



Community Service vs. Take Action Project

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is a **Take Action Project**. An easy way to remember the difference between Community Service Projects and Take Action Projects rests on whether the project is being done for the community or with the community. If you are doing something for the community, you are most likely working on a Service Project, or volunteering. If you are doing something with the community, you are most likely working on a Take Action Project.

A *Service Project* is a project that address an immediate, short-term need in the community and can include volunteering time with an organization.

A **Bronze Award Take Action Project** is a project that addresses the root cause or problem of a community issue, and has a long term impact.

For Take Action Projects you educate, publicize and involve people in the community to come out and support it. You can even get community leaders involved. When you pursue Take Action Projects, you take time to identify and understand the root cause of the issue you are addressing.

Service Project	Take Action Project
Making kitty blankets to donate to the local animal shelter	Teach classes about animals and the issues facing shelters at local schools, clubs, and organizations. Start a local campaign to get pets spayed and neutered. Work with the shelter to keep the classes and campaign going.
Picking up trash at the local park	Install more trash cans and signs about picking up litter, do a local anti-littering education campaign, set up a volunteer system for regular clean ups and recruit organizations, businesses, and clubs to get involved.
Donating new or gently used clothes to a local nonprofit	Find out what kind of clothing is most needed. Organize a specialized clothing drive (for babies, teens, etc.) and work with various organizations, clubs and businesses to publicize it. Work with the nonprofit to set up an annual drive.

*One time collections or drives are not Take Action Projects. These are Service Projects.

- Root Cause of an issue or Concern

With Take Action Projects—such as the Bronze Award—you are addressing a root cause of an issue. The root cause of an issue is why a problem occurs. For example: when you see stray cats and dogs in your neighborhood, the root cause—or why—could be that there is not enough awareness around the importance of spaying and neutering animals. This discovery could then lead to an opportunity which allows your team to connect the issues in your community by educating others about the need for spaying and neutering pets (the root

cause) and why your Bronze Award project will take action and help find a long term solution.

- Active Leadership

Active leadership means involving other people in your efforts and directing them to help you meet the goals of your project. Think of yourself as the CEO of a company. You will be asking your “employees” (friends, neighbors, students, community members, etc.) to carry out the work of your company. Another way to think of active leadership is direct contact, or educating, people. Not just your Bronze Award team or other Girl Scouts.

Tasks that do not demonstrate active leadership	Tasks that demonstrate active leadership
Making posters yourself to display around town	Organizing and directing volunteers to make posters
Writing a blog listing environmental activities for elementary students	Recruiting a group of volunteers to lead environmental activities with elementary students
Making fleece tie blankets by yourself	Teaching a class on how to make blankets to a group of students; organizing groups of friends (outside of your team) to make blankets
Cleaning up a park by yourselves	Organizing a group of volunteers (outside of your team) to clean up a park

Things to Remember:

- A successful Bronze Project is a Take Action Project.
- Girls may not take over a previous Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award project.
- Girls will put a suggested minimum of 30 hours of work towards the award
- Girls should pick a project that involves something they are passionate about
- Girls often think that active leadership means completing all of the work themselves when, in fact, it is the opposite. Active leadership is displayed when girls involve others in their efforts. Girls must recruit, coordinate, educate and/or inspire others to move their cause forward. So it is important to develop these skills for successful teamwork.
- A Bronze project cannot be a one-time collection drive.
 - Donations may or may not be needed for a Bronze Awards Project.

There are four types of donations:

- In-Kind – products, goods or supplies: submit ***In-Kind Donation Form*** – available on our website.
- Sponsorships – unsolicited cash or cash-like donations: submit ***Monetary Donation Form*** – available per email request – info@gswestok.org
- Solicited Sponsorships – cash or cash-like donations: the ***Fund Development Department*** at GSWESTOK must issue pre-approval, contact them via email – info@gswestok.org
- Money earning event or activities: a ***Money Earning Request Form*** must be submitted 30 days prior to event – request form via email – info@gswestok.org

Only the GSWESTOK office can issue tax-related acknowledgement documents.