

## **Girl Scout Gold Award Advisor Fact Sheet**

### **What is the difference between a troop advisor and a Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor in the Girl Scout Gold Award process? Do girls need both?**

A Troop Advisor is the adult volunteer who works in an ongoing capacity with the troop or individual girls. Once a girl identifies her issue, the troop/group advisor might help her identify a person in the community who could be a great project advisor.

A Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor is a volunteer that guides a girl as she takes her project from the planning stage to implementation. It is highly encouraged that the project advisor not be a girl's parent or a Girl Scout troop advisor. The project advisor is typically someone from the community who is knowledgeable about the issue the award focuses on and who can provide guidance, experience and expertise along the way.

### **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. That means working with a project advisor who is not her parent or everyday advisor.

### **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 Girl Scout Gold Award Project 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 Girl Scout Gold Award, she might want to identify her project advisor from the very beginning. The Project Advisor should review proposals along with the girl prior to submission of the proposal.

The Project Advisor should feel free to contact the Girl Scouts Louisiana East Program Department with questions or concerns.

The best way to make sure that a girl's award represents a quality project being done to the best of her ability is to ensure that everyone involved understands that a Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Take Action project should be much more than a onetime community service opportunity or event. 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 project 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. It is the responsibility of the troop leader, project advisor, council staff member, or Gold Award committee (for Gold Award only) to work with the girl to ensure that she meets the quality requirements of the award.