



The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Project Advisors

What is the Gold Award?

The Gold Award is the highest award that a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout (grades 9-12) can earn. To become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a Girl Scout identifies an issue that's important to them, then develops and carries out an innovative and sustainable solution with measurable impact. Each solution/project must link to a national and/or global issue. The Gold Award is earned by an individual Girl Scout, who will demonstrate leadership by directing a volunteer team they recruit.

What types of projects are Gold Award eligible?

A Gold Award project must reflect the following elements: The Girl Scout has identified the root cause of a community issue they are passionate about. The action they take must address a real need and have long-term benefits. They must show leadership by guiding a team of volunteers. The project must be sustainable and measurable with a national and/or global link.

The Gold Award is not a community service project. Girl Scouts must go beyond making and/or donating needed items or beautifying spaces. They may not raise or donate money to organizations or individuals for their project. A Girl Scout may not take over or volunteer for an existing program your organization already runs for their Gold Award. This project must be a new effort and the Girl Scout's own idea.

How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from the Girl Scout. The timeline is designed by the Girl Scout and enhanced with your input.

Who can be a Project Advisor?

A Project Advisor is an adult who chooses to be on a Girl Scout's Gold Award volunteer team and is an expert on the issue the project addresses. Parents, guardians, family members, troop leaders, or other troop volunteers of Girl Scouts pursuing their Gold Award cannot be Project Advisors.

What is the role of a Project Advisor?

A Project Advisor offers a Girl Scout guidance and expertise as needed, during the planning and execution of the Girl Scout's Gold Award project. Note that it is important that the project and its core ideas be the Girl Scout's own.

How can I support a Girl Scout as they complete their Gold Award project?

Although the Project Advisor role is flexible, here are some ways you can show your support:

- Recognize that the Girl Scout's project is as unique as they are. Don't compare them—or their project—to other youth and their Gold Awards.
- Let them interview you to help them better understand the issue they are addressing.
- Refer them to colleagues or acquaintances of yours for interviews or advice.
- As they research and plan their project, refer them to relevant books, web resources, and/or organizations.
- Offer to act as a sounding board for any questions that may come up over the course of their project.
- Help them brainstorm the metrics most useful in ensuring their project has a measurable impact.
- Offer to review their proposal or final report before it's submitted.