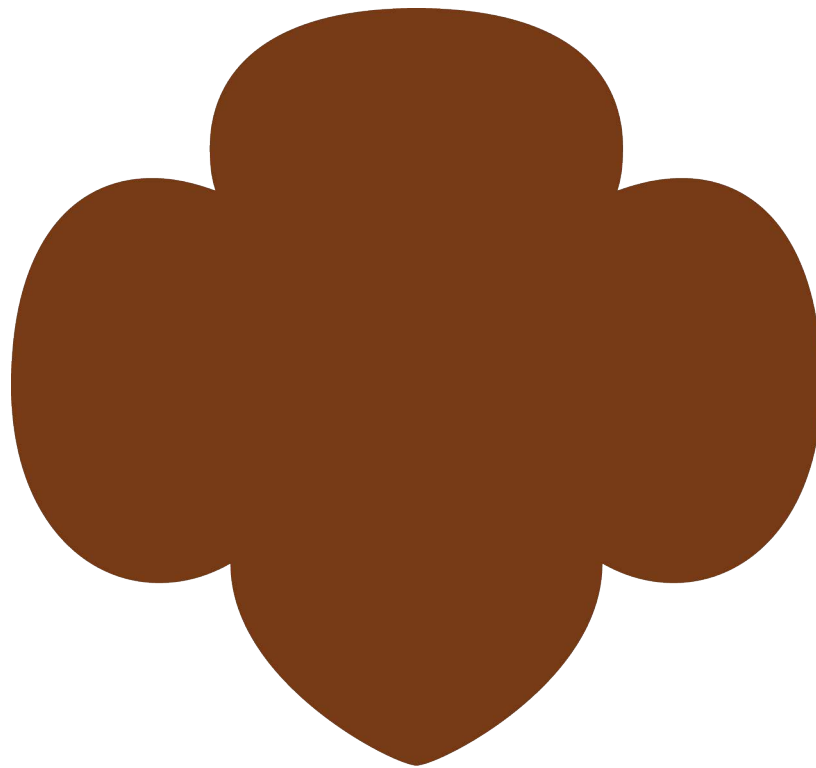


GSK Bronze Award Roadmap & Tips



Questions? Email:

awards@gskentuckiana.org

Welcome to the Girl Scout Bronze Award

We're so excited that you've decided to participate in the Girl Scout Bronze Award! The Highest Awards program exemplifies Girl Scouting at its very best, and earning your Bronze Award is a great way to start your Highest Awards journey! This packet was designed to give you some helpful hints as you work on your project with members of your troop. Before you begin, here are a few steps you should take to make sure you are ready to start your Take Action project:

- 1) Complete one Junior Journey book.
- 2) Troop leaders and girls attend the Bring on the Bronze training. Check the Events List for dates.
- 3) Make sure you read through the packet provided by GSUSA titled "[The Girl Scout Bronze Award: Guidelines for Girl Scout Juniors](#)". You can also find this packet in your Junior Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting.

If your troop/group has taken all of these steps, you are ready to embark on your Bronze Award Project! You are sure to learn all about what it means to *Discover* challenges in the world around you, *Connect* with members of your community, and *Take Action* in order to make a difference.

Once you have completed your project, you will need to submit your Bronze Award Final Report [here](#). Bronze Award pins may be purchased by the leader at the local Girl Scout shop upon project completion. We can't wait to hear all about your project once you are finished! Have fun and good luck!

Take Action vs. Service Project

The Girl Scout Bronze Award should be a Take Action project, not a Community Service project. The troop leader has the responsibility to approve the troop's Bronze Award project, so it is also his/her responsibility to educate the troop about what the difference is between "Take Action" and "Service". Here is a brief explanation.

Take Action	Service
Identifies root cause of an issue (Why?)	One time or short-term impact
Long term measurable benefits (What?)	Addresses an immediate need
Project defined by the girl (How?)	Project defined by agency, no girl planning
Sustainable advocacy of project, not the physical object (Now What?)	One time effort
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Example:</u></p> Creating wheelchair accessible flower beds at nursing home after finding that many residents can't bend to take care of a garden	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Example:</u></p> Planting flowers in a garden for nursing home residents

Observations Planning Chart:

Observation What did you hear and see around you?	Maybe We Could... Possible ideas to make a difference?

Project Idea Chart:

Observation	Who We Talked To	What We Learned	Maybe We Could...

Task Planning Chart:

Task	Who Will Do It?	How Will the Task be Done?	When Will it be Done?

Benefits of Earning the Bronze Award

- It is a national award with national standards, awarded by your council on behalf of Girl Scouts of the USA.
- You are recognized as a future community leader if you have earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award as an individual or as part of a group.
- Although you do not have to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award before going on to the Girl Scout Silver Award, going for the Girl Scout Bronze Award develops skills that will only help you in going for the Girl Scout Silver Award (and the Girl Scout Gold Award, too!).
- You will find yourself supported by the community while on your quest for leadership. Being a Girl Scout opens many doors.
- Having family members pitch in to help with your project can be fun! It can be positive time spent working together.
- Believe it or not, younger girls will look up to you when you earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Are you prepared to help mentor someone?
- Learning to work closely with a group to accomplish your goal for the community can be a lesson in cooperation, leadership, and compromise. Teamwork is a skill that goes beyond the sports field.
- Working on a Girl Scout Bronze Award is a safe way to build your leadership skills while acting on a community issue you really care about.
- You will build skills and expand your knowledge. Who knows what you can accomplish until you set a goal and go for it!
- You will create change in the world around you.
- Working on the project with friends can be a lot of fun!

