

Girl Scouts Louisiana East

Girl Scout Gold Award



Information/Application Packet

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GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD Application Procedures

The Girl Scout Gold Award Committee has agreed to take on the duties of reviewing the "Project Proposals" to approve potential Girl Scout Gold Award projects. The committee is a group of adults who care about the integrity of Girl Scouting highest award and wish to support the girls who are working to receive it.

These are the procedures:

1. Attend the council Silver/Gold Workshop
2. Complete the pre-requisites that will lead you to your project.
3. Complete the Project Proposal Form and submit to the Older Girl Program Coordinator.
4. Once your proposal is received, it will be routed to the committee members for their input.
5. The project will then be either approved or the applicant will be given recommendations to improve and expand the project. Once expanded a revised proposal may be submitted.
6. Once approved, you will be assigned a mentor who will work directly with you as you are working on your project. This mentor will help guide you through the process including brainstorming for contacts and ideas and working through challenges.

Your proposal **should be completed and turned in by due dates listed in *Program Power* or on the council website** of the year in which you hope to receive the Girl Scout Gold Award. We will accept applications after this deadline, but if you're late you will be rushed to complete your project and we may not be able to provide the support and recognition you deserve.

Attendance of the council Silver/Gold Award workshop by you and your leader (or parent if you are a Juliette) is required before starting any of the steps. The Silver/Gold Award workshops are offered by the council in the spring and fall. The workshop will go through the steps to earn your award and you will learn about what the difference is between a community service project and a Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Don't waste precious time: Submit your completed Girl Scout Gold Award project proposal for approval as soon as you've finished the pre-requisites (Girl Scout Gold Career Award, Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award, Girl Scout 4B's Challenge Award, your Girl Scout Gold Award project plan).

The final report, time log and biography **must be turned in** by March 15th of the year in which you hope to receive the Gild Award, **prior to your planned ceremony date and NOT LATER THAN September 30th of your graduating senior year.**

To help in recognizing you in our council publications and your local newspapers, please include any pictures you've taken while completing your project with a brief description. Once you turn in your completed report a member of the Gold Award Committee will contact you within two weeks on the status of your project. You should plan to turn your paperwork in **at least a month in advance** of a planned award ceremony in case of unforeseen circumstances that result in the award not being available when you go to the council shop.

You must submit the required paperwork and turn them into the Older Girl Program Coordinator before any council recognition will be made in local newspapers or council publications.

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GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD Information Sheet

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest honor a registered Girl Scout **Senior/Ambassador** may receive and the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. Your efforts to earn it express a special commitment to yourself, your community, your world and the future. The award has eight steps. Requirements one through five **MUST BE COMPLETED** *before* you work on the sixth requirement, the Girl Scout Gold Award project. As you work on your project, and as you finish each step, you should think about the special contributions you bring to the work.

Requirements: (*Requirements started prior to registration as a Girl Scout Senior may not be applied toward this award, including recognitions earned as a Girl Scout Cadette.*)

1. Attend the council's Silver/Gold Award workshop.
2. Read ***Girl Scout Gold Award Go For It*** STUDIO 2B binder insert; meet with your advisor to develop a timeline for the next steps; Make an agreement with your advisor.
3. Earn the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award (charm available).
4. Earn Girl Scout Gold Career Award (charm available).
5. Earn the 4B's Challenge Award (charm available). While earning the 4B's Challenge Award, you actually begin planning your Girl Scout Gold Award project. Submit your *Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal*, to the Girl Scout Council office, Attention: Older Girl Program Coordinator. As you plan your project, keep in mind:
 1. Your project should provide a needed community service.
 2. Your project should interest you and build on your experiences and stretch your abilities.
 3. Your project should leave a legacy—make arrangements for it to be continued after you have finished your work on it.
 4. Your project should increase visibility of Girl Scout doing service for the community.
6. Using ***Girl Scout Gold Award Go For It*** STUDIO 2B binder insert, finalize your Girl Scout Gold Award project plan.
7. Take action! — Carry out your project plan after your plan has been approved and a member of the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee has contacted you.
8. Evaluate your project with your advisor and submit your *Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report* to the Older Girl Program Coordinator. Don't forget to include your *Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient Biography* and a photograph.
9. Decide how and when you want to receive your Girl Scout Gold Award using the *Sample Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony*.
10. CONGRATULATIONS!

