout Junior’s Bronze Award projects to start work, as well as approving the final project. This document is intended to help Troop Leaders determine if the **Bronze Award project meets GSUSA and GSNorCal’s criteria to set their teams up for success early on.** This document does not need to be submitted to Council. Please refer to GSNorCal.org for more detailed information and for the Final Report submission form (due by the September 30 immediately after the girl’s 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, including if the team is girls of different ages and only one girl is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade).

**\*\*Troop Leaders MUST take a Bronze Award Training\*\***

Before you get started, make sure all team members fulfill all the prerequisites of the Bronze Award.

Prerequisites
The Bronze Award Team may be an individual Junior, a group of multiple Juniors, or an entire Troop of Juniors!
Each member of the Bronze Award Team is an officially registered GSNorCal Junior
Each member of the Bronze Award Team is in grade 4 or 5
Each member of the Bronze Award Team has completed 1 Junior Journey (including the Take Action project at the end)
Each member of the Bronze Award Team has read the Bronze Award packet
Each member of the Bronze Award Team has taken/attended an official GSNorCal Bronze Award training

After prerequisites are completed, girls should start to think critically about what specifically they want to do for their Bronze Award project. They will need to understand the following key terms and phrases:

- **Take Action Project:** a project that helps solve an issue by either reducing or eliminating the root cause of that issue. It has a long-term impact on the issue, rather than a one-time/short-term impact
- **Issue:** an important topic or problem that needs to be addressed on a larger scale
- **Root Cause:** the most fundamental reason a problem exists; the source of the issue
- **Impact:** The effect a project has on the issue. What is different because of the project?
- **Measurable:** change created by the project can be observed and tracked in a meaningful way
- **Sustainable:** change created by the project is long-term; the positive impact will continue even after Girl Scouts have completed work on their project

GSNorCal believes that Girl Scouts can change the world, but does not expect them to completely resolve a world issue for their Bronze Award projects! At the Bronze Award level, it is most important that Girl Scouts are beginning to understand and can practice implementing the concept of the **Take Action project, and that the key pieces of “Take Action” are emerging in their work.** This will set them up for success when they go on to pursue the Silver and eventually the Gold Award, which have increasingly stricter criteria to be awarded (see GSNorCal.org for more information).

Once girls understand what the Bronze Award project will entail, they can choose an issue that they are interested in addressing. To help develop the project, you can ask the girls the following questions:

1. What causes do you care about? What issues do you feel passionate about addressing? Example: <b>The girls may give answers like “animals!” (animal welfare) or “litter!” (protecting the environment)</b>
2. What is an issue in our community that we might be able to affect or change? Example: The girls might be aware of a trash/littering issue in a local park
3. What is the root cause of the issue we have chosen? Example: The girls determine that a lack of trash and recycling bins in the park worsens the littering issue
4. What is our specific project idea? Example: “We want city permission to add another trash and recycling bin to the park, and install a no littering sign”
5. How can our project affect the issue by reducing or eliminating the root cause? Example: Adding another trash and recycling bin will make more space for trash to go. A no littering sign will encourage people to be aware of their impact on the environment
6. How will we measure the success of our project? How will we know if it worked?
7. How will we know if the project could be sustainable, or make a long-term impact?

Ultimately, the Bronze Award project needs to meet the following criteria to be approved:

Basic Requirements
The project is led by a Junior Troop, a group of Juniors, or is an individual project
Candidates meet all pre-requisites (they are in grade 4 or 5, officially registered with GSNorCal as Juniors, have completed 1 Junior Journey and the Take Action project at the end)
The target audience that the project will benefit is clearly identified (at the Bronze Award level, this can be within Girl Scouting)
The project provides an opportunity for girls to lead others, and their team is identified
Each girl spends a MINIMUM of 20 hours of work on the project
The girls understand the issue they are helping to reduce
The girls understand the root cause of the issue, and are trying to affect that root cause
Rules, regulations, and safety issues are identified, and plans are included on how to address them