

- **Take the time to fully answer each question in GoGold.** Your project planning and proposal writing phase can feel like a lot of detailed paperwork, but it will lay a strong foundation for a successful Gold Award project.
- **Make sure you explain your ideas and research clearly.** Remember that the Gold Award Committee and others reviewing your project do not know what you have been thinking about in your planning process and may not be familiar with your chosen issue. Convey why this is important so that people who have never talked to you before will understand.
- **Verify that program partners can work with you.** State this in your project plans.
- **Supplemental forms:** In Step 5, upload your supplemental forms and any documents that will help describe or support your project plan. (extra documentation, diagrams, outlines, photos, plans, blueprints, lists, etc). This is where you will also upload your estimated timeline if you created it in google sheets instead of GoGold.
- **Troop Leader and Project Advisor Verification Emails.** GoGold will prompt you to send these before you can submit your proposal. Let them know to look for these emails and to check their spam folder if they don't see them. If they do not receive the email within 24-48 hours, please reach out to [awards@gsnorcal.org](mailto:awards@gsnorcal.org) for assistance. After your Project Advisor and Troop Leader confirm using the emailed verification link, you will log into GoGold to submit to Council.

### Following are tips for answering some of the required proposal questions:

**Profile:** Remember your parent/family members cannot be listed as your Troop Leader.

**Your Team:** list at least 3-5 people who will be assisting on this project, not including yourself, your immediate family, troop leader, or project advisor. You will continue to add volunteers to this team throughout your project so your final report includes a full list. This is part of your project leadership.

### My Gold Award aims to address this issue:

This is a persuasive essay. Discuss the Issue (obvious problem) and why it is important. Cite research to support your statements. Do not discuss the project plan or root cause here.

### The root cause of my issue is:

This is a persuasive essay. Discuss the Root Cause (WHY) of the Issue, and why it is a problem. Cite research to support your statements. Your project must directly impact the Root Cause.

### I will address the root cause by:

Fully outline your project plan from start to finish. Include information about all project components, how you will use your volunteer team, measurability, and how your project is sustainable. Show how it directly impacts your identified Root Cause.

**I will know that my audience has gained the desired skills/knowledge because:**

What measurable data can you capture and set goals for?

**My Gold Award's national and/or global link is:**

This is not about your project reach. It is about how your chosen Issue/Root Cause are not just local and how they connect to wider world concerns. One resource to check out is the UN Sustainable Development Goals online: one or more may align with your project. Or look into how your issue is dealt with on a larger scale by other organizations. Explain how your research has impacted your solution.

**My Gold Award project goals are:** List your SMART goals, or bullet point your major project components, including specific goals for leadership, measurability, and sustainability. This is your measurement of what you will accomplish during your Gold Award project.

**My Gold Award will be sustained beyond my involvement by:**

Consider who you are working with or bringing in to your volunteer team for this project. Is this something they will be able to keep up when your active role is done? If you create or partner with a club at school, community organization, or other resource, make sure you are building out what they will need to continue the work in the future. Sustainable partnerships need to be confirmed during your proposal phase. Upload to the internet, creation of websites, videos, curriculum, etc, does not meet sustainability requirements. Digital media and resources must be continually maintained/marketed and actively used past project completion (not by you).

**Create a Plan section: "I will put my plan into action by":**

In this section, you are creating an estimated timeline of all the tasks involved in your project. You can create this in google sheets instead of GoGold if it is easier for you. If you plan to use your own spreadsheet, in this GoGold section make a single entry "See attached timeline" and "80 hours". Then put your dates & chronological task detail into your own spreadsheet timeline. Tasks should be broken down into 5-8 hour segments, and should total at least 80 hours. You can upload your own timeline document as a pdf in Step 5 Uploads.

You can count up to 20 hours of pre-approval research, project setup and proposal writing. You can count up to 8 hours for money-earning and up to 8 hours project wrap-up and handoff and final report writing. Include these tasks in your estimated timeline.