

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California
GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD FAQ's

What is the Girl Scout Silver Award?

- The Girl Scout Silver Award is broken down into 6 steps. The first 4 steps (the pre-requisites) help build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills, and make a commitment to self-improvement.
- Steps 5 & 6 (the final project) are the service project component. The project should take at least 40 hours to complete and must provide community service which can be done inside or outside of Girl Scouts, preferably for an outside community.
- Projects must be age appropriate and challenging. All of the skills learned while completing the first 4 steps of the award should be utilized.

When can I start?

- Steps 1-4 can be started at age 11 or going into 6th grade.
- Steps 5 & 6 can be started at age 12 or going into 7th grade AND can only be started when steps 1-4 are completed.
- The entire process must be completed before September 30th sophomore year or age 14, whatever happens last.

Is it recommended that my parent be my project advisor for the Girl Scout Silver Award?

- For a number of reasons it is best to find a project advisor who is not a parent as it is not always possible to get the full benefit of the leadership experience if working with a parent. Avoid situations where parents do a girl's work, even when it comes to calling and asking questions. If money earning is involved act as a team, with the girl doing the planning and the adult doing the "ask."

If I have done similar activities in pursuit of other Girl Scout awards, can these activities count toward the Girl Scout Silver Award?

- Activities done prior to working on the awards or as activities counting towards other leadership awards can not be counted toward the number of hours for this award. However, if a girl has earned the charm for either Focus Books she can set new goals for herself in that book. Note: Hours earned toward the Girl Scout Silver Award **can** count toward the President's Volunteer Service Awards.

What forms do I submit to the council?

- A Girl Scout Silver Award Proposal Packet must be turned in to the Program Specialist overseeing the Girl Scout Silver Award at the Main Office in Rancho Cordova before beginning steps 5 & 6.
- If planning an event for the final project the *Prepare 2B Ready* training class must be taken and a risk management plan must be submitted to the Program Specialist overseeing the Girl Scout Silver Award before your event takes place.
- If non-Girl Scouts will be attending an event the Event Insurance Form must be turned in to the council to purchase extra insurance. (Make sure cost is added into budget.)
- A Girl Scout Silver Award Final Report Packet must be turned in to the Program Specialist overseeing the Girl Scout Silver Award at the Main Office in Rancho Cordova.

How do I get money to pay for my project?

- When designing a Girl Scout Silver Award, it's important to think creatively about how a difference can be made with little or no money.
- Talk to the council for approval of money earning activities or donations requests.
- Consult the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California's *Money Matters* for more information and guidelines.

Can my project be done within the Girl Scout community?

- A Girl Scout Silver Award project can be done in or outside Girl Scouts, but is highly recommend to be done outside of Girl Scouts, and must reflect some aspect of community service.

What type of projects should be avoided?

- Avoid projects that involve websites (usually a lot of legal issues involved), creating a "councils own" patch project, and any project that involves raising funds for another organization.

Once I complete my project when do I receive my award?

- The council purchases the Girl Scout Silver Award pin for all award recipients. The pin is presented at the annual Girl Scout Silver Award ceremony in May. Pins will be mailed to those who cannot attend the ceremony. Serve on the committee to plan the ceremony; contact the council office at (916) 638-4475 or (800) 322-4475 or silveraward@girlscoutshcc.org.