



# The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Adults

## *What is the Gold Award?*

The Gold Award is the highest award that Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn. It has a rich history of recognizing extraordinary efforts by extraordinary girls. To become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a girl identifies an issue she cares about, then plans and carries out a project to address it, which will have a lasting impact in her community and beyond.

## *What are the prerequisites?*

Girls must be registered Senior or Ambassador Girl Scouts. Before beginning her application, a Girl Scout must have completed two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or have completed one Senior or Ambassador Journey and have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award.

## *How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?*

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from Girl Scouts. The timeline is designed by each individual Girl Scout. A project might be completed over the course of a summer—or in the span of a year or more.

## *What should Girl Scouts consider in their decision to become a Gold Award Girl Scout?*

They should consider the time commitment and decide for themselves whether they truly want to take it on. The decision to do so should be a girl's own.

## *Who else is involved in a Girl Scout's Gold Award project?*

Girl Scouts select a project advisor, who is an adult expert on their chosen issue. (Note: a girl's parent, caregiver, or troop leader can't hold this role.)

The project advisor provides advice and expertise throughout the project. And because the Gold Award emphasizes leadership, Girl Scouts assemble a team of volunteers to help with their project. The volunteer pool is not limited to fellow Girl Scouts and can include anyone.

## *What are helpful ways for parents to support their daughter as she becomes a Gold Award Girl Scout?*

- Get to know more about the Gold Award. Learn more at [www.gskentuckiana.org/gold](http://www.gskentuckiana.org/gold).
- Discussing project ideas with her, to help her identify her passions.
- Encourage—but don't pressure.
- Help her develop a network of contacts that can provide insight, skills, and resources.
- Acknowledge that she is capable and that she can assume leadership and responsibility in her own way.
- Prompt her to take the lead in working with her council, project advisor, and team.
- Let her grow by working through challenges she encounters along the way.
- Recognize that her project is as unique as she is, so don't compare her—or her project—to other girls and their Gold Awards.
- Be a cheerleader from the sidelines, and help when asked.
- Celebrate big-time as she's honored as a Gold Award Girl Scout!