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GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD Project Examples

The Girl Scout Gold Award is an extension and a combination of all that you have learned in your previous Girl Scout work. The five requirements helped you develop skills, practice leadership, explore career possibilities, and discover more about yourself. All of this will be put into action when you design and carry out your special community action project in steps 6 and 7.

ECOLOGY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN — This project involved two sisters. One wrote and directed a play dealing with water pollution and different ways children can help the environment. The other sister organized and performed a puppet show, which dealt with ways children could prevent land and air pollution. She also made a pamphlet containing environmental facts and games. The girls videotaped the play and puppet show, and then they sent copies of the pamphlet and videotapes to local libraries.

SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL — This Girl Scout mobilized volunteers to build two bridges over streams and to install 12 erosion bars on steep dirt inclines with donated materials. The group also cleared a mile-long walking trail and tagged dozens of trees. Finally, she researched, wrote, and illustrated a 20-page self-guided tour booklet for the trail. The booklet was distributed to schools and local libraries. Note that this project involved many volunteers. The key to this girl's success was that she **managed** the project, rather than carrying it out all by herself.

LITERACY PROJECT — The Girl Scout who spearheaded this project planned and carried out a "Right to Read" workshop for an adult development conference. She also designed and participated in an after-school reading program. She met with children once a week, developed a library for the children, and recruited and trained other girls to work with the children. She also wrote and produced a video on literacy awareness.

WALKING TOUR BROCHURE — The Girl Scout who coordinated this project researched, designed, and printed an historical walking tour brochure of her community. She also taped remembrances by local citizens, created a brochure about the tapes, and made the tapes and brochures available to her local "Newcomers Club," Boy Scouts, "Walkers Club," public library, Chamber of Commerce, and to all Girl Scout troops in the area. The brochure and tapes are still being used in her community.

INDIAN GRAVE LOCATION AND UPKEEP — The Girl Scout who developed this Gold Award project recruited volunteers to locate and repair the graves of Native Americans in her community. To sustain the project, she partnered with her local Historical Society, which maintains the graves to this day.

RECYCLING PROGRAM IN GRAMMAR SCHOOL — The Girl Scout who designed this project worked with the faculty of a local school to start a school-wide recycling program. She made posters to publicize her campaign and met with teachers to gain their support. She secured recycle boxes for the school and distributed them to the classrooms. The school's Student Council has taken over the recycling program, so it is still in existence.

These projects are provided as examples of "good" Gold Award projects. Each project

- Met a community need identified by a Girl Scout,
- Involved other community members, and
- Were sustainable (continued after the girl's involvement ended)

Keep these criteria in mind when you are planning your project.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Some Girl Scout Seniors want to work towards the Gold Award. What if we have questions not covered in this information packet?

Contact the Older Girl Program Coordinator at the Girl Scout Council office. The number is 800-852-8421. Your questions might also be answered in the Girl Scout Gold Award Go For It! STUDIO 2B binder insert.

A Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador has not yet finished the Girl Scout Gold Award project and is starting college. Is this permissible?

A girl should complete her Girl Scout Gold Award while she is a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador. Girl Scout Seniors/Ambassadors are ages 14 - 17 or in grades nine through twelve. The membership year runs through September 30. Therefore the girl will have through September 30 of the year she graduates from high school to complete her Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Girl Scout Cadettes who are bridging to Girl Scout Seniors register in May. They begin work on Girl Scout Senior activities, some of which meet Girl Scout Gold Award requirements. Can these activities count?

If the girls are registered as Girl Scout Seniors, they may begin to work towards the Gold Award. However, recognitions earned as Cadettes MAY NOT be applied towards the Gold Award. Girls are advised not to concentrate their energies on the Girl Scout Gold Award exclusively. The point of the award is not to earn it as quickly as possible. The point is to foster in girls a sense of special commitment to herself, to her community, and to the future.

