

# Gold Award FAQs

## **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.

## **Are girls required to take training to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

- Yes. Girls are required to take the Gold Award Workshop to become familiar with the process of earning Gold in our council and to fully understand the requirements. These provisions help to ensure that every girl who wants to earn the Gold Award will be given the greatest chance of success. ) You can find the workshops on the schedule [HERE](#). Troops or Service Units can request a workshop for a minimum of 5 girls [HERE](#)

## **When can a girl attend a Gold Award workshop?**

A girl can do the workshop any time after she is officially registered as a Senior Girl Scout but she must attend the workshop before she begins her Gold project. Girls may complete their pre-requisite Journeys before they've taken the Gold Award Workshop

## **Why must girls complete Journeys before earning a Girl Scout Silver Award?**

This is a GSUSA requirement. Earning one of Girl Scouts' highest awards challenges girls to be their best. By first completing a "regular" Journey, girls learn what it takes to successfully complete a Take Action project—so they're better prepared to develop, plan, and implement the more involved Take Action project for their Gold Award.

## **Do you have any advice on how to generate higher-quality projects?**

A good first step is to make sure Girl Scouts and their advisors understand the difference between a one-time community service project and a highest award Take Action project that serves an entire community for an extended period of time. The troop/ group volunteer or council staff member should also work closely to ensure that every project meets the quality requirements of the award.

## **What is a Gold Award Project Advisor?**

A Gold Award Project Advisor is someone in the girl's community that has expertise or experience in the content area of the girl's project. For example, if she is building a shade shelter, her Project Advisor may be an engineer or someone who manages construction

projects. If she is starting a library, her Project Advisor may be a librarian or an educator. **The Project Advisor must not be her Girl Scout leader or someone who is related to her.**

## **What are the money guidelines that girls and troops need to follow?**

All of the established guidelines found in Volunteer Essentials should be followed by troops and girls working on their Girl Scout Gold Award projects. Of particular importance are these two:

1. Girl Scouts may not raise money for any other organization, in their roles as Girl Scouts. This means that Girl Scout Gold Award projects may not be about raising money for someone else. This is a guideline that is necessary to protect the non-profit status of our organization.
2. Girls may raise money or request donations for their Gold Award project expenses, but need to follow all safety guidelines. Girls must have an approved Girl Scout Volunteer or parent or guardian with them at all times during any Girl Scout activities, and only adults may ask for donations on behalf of a girl's project. Girls may explain the project to another adult, but then an adult – the leader, project advisor, or parent – has to actually ask for any donations of goods or services. For more clarification on this, please contact a GSHG council staff member.

## **Go Gold Grant**

Need help funding your project? GSHCC has a fund for that! Girls have the opportunity to apply for “seed money” for their Gold Award project. This grant money can be used to help jumpstart the project, purchase supplies, or reserve event space. If you are interested in applying for the grant please login to your Go Gold account and fill out the form attached to the Go Gold Online Proposal.

## **What Internet browser should I use to access GoGold?**

Please use the latest version of Chrome, Edge, Firefox or Safari for the smoothest experience.

## **What is the submission deadline for proposals to be reviewed?**

Gold Award proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete the online Gold Award proposal. Do not wait until the last minute to begin. It can take up to a month to receive approval or feedback.

## **Does time spent working on the proposal count towards a girl's final hour tally?**

Yes, the proposal is considered a part of the planning process and can, therefore, be included in a girl's final hour tally. However, Girl Scouts can only include 10-15 hours of planning time towards their final tally, including time writing the proposal.

### **Do Girl Scouts have to complete a proposal before starting their project?**

All new Gold Award projects must submit a proposal to the Higher Awards Committee for review. You create this proposal by following the steps in your Go Gold account.

### **How many hours should it take to earn a Gold Award?**

No two projects are alike, so the time to plan, share, and complete a project will vary depending on the scope of the project, team, and community support. The quality of the project should be emphasized over the quantity of hours necessary to complete it. However, after fulfilling the required Journey, the minimum number of hours for a Gold Award is 80 hours. Note that time spent working on Journeys does not count for the project.

### **What counts as hours?**

Any time when you are working on your project, you can count it as hours. Brainstorming, finding an advisor, and speaking with your mentor all count as hours. Up to 25% of your hours can come from fundraising. At least 20% of your hours should come from leadership and working with others. Helping another girl in your troop with her project does not count as hours. You want to spend most of your hours working with your community and team creating your project.

### **Can girls, or even an entire troop, work together on an award?**

The Gold Award is designed to be an individual leadership experience. This is not to say a girl cannot involve her peers in the execution of her project. Each person must plan and develop their own project. Again, once the planning is complete, she then can involve her peers in the execution of the project, but no two Girl Scouts can earn an award for the same project.

### **What happens when a girl moves to a new city, state, or country while she's in the middle of her award project? Can she still earn her award?**

Yes, but she may need to seek special permission. We advise a girl in this situation to work with her new council and/or Overseas Committee to complete the project. And we encourage councils and Overseas Committees to be flexible and serve girls' best interests.

### **What about girls with disabilities? Is there a different set of requirements for them?**

No. Because the Gold Award work is to be done to the best of a girl's ability, there really is no need for special requirements for girls with disabilities. We encourage advisors to be flexible and to work with the girl individually as she earns her award.

### **How do you define “sustainable” when it comes to the highest awards?**

Simply put, a sustainable project lives on in the community after a girl's involvement ends. How do girls achieve that? They might focus on education and raising awareness. Or they might develop workshops and hands-on learning sessions that inspire others to keep the project going. Working with local government, community groups, nonprofit agencies, civic associations, and/or religious organizations can also help ensure the project lasts beyond the girl's involvement.

### **Does my project need to be sustainable?**

Yes the project must include a sustainable aspect and the sustainability must be made clear in both the project proposal and the final report.

### **When is the project final report due?**

The project **Final Report** is due before September 30th of the year a girl graduates 12th grade. For example, if a girl graduates 12th grade in June of 2023 then the report must be submitted before September 30th of 2023. There is no deadline for project proposals but they must be council approved before starting the actual project.