

Girl Scout Awards

- 1) Why are Journeys prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Award?
 - The Journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards for their age levels. The skills girls gain while working on the Journey will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action Project.

- 2) How do girls know when a Journey is completed?
 - The Journey is completed when a girl has earned the Journey Awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action Project.

- 3) What are the suggested hours for earning each of the Awards?
 - Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebrating. The time it takes to earn the awards will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the Journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours to use as a guide is:
 - Bronze---suggested minimum of 20 hours
 - Silver---suggested minimum of 50 hours
 - Gold---suggested minimum of 80 hours

- 4) What if a troop or girl has started on the Old Guidelines?
 - The transition period started in 2009 when the new guidelines were released and will be honored through September 30, 2011. The NEW guidelines will become official on October 1, 2011 (this is the beginning of the 2012 membership year.) If a girl starts work on her project and the majority of her project will be completed after the September 30th date, they should start with the new guidelines. All projects that begin with the old guidelines must be completed and approved by this date.
 - GSUSA will not recognize projects started under the old guidelines after this date.

- 5) Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) from one Girl Scout level to another?
 - Yes, girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer.

- 6) Who are the Adult Guides for?
 - Any adult is welcome to use the adult guide. The guides are designed for volunteers working directly with girls on achieving their awards.
- 7) Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award?
 - No, the Girl Scout Awards are done to the best of a girl's ability. There is no need to have special requirements for girls with disabilities----encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the girl individually.
- 8) Can a girl earn her Bronze Award on her own?
 - The Bronze Award is a team-based project.

Gold Award Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?
 - A girl must be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Girl Scout Ambassador
- 2) What is the process of turning in the Gold Award project proposal?
 - Once the girl has decided on her project, she can e-mail or mail her proposal to the Event Leadership Specialist. Once it is received, the Event Specialist will contact the girl to set up her initial interview with the committee. From here, recommendations will be made to the girl to start her project. The committee and/or council will set up times to meet in between the first interview and final interview so that we can see the progress on her project as well as to answer any questions or concerns she might have.
- 3) Can individually registered girl members or Juliettes earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?
 - Any girl, who meets the grade-level and membership requirements, can work on her Girl Scout Gold Award.
- 4) Does a Senior or Ambassador need to do the two Journeys in any particular order?
 - No, she can complete either two Girl Scout Senior level Journeys, two Girl Scout Ambassador level Journeys, or one of each.

- 5) If a girl has her Silver Award, does she still need to complete both Journeys?
 - No, the requirements to earn a Gold Award are to either complete 2 Senior or Ambassador Journeys or to have her Silver Award and then complete one Journey.
- 6) What is the difference between a troop/group volunteer and a Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor in the Gold Award process? Do girls need both?
 - A troop/group volunteer is the adult who works with an ongoing troop or group. Once a girl identifies her issue, the troop/group volunteer might help her identify a person in the community who could be a great project advisor.
 - The project advisor is a volunteer that guides a girl as she takes her project from the planning stage to implementation. The project advisor is typically not a girl's parent or troop/group leader. They are typically someone from the community who is knowledgeable about the issue and who can provide guidance, experience and expertise along the way.
- 7) Why can't a parent be a Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor?
 - Girls are encouraged to connect with their community when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. This means working with a project advisor who is not her parent.
- 8) At what point should a Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor be identified?
 - The project advisor should be identified in the planning phase before the Gold Award proposal is turned in to the Council. The project advisor expands the network of adults and provides expertise for a girl's project. If a girl has an idea before she starts any work on her Gold Award, she might want to identify her project advisor from the very beginning.
- 9) What is the role of the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee?
 - Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma has developed a committee to support Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors as they go through the process of earning their Gold Award. The committee's role is to ensure that girl's projects meet the national guidelines. The committee will review the project proposal, make recommendations for the project development and resources, reads the final report and makes a recommendation to the Council on whether to approve the project. If the project has not yet achieved its goals, the committee provides suggestions and tips to help her develop a high quality Gold Award project.

10) What does it mean to have a sustainable project?

- A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girl's involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the projects going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl's involvement.

11) Can a girl earn the Girl Scout Gold Award even if she hasn't been in Girl Scouts very long?

- Yes, she just needs to be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador to begin her Gold Award project.

12) What if a girl is 18 and graduating?

- A girl has until she turns 18 or until the end of the Girl Scout membership year (September 30th) when she is Senior in high school.

13) What if a girl's project is not completed by the Council ceremony time?

- The girl can choose to be recognized at a separate ceremony or wait until the Council wide ceremony the next year. If the Council has a set time for honoring Girl Scout Gold Awardees, this should be part of the orientation to girls planning their Gold Award. Girls and their project advisors are encouraged to work within the council timeline; however, the ceremony time should not dictate whether or not a girl is able to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award.