Do interest project patches have to be earned as a troop?

No. Girls should select and complete Interest Projects on their own. If several girls want to complete the same Interest

projects, they may work on them together.

An individually registered girl is interested in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. She does not have a troop advisor. Where does she go to get started and receive guidance?

Contact the Older Girl Program Coordinator at 800-852-8421. We will try to find a Girl Scout Gold Award Advisor to work with her.

A Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador graduates early from high school and begins college. May she work on the Gold Award?

A Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador who completes an accelerated high school program and begins college, and is still within the age definition of the membership standard, may complete work on the Girl Scout Gold Award during her first year as a college student. Both the council and the girl adhere to the same regulations and guidelines presently established for earning the award.

A Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador wants to begin working toward her Girl Scout Gold Award. However, she does not yet know what she wants the project to be about. Can she begin earning interest project patches anyway?

Yes, the girl should select interest projects that are broad in scope and get started. Most of the project patches can be tied to almost any project.

A Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador submits a Girl Scout Gold Award proposal that requires financial support to successfully execute the project. What methods of fund-raising may be suggested or accepted?

Funding for Girl Scout Gold Awards projects should be discussed with the girl's advisor and/or Older Girl Program Coordinator. Only proposals that are realistically within the girls' assets should be designed.

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Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal

Please type or print in black ink. Make copies for advisors and yourself. Submit original *Project Proposal* and *Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award Additional Information Request* to the Older Girl Program Coordinator. DO NOT BEGIN YOUR PROJECT UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED COUNCIL APPROVAL.

Name _____ Birthday ____/____/____ Age _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____ (_____) Home _____ (_____) Cell _____

Email _____

Troop _____ Service Unit _____ Region _____ School _____ Grade _____

Advisor Name _____ (_____) Home _____

(_____) Cell _____ Email _____

STEP 1: ATTEND COUNCIL SILVER/GOLD AWARD WORKSHOP

Date Attended council's Silver/Gold Award Workshop: ____/____/____

STEP 2: GET READY

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

ATTACH A COPY OF THE TIMELINE DEVELOPED BY YOU AND YOUR ADVISOR.

STEP 3: GIRL SCOUT GOLD LEADERSHIP AWARD

Activities	Date Completed	Advisor Signature
Earn It:		
IP:		
IP:		
IP:		
Studio 2B Focus Book:		
Lead It: (30 hours) Describe:		

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STEP 4: GIRL SCOUT GOLD CAREER AWARD

Describe 40 hour career related activity:	Date Completed	Advisor Signature

STEP 5: GIRL SCOUT GOLD 4 B'S CHALLENGE AWARD

Activity	Date Completed	Project Advisor Signature
A. Become		
B. Belong		
C. Believe		
D. Build		

STEP 6: GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT

Title of Project: _____

Proposed start date: _____ **Proposed completion date:** _____

A. Describe the issue your project will address, what you hope to achieve, and who will benefit.

B. Discuss the reasons for selecting this project.

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- C. Outline your strengths, talents, and skills that will be put into action.
- D. Describe the steps involved you for putting your plan into action, including facilities and/or equipment needed. (You can attach project plan.)
- E. Indicate methods and/or tools you will use to evaluate the effectiveness of your project?
- F. List the names of advisors and resources you plan to use.
- G. Estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs (attach copy of budget sheet from your record book).

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Advisor's signature: _____

For Program Department Use Only

Date Proposal Report Received: ____/____/____ Mentor Assigned: _____

Date Attended Award Workshop: ____/____/____ Verified by: _____

Coaching Given ____ Yes ____ No Session 1: ____/____/____ Session 2: ____/____/____

Girl Response:

Committee Approval Signature: _____ Approval Date: ____/____/____

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STEP UP TO GOLD

Steps 1 – 5

Use this 2 page worksheet to keep track of your progress towards the Girl Scout Gold Award. Check off each activity as you complete it. Finish the first five steps and then you can submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal. You cannot start working on your project until after steps 1 – 5 are done.

