



The Girl Scout Silver Award: A Guide for Project Advisors

What is the Silver Award?

The Silver Award is the highest award that a Cadette Girl Scout (grades 6-8) can earn. To become a Silver Award Girl Scout, a girl (or small team of up to four girls) identifies an issue that's important to her, then develops and carries out an innovative and long-term solution with a measurable impact. Each solution/project must link to a national and/or global issue.

What types of projects are Silver Award-eligible?

A Silver Award must reflect the following:

- The Girl Scout has identified the root cause of a community issue she's passionate about
- The action she takes must address a real need and have long-term benefits
- She must show leadership by guiding a team of volunteers
- The project must be long-term (or completely sustainable) and measurable with a national and/or global link.

How long does a Silver Award project take to complete?

Silver Award projects require a commitment of at least 50 hours from each Girl Scout working on the project. Each girl completes 50 hours of work—it is not cumulative for the group. The timeline is designed by the Girl Scout and enhanced with your input.

What is the deadline for the Silver Award project?

The Silver Award project must be complete and the final report must be submitted to Council by the September 30th immediately after any member of the Silver Award team completes the 8th grade. Mixed grade level teams must be conscious of this!

Who can be a Project Advisor?

A Project Advisor is an adult who chooses to be on a Girl Scout's Silver Award team and is an expert on the issue the project addresses, its root cause(s), and/or the solution the Girl Scout wishes to implement. Parents, caregivers, or troop leaders of girls pursuing their Silver Award cannot be 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's Silver Award project. Note that it's important that the project and its core ideas be the Girl Scout's own.

How can I support a Girl Scout as she completes her Silver Award project?

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

- Recognize that the girl's project is as unique as she is, so don't compare her—or her project—to other girls and their Silver Awards.
- Let her interview you to help her better understand the issue she's addressing.
- Refer her to colleagues or acquaintances of yours for interviews or advice.
- As she researches and plans her project, refer her 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 her project.
- Help her brainstorm the metrics most useful in ensuring her project has a measurable impact.
- Offer to review her final report before it's submitted.