



girl scouts
bronze award

Highest Awards Program Team

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GSNorCal Highest Awards facebook group



Today's Outcomes



- Why do the Bronze Award?
- Award prerequisites and requirements
- Take Action vs Community Service
- Project idea development
- Where to find more information and support
- How to support your Girl Scouts

Why do a Bronze Award?

- Empowerment!
- Communication skills
- Leadership, & social skills
- Self-confidence
- Understanding long-term impact
- Project management
- Preparation (prerequisite) for the Silver and Gold Awards



Bronze Award Prerequisites



- **Bronze Award:** Registered Girl Scout Junior in grades 4 or 5; completion of ONE leadership award. Choose from Junior Aide, Junior Journey, True North Award, Take Action/Global Action Award
- **Supporting adults:** Complete the online Bronze Award training in gsLearn within 6 months of starting the Award project.

NOTE: Prerequisite **must** be completed **before** the Bronze Award project is started.

Project Requirements and Adult Roles



- 20 hours per youth
- Have them track their own time
- Team deadline is Sept 30 after graduation from 5th grade
- File Final Report with GSNorCal
- Troop Leader/Adult Volunteer
 - guides team according to Girl Scout requirements
 - helps youth file final report to Council
- Project Advisor
 - provides subject matter expertise



Project Requirements






| | Leadership | Root Cause | Sustainable | Measurable | National and/or Global Link |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Bronze Juniors | ◆ | ◆ | ● | | |
| Silver Cadettes | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ● | ● |
| Gold Seniors/Ambassadors | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |

Required element ◆ Introduction of new concept ●



Bronze, Silver, and Gold Comparison

| Question | Bronze  | Silver  | Gold  |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grade level to earn this award | Junior Grades 4-5 | Cadette Grades 6-8 | Senior / Ambassador Grades 9-12 |
| Individual vs. Group work | Completed as a troop or group or solo . All Bronze Award earners share equal responsibilities and focus on team work and group decision-making. Focus on Girl-Led experience vs Adult-Led. | Small team (2-4 youth) or individual Silver Awards cannot be earned by more than 4 Cadettes working on one project. Silver Award earners <u>take the lead</u> on all aspects of the project. | Individually Earned by an individual youth who takes the lead as project manager for all aspects of the project. |
| Minimum number of hours a youth would spend to earn this award? | 20 hours per youth | 50 hours per youth | 80 hours per youth |
| Approvals required | Approval is at the troop/group level. Final report submitted to Council. | Proposal submitted to Council . Final report submitted to Council . | All approval is at the Council level . |
| What does the team look like? | Help and guidance provided by troop volunteers and families. Individuals and experts from other community groups may volunteer. | Youth recruit people to help with the project (including other Girl Scouts or community members). | Volunteer team should involve five or more people who have diverse skillsets / areas of knowledge to contribute to the project. |
| Issue / Problem Statement vs. Root Cause | After the project is complete, youth begin to understand the difference between service that is done once and solutions that create a lasting impact over time. | Youth identify at least one root cause of their community issue. Youth discuss ways to target a root cause, and explain how it was addressed through the project in the final report. | Project proposal identifies at least one root cause of the issue , with specific actions for addressing it. The final report describes how the root cause was addressed through the project. |
| Sustainability | After the project is complete, youth begin to understand sustainability by talking together about how solutions can be lasting. | Youth demonstrate an understanding of sustainability by creating a project plan that allows for it. | Project must include substantial provisions to be handed off and actively maintained after youth involvement. |
| Measurable | After the project is complete, youth begin to understand measurability by discussing aspects of the project that can be counted or tracked. | Youth evaluate project results relative to the target they set. | Project includes a specific plan to measure results. Measurement includes quantitative and/or qualitative tools or data. |
| Final Deadline | September 30 after grade 5 is completed/beginning of grade 6 | September 30 after grade 8 is completed/beginning of grade 9 | Project completion and Final Report due by September 30 after grade 12. |



What Does Girl-Led Mean?



- Girl-led is a phrase used to communicate that Take Action projects should primarily be envisioned, executed, and motivated by girl scouts themselves
- Although leader involvement and intervention is often necessary, particularly when dealing with younger girl scouts, the goal of the project is for youth to practice leadership skills and independence.
- Based on the age group and motivation of your group, troops will require different levels of assistance throughout the course of their project, however it is important to keep in mind that the project is ultimately meant to be their project and they should be the main force behind it.

