

Silver Award FAQ

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. Girls can include up to approximately 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 Silver Award projects must submit a proposal to the Higher Awards Committee for review. Please wait to start your project until you receive feedback on your Proposal. You can find the [form here](#)

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

Earning one of Girl Scouts' highest awards challenges girls to be their best. It's all about skill progression. 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 Silver Award. A Journey is "completed" when the Journey's Take Action project is finished.

Can my whole troop work on the same project?

Up to four girls can work on one project. If working in a group, each girl must have an individualized role and submit her own proposal for her portion. Girls may also choose to work individually.

Why is four girls the limit for working on one project?

This Highest Award process encourages leadership development. With smaller groups, girls are more likely to take on leadership roles. In large groups, a few girls step up and take charge while others are just along for the ride. With smaller groups, girls are able to vocalize their opinions more easily and take complete ownership for their part of the project.

How many hours should it take to earn a Silver 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 suggested minimum number of hours for a Silver Award is 50 hours. If this is a group of 2,3 or 4 Cadettes, this means 50 hours for each member of the team: For example, the minimum hours for a 4 person team is 200.

Can girls get a head-start and begin working on their award projects right after they bridge (transition) to the next level?

Absolutely. Once a girl bridges to the next level, she can begin working on her award; this usually means completing the pre-requisite Journey and attending the 'Take Action Award: Silver' training workshop. This process can be started right away, including the summer months.

Is it possible to choose Girl Scouting itself as the focus of a Silver Award?

It is highly discouraged to pick Girl Scouting itself as a focus of a Silver Award. Cadettes are encouraged to go into the communities around them, because connecting with other organizations and new role models, and make the broader world a better place.

What counts as hours?

Any time when you are working on your project, you can count it as hours. Brainstorming, researching, finding an advisor, planning 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 your hours.

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 Silver 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. Connecting and working with local government, community groups and clubs, 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.

Do you have any advice on how to quickly pass through the Proposal phase?

A good first step is to make sure girls 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 with girls to ensure that every project meets the quality requirements of the award. This is another reason why each person on a Silver Award team needs to have their own proposal submitted highlighting their portion of the project. Remember: A Community Service

project is done FOR the community. A Take Action project is done WITH the community. Here is a [GSUSA article](#) about the difference.

How can we accurately measure the impact of a highest award project?

Check the award guidelines. We provide tools to help girls identify project goals for their community, target audience, and themselves using a “success indicator” [Silver Award rubric](#).

When is the project due?

There is no deadline for project Proposals but they must be council approved before starting the actual project. Please allow 4-6 weeks in your project timeline for the proposal approval process.

The project Final Report is due before September 30th of the year a girl graduates 8th grade. For example, if a girl graduates 8th grade in June of 2022 then the Final Report must be submitted before September 30th of 2022. Other important dates for Final Report submission...

Council Award Ceremony participation deadline: If you submit your Final Report by March 1st, you will be included in that same year’s Council award ceremony in June. After March 1st, you will be included in the following year’s Council ceremony.

- 2023 ceremony: deadline is March 1st, 2023
- Final Report due dates example: the 2022 – 2023 School Year

8th Graders – September 30, 2023

7th Graders – September 30, 2024

6th Graders – September 30, 2025