

Silver Award FAQs

Can individually registered girl members or Juliettes earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

- Any Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador can begin work on earning the GSUSA Gold Award as long as they meet membership requirements and complete all of the prerequisites.

Can Girl Scouts begin working toward their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) from one Girl Scout level to the next?

- Yes, you may begin working on your Silver Award plans and submit your project proposal the summer after you graduate from the 5th grade.
- This usually means completing the pre-requisite Journey, Silver Award training, and research. This process can be started right away, including the summer months.

Are girls required to take training to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award?

- Yes, everyone who wishes to pursue their Silver Award is required to take the three [Silver Award training modules available in GS Learn](#). This training must be completed before you submit your project proposal. You will become familiar with the process of earning the GSUSA Silver Award, and fully understand the requirements. These provisions help to ensure that every member who wants to earn the Silver Award will be given the greatest chance of success.
- If a Girl Scout pays close attention to the training and uses the information provided to brainstorm a project and fill out all of the sections in her proposal, she will be more likely to need less or no feedback before they begin on their project. There can be several rounds of feedback and changes before a project is approved if all of the standards are not met with an initial proposal submission.

Can Girl Scouts meet with someone in the Highest Awards department to discuss questions and for help in brainstorming a project?

- Yes, we offer 30-60 minute Q&A sessions for troops or Service Units after each attendee has completed the three online Silver Award training modules located in GS Learn. All Q&A sessions are virtual unless you arrange for 10+ Girl Scouts and their adults to attend an in-person session. Requests for these can be made [on the Training by Request Form](#).
- We also offer Virtual Office Hours on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The link and calendar for these Zoom meetings can be found [on the Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Hub on Rallyhood](#). These Zoom links are placed here in Rallyhood to ensure the safety of those who attend.
- You can also email Awards@girlscoutshcc.org to contact a Highest Awards staff member.

Why are Journeys prerequisites to earning the Girl Scout Silver Award?

- Journeys let Girl Scouts experience what they'll do as they work to earn the highest awards in Girl Scouting. They'll discover an issue they're passionate about, connect with experts in their community, and take action to make the world a better place. The skills Girl Scouts gain while working on Journeys help them develop, plan, and implement Take Action projects for their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award.
- A Journey is completed when a Girl Scout has earned the Journey award, which includes creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

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 be included in a girl's final hour tally. Girls can include up to 12 hours of planning and research time towards their final tally, including time writing the proposal. Any hours over the 12 will not be counted towards the final total if they are completed before the proposal has been approved. The Project Proposal document can be found [on the GSHCC Website](#).

What are the required hours for earning a Silver Award?

- The time it takes to earn the awards depends on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the degree of community support. The minimum number of hours to earn a Silver Award is 50.
- If this is a group of two, three, or four Cadettes, this means 50 hours for each member of the team. For example, the minimum hours for a four-person team is 200.

Can a troop work toward an award together?

- When working toward their Silver Award, Girl Scouts have the option to work individually or in small groups of up to four Cadettes. No more than four Girl Scouts can work on a project and no project can be broken down into multiple parts. Each project proposed must stand alone as per the national standard. Project proposals are filled out together if there are multiple team members.

Why is four Girl Scouts the limit for working on one project?

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

What is the submission deadline for proposals to be reviewed and where is it submitted?

- Girl Scouts may submit their proposal at any time. Silver Award proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis based on when the proposal is submitted. Ensure you give yourself ample time to complete the online Silver Award proposal. Do not wait until the last minute to begin. It can take up to three weeks to receive approval or feedback. You should plan to submit your proposal a minimum of six months before you wish to finish your project and submit your final report, but one year is encouraged. You must have time to complete a minimum of 50 hours on your project.
- The proposal document can be found [on the GSHCC website](#). The proposal document should be uploaded into your account [on Smarter Select](#).

When is the Final Report due?