Community Service vs Take Action Project

- **Community Service** projects help solve an immediate need or provide comfort, but do not impact the root cause of an issue.
- **Take Action** projects help solve an issue by discovering the root cause and developing a project to reduce or eliminate that root cause.

| Community Service Project | Take Action Project |
|---|---|
| Addresses an immediate need in the community | Addresses the root cause of the issue in the community |
| A project done FOR the community | A project done WITH the community |
| A one-time or short-term impact project that helps something or someone NOW | A long-term project that is sustainable, and makes a lasting impact beyond your involvement |



Community Service vs Take Action Project



| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | |
| School garden cleanup and refresh | Engage students in cleanup and replanting with native pollinator plants, create presentation on native pollinators and their importance. Arrange for 5 th grade classes to continue care of the garden. |



Not addressing root causes

This project addresses the immediate issue instead of what caused it



Addresses root causes

In addition to cleanup, this project includes replanting and an education campaign to prevent the garden from getting to the state where it needs a clean up in the first place



Community Service vs Take Action Project



Not sustainable

This project is a one time cleanup, and will have no long term effects after immediate troop involvement



Sustainable

This project includes an education campaign that readies individuals to keep the garden clean after immediate troop involvement



Not representing leadership

The project is self-contained, troop is not reaching out or getting others involved to stimulate greater change



Represents leadership

This project includes significant amounts of community outreach, and opportunities for girls to lead and model for peers how to prevent this issue from occurring in the first place

The 5 components of a Highest Awards project

What is a Highest Award?

The Highest Awards are **Take Action** projects containing 5 elements. The Bronze Award focuses on **address a root cause** and **leadership**.

The project must

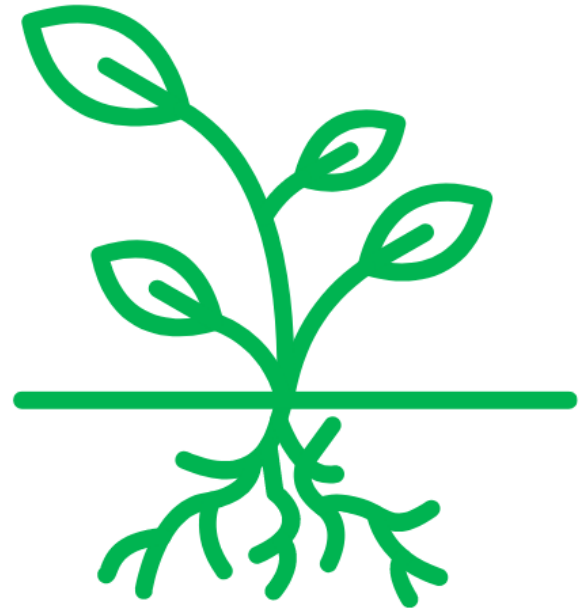
- (1) **address a root cause of an issue** that has
- (2) a **national and/or global link**. Girl Scouts must demonstrate
- (3) **leadership** while also creating a
- (4) **long-term** and
- (5) **measurable impact**.

Root Cause

Root cause = **reason the issue happens in the first place**

By only addressing a *symptom* of an issue, the issue may be temporarily relieved, but return.

If you address the *root cause(s)* of an issue, the issue will be stopped in the long-term.
(Take Action!)



Leadership

Bronze Award Girl Scouts are the **leaders** on their project, but not the only workers/supporters on their project.

The project should reflect their voice and their choice.



What is a National/Global Link?

National and/or global link = **how your issue connects to the wider world**

Does **NOT** mean that your project's scope has to be national/global

Does mean you need to think about the world outside of your immediate area and how it is connected





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



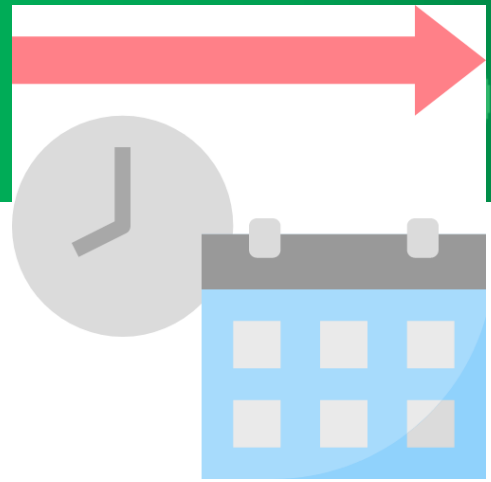
Long-term Impact

Long-term impact = **the work of your project actively continues even after you are no longer involved**

Examples:

- **Start a club** to keep your program going
- Share **curriculum** or **instructions** with your partner organization

Websites & Digital media: send links to awards@gsnorcal.org for Council review & approval prior to live publication



Measurable Impact

Measurable impact = **you can specifically observe/track the way(s) you are making a difference**

Examples:

- **Count** how many people attend your workshops
- **Survey** people before and after participating to track change
- **Weigh** how many pounds of trash you collect

