



# Girl Scouts Highest Awards Fact Sheet

**The Highest Awards—the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards**—are leadership awards for Take Action projects that address the root cause of a community issue with a sustainable and measurable solution. They must be leadership projects.

## Take Action Projects:

Do you know the difference between a community service project and a Take Action project? The Girl Scout Silver Award must include a Take Action project that address the root cause of a community issue while actively working with the community for a sustainable and measurable solution.

Community service projects are important as they address an immediate need in the community, however, they only help for a short period. A Take Action project is lasting and creates long-term change.

Community Service	Take Action Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addresses an immediate need</li><li>• Sometimes with or for the community partner</li><li>• Short-term solution</li><li>• Improves the community for some people right now</li><li>• Contribution is usually measurable</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addresses a need, immediate or otherwise, by working with (not for) the community to address the root cause of problem</li><li>• Creates lasting impact in community that is measurable</li><li>• Includes provision to ensure sustainability long after a Girl Scout's involvement in the project has ended</li></ul>

There are **seven components** to the highest awards that should be present in each project. Just like everything in Girl Scouts, these components should progress at each level:

- 1. Root Cause**—The root cause of an issue should be addressed with the project. As Girl Scouts, we want to make a positive change in our community, and we want long-lasting effects. By looking at the root cause of a problem, we figure out why the issue is happening in the first place and create a solution to stop it from happening again.
- 2. Measurability**—The success of a project can be determined based on the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, the reduction of the community's need, or other concrete numbers.
- 3. Sustainability**—Projects should create a lasting change and not just a one-time event. This can be done by collaborating with community leaders and/or organizations and building alliances with mentors. The project should continue to have an impact after it is completed. Lasting change can have any of these characteristics:
  - a. Change someone's mindset
  - b. Teach a new life skill
  - c. Build a physical project with the help of the community

4. **Leadership**—The girl(s) working towards the award should lead a team to accomplish her goals. Girl(s) should recruit a team to help with the project, delegate the work, and manage the team.
5. **Community Engagement**—The project shows leadership by involving appropriate members of the community it is serving.
6. **Personal Growth and Development**—Girl(s) should be able to describe the new skills that were gained, qualities that she (they) learned about herself, and how these discoveries will carry on in the future.
7. **National and/or Global Link**—The girl(s) should be able to explain how the project connects to an issue that is relevant beyond the immediate community.

Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Entire Girl Scout Junior-level troop may work on the one project	Small groups of 2-4 Girl Scout Cadettes or individually	Individual only
20 hours per girl	50 hours per girl	80 hours
Pre-approval is not required	A <a href="#">Silver Award Intent form</a> should be submitted prior to starting project. One form should be completed per project. Find this online form at <a href="https://gswpa.org/silver-award">gswpa.org/silver-award</a> .	Proposal must be approved prior to starting project. Should be submitted through GoGold Online.
Project advisor is not required but is recommended	Project advisor required	Project advisor required, plus a Gold Award Committee Mentor will be assigned to you.
No final report required. Leaders can complete <a href="https://bit.ly/GSWPAbronze">online form</a> ( <a href="https://bit.ly/GSWPAbronze">https://bit.ly/GSWPAbronze</a> ) to let council know what they did, but not required.	Final report needed for council approval and should be mailed to the Edinboro office or scanned and emailed to <a href="mailto:customer care@gswpa.org">customer care@gswpa.org</a> . Final reports can be found at <a href="https://gswpa.org">gswpa.org</a> .	Final report required for mentor/council approval. Should be submitted through GoGold Online.
Not permitted to solicit monetary donations. Unlimited in-kind donations (materials) permitted.	\$249.00 monetary donation cap for entire project. Unlimited in-kind donations (materials) permitted.	\$249.00 donation cap per donor. Any donation over \$249.00 must be preapproved by council and cannot exceed \$1,000.

The project advisor must be a specialist or expert in the field of the Take Action project. The project advisor cannot be a parent or troop leader. The girl's parents or guardian must approve the project advisor.

Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania awards approximately 200 Silver Awards and between 55-80 Gold Awards each year. Our council's Court of Awards ceremonies are held annually for the Silver and the Gold Awards.

Final reports are due **Sept. 30**.

- Silver: Sept. 30 of the year they complete 8th grade
- Gold: Sept. 30 of the year they graduate high school
  - Girls who would like to participate in the annual Court of Awards ceremony need to have their final report reviewed by March 1. Girls who miss this date will be invited to the following year's ceremony.