



Gold Award

Guide for Adults





Introduction

Dear Prospective Gold Award Volunteer or Project Advisor,

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest honor Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can earn.

Your role, whether you are a troop volunteer or a project advisor, is to encourage girls to think critically, be open to multiple perspectives, investigate thoroughly, work cooperatively and identify resources within and beyond their local community. You are supporting girls as they develop into leaders for today and tomorrow.

*This guide is intended to be used with the **Gold Award Guide for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors**. All Gold Award documents and resources may be found on our website at GirlScoutsNebraska.org.*

The Girl Scout Gold Award is designed to be completed by an individual girl. To earn the Gold Award, each girl must complete two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey and have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award. After completing these requirements, a minimum of 80 hours must be dedicated to the Girl Scout Gold Award project.

In order to receive their Gold Award, girls must complete all online and hard copy paperwork (specific instructions on all paperwork will be given to them after their proposal is submitted online) by September 30 of the calendar year that they are graduating high school. However, if girls wish to participate in the current year Girl Awards ceremony, they must:

- 1. Finish their project and submit all required hard copy forms and the online submission, including the Gold Award Bio Form by February 15, and*
- 2. Complete their final interview by the second Saturday in March of the current year.*

If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

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Gold Award Coordinator*

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Tips for Project Advisors

Project Advisor Responsibilities

A Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor is chosen by a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador to help plan and implement her project. As the project advisor, you provide guidance, experience and expertise to the girl as she works to complete her Take Action project.

Before girls can start working on their project, they must submit a project proposal on GoGoldOnline for Gold Award Committee approval. Girls will see your expertise in developing and implanting project ideas when you:

- Partner with a girl to support her in completing her Take Action project, and
- Understand the steps to the Girl Scout Gold Award and the Standards of Excellence required for each step.

Girls will start working on their project by first searching for issues they care about, and then investigating how they can narrow the focus of the issue they chose, enlisting the help of others in the community, and working collaboratively to create and implement their plan.

If you require additional assistance at any time, please contact the Gold Award Coordinator.

The Gold Award Process

1. **Gold Award Proposal:** Girls will need to create an account on [GirlScouts.org/GoGoldOnline](https://www.girlscouts.org/GoGoldOnline). There, they will follow the steps that will walk them through the proposal submission process. Girls will come to a stopping point where the council will be informed of their proposal and will be in touch with further instructions. Girls will need to provide a Letter of Sustainability with their project proposals.
2. **Interview and Approval Needed:** Online submission and any required paperwork is due by the 15th of the month prior, in order to schedule an interview with the Gold Award Committee. The Gold Award Committee meets on the second Saturday of the month, except May and December. Gold Award projects must be approved by the Gold Award Committee before a girl can begin her project.
3. **Gold Award Final Report:** Girls will need to log onto their GoGoldOnline account and continue on the submission process until they come to a stopping point where the council will be informed of their submission. Girls will also need to provide electronic versions of their budget, timeline and Gold Award Bio Form. All forms may be found on [GirlScoutsNebraska.org](https://www.girlscoutsnebraska.org).

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECTS:

- Address the root cause of an issue.
- Include provisions to ensure sustainability, so the project makes a lasting difference in the local community, region or beyond.
- Include provisions for the girl to demonstrate her leadership skills by involving others in her project.
- Put the Girl Scout Promise and Law into action.
- Identify national and/or global links to the girl's selected issue.
- Inspire others.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)

In Girl Scouting, Discover + Connect + Take Action = Leadership. The entire Girl Scout program, regardless of the exact topic, is designed to lead to leadership outcomes (or benefits) that stem from these three keys:

- **Discover:** Girls will understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.
- **Connect:** Girls care about, inspire, and team with others, locally and globally.
- **Take Action:** Girls act to make the world a better place.

It's not only about the activities girls do, however, but the processes they use to do them that builds leadership. The Girl Scout processes promote the fun and friendship that have always been so integral to Girl Scouting.

- **Girl-led:** Girls play an active part in figuring out the what, where, when, how and why of their activities.
- **Learning by Doing:** Girls use a hands-on learning process that engages them in continuous cycles of action and reflection that result in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.
- **Cooperative Learning:** Through cooperative learning, girls work together toward goals that can be accomplished only with the help of others, in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration.