Adapted from GSUSA, 2004.

Funding Your Girl Scout Bronze Award Project

What if your project idea will cost money? What are you allowed to do? You and your troop mates can discuss whether or not some funds from the troop treasury can go toward a Bronze Award Project. It is ok to set aside some cookie profits, for example. Your troop can also do an extra money-raising activity following the usual permissions that troop leaders know about for anything beyond fall product and cookies.

As a girl member of Girl Scouts, you can't ask for money, materials, or services. This is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout policies—and for a lot of reasons (legal and otherwise), adults are the only people who can raise money for Girl Scouting. Since adults can solicit money, work with an adult partner if you need a donation of materials or funds. You can describe your project to others or write a letter, but an adult has to do the actual ask and sign on the dotted line. Please see pages 13-15 of the [Finance Guide](#) for rules on money-earning.

Even though you cannot make the ask, there are still options:

- Break open your piggy bank. You can use your own money to fund your project.
- Sell stuff. You can have a garage sale, a used book sale, a handmade crafts sale, a plant sale, a bake sale...are you starting to get the idea?
- Ask your parents or grandparents to help out. You can ask your family for cash, but not anyone else... not your friends, not your neighbors, not your teachers at school.
- Ask friends and neighbors for donations of time and stuff, such as clothing for a clothing drive or that pile of bricks left over from your neighbor's backyard project
- Earn money to fund your project. Car washes, lawn mowing, weeding, etc. You should not take over someone else's job for less money, but if it's available and up for grabs, you can use it for money-earning.

- Have an adult ask for a donation from a community organization or business.

If what you want to do costs too much:

- It's better to succeed with a smaller project that is within your budget than to be unable to complete a larger project because it exceeds your budget.
- Be realistic about what you can and can't do.
- If your resources are not sufficient for you to realistically accomplish your goal, then you need to rethink the project.

You absolutely SHOULD NOT:

- Ask businesses or friends and neighbors for money by yourself. Solicitation of money from organizations is only done by adults. You must work with an adult to do this, as they will have to sign off on any paperwork for you.
- Sell retail items or selling via the internet to earn money.
- Use your project as a fundraiser for any organization, including Girl Scouts. Bronze Award Projects are not fundraisers.
- Hold raffles, bingos, poker night, or other games of chance to raise money. GSUSA is very clear that games of chance are not an acceptable activity or means of money earning for Girl Scouts.
- Girl Scouts pursuing their Bronze Award can raise awareness for another organization. If you plan an awareness event, create an item or product as part of your project, it should be budgeted to be as self-supporting as possible. For example, if you host an event to raise awareness, any proceeds must be funneled back into the Bronze Award project. For example, the fee to attend an event is \$10 per person with a cost of \$8/person resulting in proceeds of \$2 per person. The troop can use those proceeds to further support their Take Action Project.

- As a Girl Scout, you cannot state or imply in any way that your project is raising funds for another organization or present them with cash or checks. You can say that your project benefits the organization, but not raise funds for that organization.

Please feel free to use the Council Fund Development team as a resource when crafting letters, strategizing about how to approach donor prospects, etc. We have significant collective expertise in this area and would be happy to be of assistance or counsel. We are on your team! Reach out to Dusty Siravo on the Fund Development team at dsiravo@gskentuckiana.org.

1. Before you begin solicitation, please reach out to discuss your fundraising plans. Solicitation of individuals and local businesses is acceptable.
2. Please keep in mind that gifts made to a troop as they are completing the Bronze Award plan are gifts only, and will not be subject to any tax deductibility because they are not receipted by GSK. It is important that donors understand this distinction.
3. Please make sure that all contributors receive a "thank you" note. Gifts received on behalf of a GSK program are representing the GSK brand, and we want to make sure all contributors are stewarded properly.

What Do I Do After I Complete My Bronze Award?

Although it is not required for the Bronze Award, GSK encourages each Bronze Award group to submit a final report for their work so that GSK has a record of their award and they can be recognized in the GSK Annual Report. This form can be found on the Bronze Award webpage and through the link below.

Bronze Award Final Report: <https://form.jotform.com/71983904051155>

At the Bronze Award level, leaders are encouraged to complete the final report while talking through the questions with the group. Once the final report has been submitted, you will receive an auto response confirming the council office has received it. A congratulatory letter will be mailed to the troop from Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana's CEO. Approvals from the council office can take up to two weeks.

What to Look Forward To & Next Steps

Congratulations on earning your Girl Scout Bronze Award! We're so excited for you! Once you have earned your Bronze Award, it's time to celebrate! Looking into the future, you have exciting opportunities to anticipate in your Girl Scout future. Most importantly, you will be able to start working on your Girl Scout Silver Award as a Cadette. Because you have already earned your Bronze Award, you are well prepared to continue in your highest awards journey!

Congratulations again for participating in the Girl Scout Highest Awards Program! We hope you continue to strive to be a girl of courage, confidence, and character who makes the world a better place!