Step One:

Attend Council's Silver/Gold Award Workshop

Step Two: Get Started

Activity	Date Completed
___ Read GFI	_____
___ Meet with advisor to plan steps 1-4.	_____
___ Make agreement with advisor	_____

Step Three: Earn Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award (charm available)

- Earn three Interest Project Awards (IPGS)
- Earn **STUDIO 2B Focus Take Charge** charm (**FB: Take Charge**) Date Completed _____
- Spend **30 hours** in a leadership role.

Activity	Date Completed
IP: _____	_____
IP: _____	_____
IP: _____	_____

Dated completed _____

- Record in **GFI**, discuss with advisor, evaluate. Dated completed _____

Step Four: Earn the Girl Scout Gold Career Award (charm available)

- Spend **40 hours** doing one or more of the following:

Career shadow one or more people	Hrs: _____
Get an internship or apprenticeship	Hrs: _____
Visit colleges or trade fairs	Hrs: _____
Organize career fair	Hrs: _____
Partner with Girl Scout staff member(s)	Hrs: _____
Write careers newsletter or web page	Hrs: _____

- Record in **GFI**, discuss with advisor, evaluate. Date completed: _____

NOTE: If you have a paying job, you can count 40 hours of work on the job instead of doing the other activities in this step.

Step Five: Earn Girl Scout 4B's Challenge Award (charm available)

- Read and do all activities in pages 16-21 of **GFI**:

Activity	Date Completed
Become —set goals for personal growth	_____
Belong —learn about your community	_____
Info: _____	_____
Believe —create a vision for change	_____
Build —create a network of people who can help you realize your vision	_____

- Use page 18 in **FB: Write Now** to build persuasive skills so you can get the help you need. Date completed: _____
- Keep records in **GFI**, discuss, evaluate with advisor. Date completed: _____

NOTE: These forty hours can be applied to the Girl Scout Gold Award hours.

Books you will need: **STUDIO 2B Girl Scout Gold Award Go For It insert (GFI)**; **Interest Projects for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts (IPGS)** (newest edition is titled **Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11 – 17**—use either edition); different **Focus Books (FB)**, depending on your needs and interests.

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THE PROJECT

Steps 6 – 8

Step Six: Plan your Girl Scout Gold Award Project

NOTE: planning and carrying out your project must take **at least 65 hours**.

1) Use *GFI* pages 23-25 to accomplish the following

Activity	Date Completed
Plan it —Figure out what community problem your project will address	_____
Know more about it —collect as much info on your issue as you can	_____
Choose it —brainstorm for solutions to your problem; make a budget	_____
Map it —create a timeline for your project and make a list of resources needed	_____

2) With your advisor, fill out the project plan for the Girl Scout council.

NOW SUBMIT YOUR PLAN AND THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD APPLICATION TO THE OLDER GIRL PROGRAM COORDINATOR.

3) Remember:

- You can't start your project until it is approved by the council Gold Award Committee
- All money-earning and gifts-in-kind must be approved by the Girl Scout council
- The Girl Scout council might make some

Step Seven: Take Action!

Do it! — put your plan into action.

Stay flexible — you can't plan for *every* contingency!.

Adjust your plan when needed — addressing the problem is the most important thing.

Keep records — use *GFI* to keep track of things so you can discuss and evaluate your project later.

Date completed: _____

College Admissions offices and employers know that the Girl Scout Gold Award requires smarts and persistence.

Step Eight: Think About It

1) Using records you have kept in *GFI*, evaluate what you have done with your advisor. Ask yourself:

- What have you learned?
- Did you succeed in solving the problem you focused on?
- Who helped you?

2) Thank the people and agencies who helped to make your project a success.

NOW SUBMIT YOUR GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD FINAL REPORT TO THE OLDER GIRL PROGRAM COORDINATOR.

You did it! Finished all the steps. Raise your hand.

Bend your elbow. And give yourself a pat on the back!

