

# FAQ: Funding a Gold Award

## Q 1. Does a Gold Award Project need to cost a lot of money?

*Most award projects don't cost a lot of money and sometimes nothing at all. Part of expanding girls' leadership skills is finding creative ways to get supplies donated. This aspect of the project also helps the girls to begin to develop networking skills and counts toward project hours.*

## Q 2. If money is needed, how should we begin?

*The first way to fund your Gold Award Projects is to use troop funds to cover expenses. Girls should be voting on how all troop funds are being spent and this is no different. Girls can and should vote to use troop funds to cover the cost of award projects. This is also a great way for girls to practice their pitch!*

*Easy ways to build troop funds:*

- Fall Product Program
- Cookie Program

## Q 3. After you have taken part in the most recent Council product sales, and you still don't have enough funds what do you do?

*You can move on to money-earning activities with Council approval. The money-earning activities are planned and carried out by girls and supported by adults to earn money for the troop treasury. Examples:*

- Gift-wrapping for the holidays
- Babysitting at Town meetings, school meetings, or other public places
- Spaghetti Supper
- Car wash
- Garage sale
- Raking leaves, mowing lawns, weeding gardens
- Birthday party service
- Craft sale
- Collect and redeem recyclable materials

*Be creative! There are many more ways in which you can earn money!*

*NOTE: <sup>1</sup>You must have participated in the most recent Council-sponsored Fall Product program OR Cookie Product programs before any other additional money earning activities can be approved. <sup>2</sup>Your Gold Award Proposal must be approved prior to submitting your Money Earning Application.*

- Q 4. Can you run money-earning activities (ex. yard sale) during Council product sales?**  
*No, there are blackout dates where no money-earning activities can take place:*
- The in-person order taking period for Fall Product Program, which is usually late September through October.*
  - The initial order taking period for cookies, which is usually 2 weeks in January/February.*
  - The Direct/Booth Sale period for cookies, which is usually 3 weeks in February/March.*
- Check the GSLE website for the specific dates of these programs each year.*
- Q 5. What are the guidelines for accepting donations or money-earning limits?**  
*All donations, sponsorships, and/or matching gifts must be submitted to council. Girls need to complete the Application for Money-Earning Projects at*  
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/GirlScoutsLouisianaEast/ApplicationForMoneyEarningProjects>  
*The Fund Development department will disperse the funds as needed. Each donation, sponsorship, and/or matching gift is limited to \$250.00. No contribution from a single donor (ex. Company or household) shall exceed \$250.00.*
- Q 6. Can you set up a Crowd Sourcing funding website?**  
*No, at this time GSUSA has not approved this type of funding. Ex: Go Fund Me page*
- Q 7. Since Gold is an individual project; can girls' money-earn on their own?**  
*Yes, they can apply for money-earning activities specifically for their project. Girls need to complete the Application for Money-Earning Projects at*  
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/GirlScoutsLouisianaEast/ApplicationForMoneyEarningProjects>
- Q 8. How do girls apply for a money-earning activity for their Gold Award Project?**  
*Girls are required to have a detailed budget and money-earning activity plan outlined in their Gold Award Proposal. They need to be prepared to share it during their Gold Award Interview. Once the Gold Award Proposal is approved, they can submit the "Money Earning Application". Girls need to complete the Application for Money-Earning Projects at*  
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/GirlScoutsLouisianaEast/ApplicationForMoneyEarningProjects>
- Q 9. Who gets this application?**  
*The application will go directly to the GSLE Fund Development department. Don't forget to attach your Gold Award Proposal approval and the Gold Award Project budget that was submitted with your Gold Award Proposal.*
- Q 10. Can a Girl Scout who is Non-Troop Affiliated (Juliette) money-earn for her Gold Award Project?**  
*Yes, she can, but she needs to use all the money raised toward her project. Any funds left over will go to GS Louisiana East.*
- Q 11. Does money-earning income ever become the property of an individual member, girl or adult?**  
*No, it is used for Gold Award Projects only. Any funds left over will go to the GS Louisiana East.*

**Q 12. Do the money-earning hours count toward the 80-hour Gold Award Project?**

*No, for example, the hours spent organizing and running a car wash do not count toward Gold Award project hours. Those hours are not specific to the project.*

**Q 13. Can a girl “ask” for donations (cash or checks) for her Gold Award Project?**

*Yes. She must first submit a Money Earning application along with her Gold Award Proposal approval.*

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/GirlScoutsLouisianaEast/ApplicationForMoneyEarningProjects>

**Q 14. Can a girl ask for In-Kind donations?**

*Yes, she can present the project and ask for supplies once her application for Money-Earning Projects has been approved.*

**Q 15. Do the hours when a Girl Scout is presenting her project to get donations count?**

*Yes, those hours are specific to the project.*

**Q 16. What if a company or organization needs the request in writing on GSLE letterhead?**

*Girls should submit an Application for Money-Earning Projects at*

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/GirlScoutsLouisianaEast/ApplicationForMoneyEarningProjects>

*Girls will include the first part of the letter explaining the project in the application. The Fund Development Department will write the last paragraph “asking” for the donation.*

**Q 17. Can a girl or her family make personal contributions for their Gold Award Project?**

*No. There are many opportunities to raise needed funds to support her Gold Award. Examples:*

- Troop Funds, Fall Product and Cookie Program earnings.
- Money Earning Activities
- Donations: Monetary and In-kind.
- Sponsorships
- Matching Gifts

**Q 18. Can girls apply for a grant?**

*Yes. The first step is to complete the Application for Money-Earning Projects. Once received the GSLE Fund Development will review and contact the girl with further instructions.*

**Q 19. Are there inappropriate money-earning activities that we should avoid?**

*Yes*

- Games of chance, raffles
- Home demonstration parties: Avon, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, etc.
- Receiving a percentage of sales (where a portion of the sales goes back to the troop) from a business during a specific time frame where those sales generate a profit for a specific company. Example: Applebee’s fund raiser