When Discover, Connect and Take Action activities are girl-led and involve learning by doing and cooperative learning, girls achieve the desired and expected short-term outcomes. This ultimately results in Girl Scouting achieving its mission of building “girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.”

Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls gain specific knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors and values. As a Project Advisor, you can help girls reflect on the experience, the impact they have had and how the experience has helped to strengthen their leadership skills. Use the 5 outcomes as a springboard:

1. **Sense of Self** – Girls have confidence in themselves and their abilities, and form positive identities.
2. **Positive Values** – Girls act ethically, honestly and responsibly, and show concern for others.
3. **Challenge Seeking** – Girls learn to take appropriate risks, try things even if they might fail and learn from mistakes.
4. **Community Problem Solving** – Girls desire to contribute to the world in purposeful and meaningful ways, learn how to identify problems in the community and create “action plans” to solve them.
5. **Healthy Relationships** – Girls develop and maintain healthy relationships by communicating their feelings directly and resolving conflicts constructively.

For more about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience visit [GirlScouts.org/GSLE](https://www.girlscouts.org/GSLE).



Coaching Tips for Adults

At this level, Girl Scouts are on their honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards respect the skills and talents that Girl Scouts bring to making a difference in the world, and provide a challenge that inspires girls to learn what they can accomplish by doing their very best.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD STEPS AND STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	COACHING TIPS
<p>1. CHOOSE AN ISSUE</p> <p>Girls use their values and skills to identify a community issue they care about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. • Demonstrate civic responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a listening ear. • Give constructive feedback.
<p>2. INVESTIGATE</p> <p>Girls research everything they can about the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles and find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source's reliability and accuracy. • Demonstrate courage as they investigate their issue, knowing that what they learn may challenge their own and others' beliefs. • Identify national and/or global links to their community issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the online investigation starts, suggest taking the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge at GirlScouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp. • Recommend ways to expand the project beyond the local community. For example, talking to and involving people from organizations that offer help to people on a national and global level (such as the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders).
<p>3. GET HELP</p> <p>Girls invite others to support and take action with them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of others. • Respect different points of view and ways of working. • Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special skills to their Take Action project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with a team will help make a bigger impact and cover more ground. Although this is an individual project, other Girl Scouts, neighbors, classmates and friends can help. • Make sure that either you or a family member is aware of times and places, as well as who the interview subjects are. • A network is a great thing. Share pointers on how to create an effective network.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD STEPS AND STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	COACHING TIPS
<p>4. CREATE A PLAN</p> <p>Girls create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the planning of the Take Action project. • Work collaboratively to develop a plan for their project that creates lasting change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance on project sustainability. Here are suggestions: education and raising awareness, holding workshops and hands-on learning sessions and collaborating with community groups to ensure the project lasts. • Suggest using creative ways to support the project. If money is required to complete the project, please adhere to money-earning guidelines in the Volunteer Packet and Girl Scout Safety Activity Checkpoints.
<p>5. PRESENT THEIR PLAN AND GET FEEDBACK</p> <p>Girls sum up their project plan for the Gold Award Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive and clear. • Describe their plan, including the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes they want to achieve and the impact they plan to make on themselves and the community. • Articulate the issue clearly and explain why it matters to them. • Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine their project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest using the tools and tips in the toolkit in preparing the Project Proposal. • Provide constructive suggestions. Project Proposals are submitted to councils. The Council (or the council's Gold Award Committee) approves the project.
<p>6. TAKE ACTION</p> <p>Girls take the lead to carry out their plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so the solution has measurable and sustainable impact. • Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for their Take Action project. • Challenge them to try different ways to solve problems. • Use resources wisely. • Speak out and act on behalf of themselves and others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting interviews on the chosen issue is an important part of this step. Play the interviewee to help synchronize the timing and the flow of the interviews.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD STEPS AND STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	COACHING TIPS
<p>7. EDUCATE AND INSPIRE</p> <p><i>Girls share what they have experienced with others.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reflect on what they have learned when they present their Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to the Gold Award Committee.</i> • <i>Summarize the effectiveness of their project and the impact it has had on them and their community.</i> • <i>Share the project beyond their local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Be available for any questions that might arise during sharing or reflection.</i> • <i>Suggest using the tools and tips in the toolkit to prepare the Final Report.</i>



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GirlScoutsNebraska.org