Things to Keep in Mind

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting. If you find it difficult to fulfill all the requirements, that's okay. This award should NOT be easy to earn. But you do have the support of your advisors and the Girl Scout council. Also, working on the Gold will provide opportunities for personal growth and will enable you to make positive changes in your community. You'll be surprised by how much you learn and by how connected to others you will feel. Remember that the best Gold Award projects address community needs, involve other people, and are sustainable. We know you can do it! If you run into problems you can't resolve with your advisor, give the Older Girl Program Coordinator

Books you will need: **STUDIO 2B Girl Scout Gold Award Go For It insert (GFI); Interest Projects for Girl Scout Cadettes and Seniors (IPGS)** (newest edition is titled **Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11 – 17**—use either edition); different **Focus Books (FB)**, depending on your needs and interests.

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GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD Final Report

Please type or print in black ink. Make copies for your advisors and for yourself. SUBMIT ORIGINAL WITH YOUR TIME LOG AND BIOGRAPHY TO OLDER GIRL PROGRAM COORDINATOR.

PART II: Tracking Project Hours

Name _____ Birthday ____/____/____ Age ____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip ____

Parish _____ (____) Home _____ (____) Cell _____

Email _____

Troop _____ Service Unit _____ Region _____ School _____ Grade ____

Advisor Name _____ (____) Home _____

(____) Cell _____ Email _____

PART II: Tracking Project Hours

Date started: _____ Date Completed: _____

PART III: Reflection and Evaluation

A. Briefly summarize your project. Include the issue your project addressed and the methods you used for meeting the project objectives.

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B. Discuss the benefits your project provided to others in the community.

C. Detail the method used for evaluating the impact of your project.

D. What did you learn about yourself as a result of this project?

E. What aspects of your project would you change or do differently?

F. What was the most successful aspect of your project?

Your signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor's signature: _____

<p>For Program Department Use Only</p> <p>Date Proposal Report Received: ____/____/____ Mentor Assigned: _____</p> <p>Coaching Given ____ Yes ____ No Session 1: ____/____/____ Session 2: ____/____/____</p> <p>Girl Response: _____</p> <p>Committee Approval Signature: _____ Approval Date: ____/____/____</p>

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Recipient Biography

(Please submit with your final report. Include a photograph of yourself. This information will be used during your awards ceremony and for press releases to local newspapers. Photo will not be returned.)

Title of Project _____

Your Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Current Grade _____ High School _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Extracurricular Activities _____

Plans to further your education _____

Future Goals _____

On the back of this page, or on a separate sheet, tell us, in one hundred words or less, what Girl Scouting means to you.

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Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony

After all your hard work you will want to plan how and where you will receive your award. It's important that you are honored in the community you served. It's also important to involve Girl Scouts from your troop, service unit and/or area so they can understand the significance of your accomplishments. Your pinning ceremony can be part of a Service Unit Court of Awards or Service Unit Bridging Ceremony. Or you can plan your own special ceremony and invite other troops and your friends and family. We provide invitations and will mail them for you.

You don't have to receive your award by yourself. If other girls in your area have also earned the Gold, you can plan a ceremony that includes all of you.

Sample Ceremony

Welcome

Service Unit Manager, Troop Leader or other representative of the Girl Scout council.

Flag Ceremony

Performed by a Girl Scout troop in your Service Unit.

Promise & Law

Can be a candlelight ceremony with one girl leading everyone in reciting the Girl Scout Promise. Afterwards, Girl Scouts of different ages come forward and say one part of the law as they light a candle.

Speaker(s)

Choose from a previous Girl Scout Award recipient, an inspirational speaker, a former or current leader, a representative of the organization that benefited from your project to speak. (Keep in mind that too many speakers will detract from the ceremony.)

Gold Award Project

Your project description should be presented to the entire group. You may talk about it yourself or write a summary of your project for the person presenting the award to read.

Pinning

The Girl Scout Gold Award Pin is pinned on the girl by her parent. Girls may present "parent pins" to thank parents for their support. (Please note that the Gold Award pin is given to the girl by the council, but parent pins must be purchased.)

Closing

Select an inspirational poem, reading or song.

Retire the colors

If an opening flag ceremony was conducted the colors are now retired.

Celebration

Choose to celebrate however you would like. Consider the location, time and number in attendance. Usually cake and punch are served, but that is your choice. Simple is best!