- The project and Final Report must be completed and submitted before September 30th of the year a girl graduates 8th grade. For example, if a girl graduates 8th grade in June of 2024 then the Final Report must be submitted before September 30th of 2024. On October 1st after a Girl Scout has graduated from the 8th grade they are now considered a Senior Girl Scout and no longer eligible to earn the Silver Award for Cadettes.
- Another important date for Final Report submission centers around participation in the yearly Highest Awards Ceremony. You must submit your Final Report by March 1st, to 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.
- For instance, if you submit your Final Report between March 2nd, 2024, and March 1st, 2025, you will be part of the 2025 Highest Awards Ceremony.

Can Take Action projects for the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards focus on Girl Scouting?

- Yes, Take Action projects for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards may benefit the Girl Scout community. However, there is a specific award progression that should be honored: Take Action projects for the Bronze Award may focus on service in support of the Girl Scout Movement, while Take Action projects for the Silver and Gold Awards are expected to reach into the community to "make the world a better place." At the Silver level a Girl Scout should first consider issues they're passionate about in the community, school, and world. Then, they should investigate the issue to uncover its root cause, connect with the community to begin developing a solution, and enlist their team. As they develop a project plan, they will determine their target audience. It's at this step that they might decide Girl Scouts is the best audience or beneficiary.
- Overall, award progression offers younger Girl Scouts the opportunity to develop their planning and leadership skills within the comfort and familiarity of Girl Scouting or another local community. As they mature, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors are ready to move beyond the Girl Scout family

to share their leadership skills—and impact—with the wider community. It is in fully exploring their communities that they exemplify the Girl Scout mission.

If a Girl Scout starts working on a Silver Award project and moves, can they still earn their award?

- Councils are encouraged to be flexible to serve Girl Scouts' best interests. If a Girl Scout moves, they should work with the local council or committee to complete the award project.

Do we have a different set of requirements for Girl Scouts with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

- No. Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award work is done to the best of a Girl Scout's ability. There is no need for special requirements for individuals with disabilities. Accommodations can be made with consideration of any special needs. 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.
- 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 process?

- 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. You can find out more about this [in the Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award](#) or in the Silver Award training in GS Learn.
- The troop/group volunteer and council staff member should also work closely with Girl Scouts to ensure that every project meets the quality requirements of the award.
- Attend the virtual Highest Awards office hours if you have questions about whether your project will meet the standards. The link and calendar for these Zoom meetings can be [found on the Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Hub on Rallyhood](#). These Zoom links are placed here in Rallyhood to ensure the safety of those who attend.
- You can also email Awards@girlscoutshcc.org to contact a Highest Awards staff member.

How can adults support Girl Scouts trying to earn their Silver Award?

- For the Silver Award, [there is an Adult Guide to Earning the Silver Award](#). All adults working with Girl Scouts who are looking to earn their Silver Award should take the training in GS Learn and read the Adult Guide to Earning the Silver Award.
- There are brand new Silver Award meeting plans located in the Volunteer Toolkit in adult member's My GS accounts. If your troop is thinking about going for their Silver Award this is a great way to get started! These meeting plans will help adults take Girl Scouts through the process of identifying an issue, brainstorming, making a plan, and putting that plan in motion.
- Each Silver Award project should have the support of at least one registered, background-checked adult Girl Scout volunteer who is responsible for safety and Silver Award procedures. If your troop is working on several Silver Award Take Action projects, ask parents/legal guardians or other troop volunteers to guide one of the teams or an individual. Any volunteer can take training and have access to Silver Award materials.
- Project advisors are optional for Silver, but recommended. Parents, legal guardians or troop leaders can be Silver Award advisors. However, we encourage Girl Scouts to reach outside their familiar circles and grow their networks when possible. At least one registered background-checked adult Girl Scout volunteer should be present at all in-person meetings between Girl Scouts and project advisors.
- For the Gold Award: Parents, legal guardians, or troop leaders of Girl Scouts cannot be advisors.