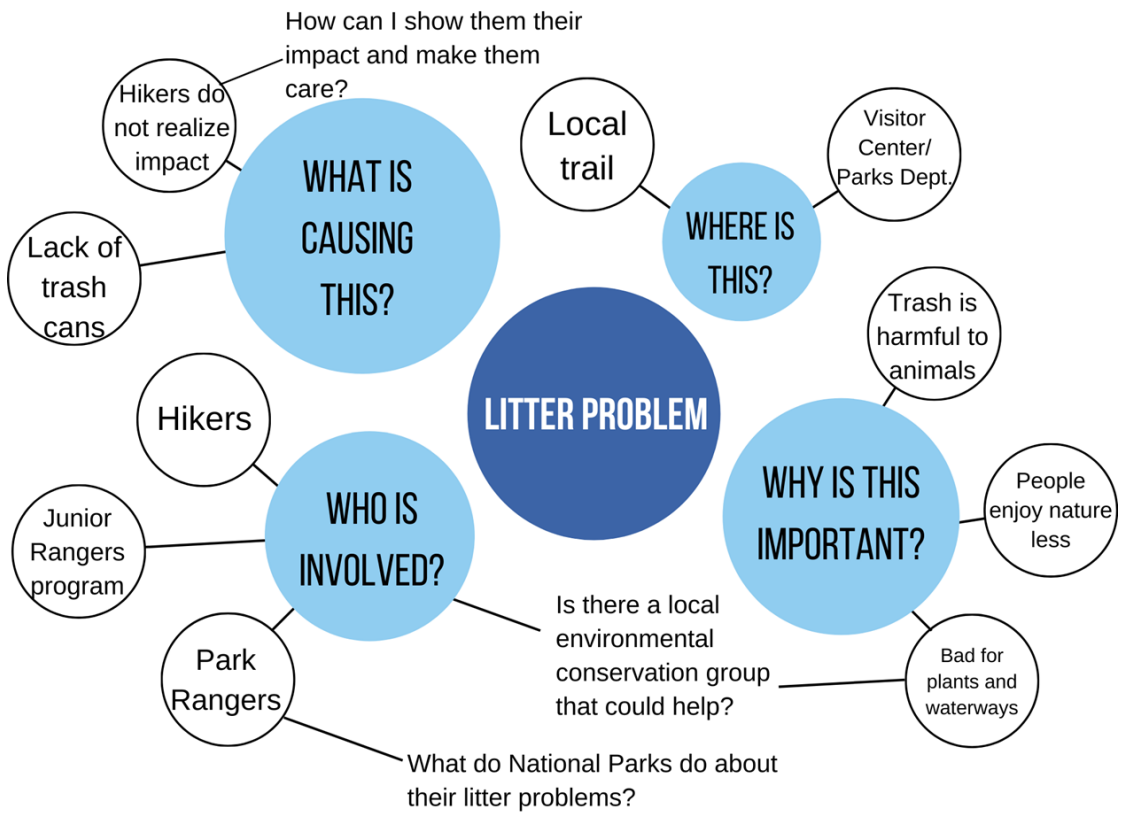


Idea Development



- Have each youth make a list of 5-10 topics they are interested in
- Narrow to their top 3 choices
- Compare lists to find overlapping interests
- Create mind maps

Mind Mapping



Projects Benefitting Girl Scouts

Bronze Award projects that benefit Girl Scouts

- Identify the issue and root cause.
- If benefitting Girl Scouting, the project must align with the Council's strategic goals and property plans. Contact awards@gsnorcal.org before starting your project!

Ideas could include:

- Badge in a Box program for the Service Unit
- Pollinator or species habitats, water/fire/environmental conservation at local Girl Scout property
- Outdoor skills/sports access

But not running already designed events, recruitment events, or doing badges with younger Girl Scouts.

Recent Bronze Awards



- Styrofoam, single use plastic ban/advocacy & community education
- Pollinator gardens/habitats
- School gardens
- School traffic safety awareness & advocacy
- Animal rescue partnerships- building hutches, cat trees, TNR/spay & neuter/pet ownership/rehoming education
- Outdoor classroom creation
- Climate issues awareness & advocacy- fairs, murals, educational presentations
- LGBTQ+ advocacy & support
- Little Free Libraries of Spanish/Chinese/Japanese books in ESL neighborhoods
- Recycling/Composting projects at school
- Menstrual education & period packs
- School wellness center/calming room & activities, sensory room

Where to Find More Information



- GSNorCal.org >Program>Highest Awards>Bronze Award
- Bronze Award Packet
- Bronze Award Rubric for troop leaders
- gsLearn Bronze Award training
- Monthly Bronze Award Q&A open help session -3rd Thursdays
- GSNorCal Highest Awards facebook group
- Volunteer Essentials
- Volunteer Tool Kit

How to support your Girl Scouts



- Meaningful Prerequisite Award completion
- **Educate yourself:**
 - Take the gsLearn Bronze Award training
 - Download the Bronze Award Packet
 - Join GSNorCal Highest Awards facebook group
- Help them understand the project requirements
- Allow guided time for girl-led brainstorming and project development
- Help them learn how to email adults, make phone calls, budget
- Have them help submit required forms
- Have them write and submit their final report
- **Ask for help if you need it!**

Recognition and Celebration



- Purchase Bronze certificates and pins at Council stores- approval letter required
- Hold a Court of Awards as a troop or with your Service Unit
- Girl Scouts speak about their project at Leader meeting or event
- Talk about the Bronze Award with younger troops
- Post the Award project on Girl Scout and local social media
- Share Your Story link
<https://fs19.formsite.com/girlscoutsnorcal/form134/index.html>
- **Feature Award project in local news outlets**