



Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida

Gold Award Guidelines and Procedures

Effective: October 1, 2008

PURPOSE:

The Gold Award is our organization's most prestigious accomplishment. A mere 1% of Girl Scouts achieve this honor, worldwide, each year. It offers the highest echelon of recognition and is held in the highest regard in our council, our community and beyond. To ensure the integrity of the Gold Award process, project(s) and the Award, this document is offered as a roadmap through the council's official Guidelines and Procedures for those interested in striving for this esteemed Girl Scout goal. Council staff will work together with the girl and her Advisor to travel this journey efficiently and with the best possible end-result: A Girl Scout Gold Awardee as a member of the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida.

GUIDELINES:

- The Gold Award is an earned recognition available for those girl members ages 14-18.
- To pursue the Gold Award (and requirements) a girl must be a registered member of GSUSA.
- The Gold Award is earned by an individual girl, not as a member of a troop or group.
- Council staff will review the Gold Award Project proposals (throughout the year) and upon approval, will assign a Gold Award Advisor for the girl member. The Advisor will be her primary contact person for the duration of the project.
- The assigned Gold Award Advisor shall not be the girl member's parent, guardian or leader.
- A girl is required to abide by the council's Policies and Procedures regarding money-earning activities, as it pertains to her Gold Award project. She should keep her Advisor updated on money-earning activities, although such money-earning projects are approved by council staff.
- A girl is required to adhere to all "Safety-Wise" guidelines, with regard to project implementation.
- Gold Award Project proposals may be submitted to council staff at any time, throughout the year, following prerequisites, and Advisors will be assigned. Following Gold Award Project completion and approval processes (at any time) a girl will receive an official confirmation and documentation (i.e. letter). The Gold Award (i.e. certificate, pin, etc.) will be presented at the official council-wide ceremony, once annually. If, in the circumstance a girl is not available for the council-wide ceremony, she and her Advisor will contact council staff for further guidance.
- The official GSUSA "Gold Award Project Proposal Form" and "Gold Award Final Report Form" must be used. Download them at under the headline "Paperwork and Completion":
http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/highest_awards/gold_award.asp

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PROCEDURES:

- To begin, a girl should thoroughly review the official GSUSA Gold Award Requirements, as well as the council “Gold Award Guidelines and Procedures,” and the “Seven Steps” (which includes prerequisites) for complete understanding of the process, at :
http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/highest_awards/gold_award.asp
- A girl may submit her Gold Award project proposal at any time, but may not begin her approved project until she attends a council-sponsored Gold Award workshop.
- A girl must purchase the “Go for it! The Girl Scout Gold Award” insert for a step-by-step guide and record of their personal Gold Award project and progress.
- A girl must meet with her Gold Award Advisor within 45 days to review the council-approved Gold Award project proposal and discuss plans for implementation.
- A girl should create an efficient and agreed-upon communications plan (i.e. phone, email, face-to-face) with her Gold Award Advisor to ensure consistent and predicable contact throughout implementation.
- Should any significant changes/alterations be made to the original project proposal, a girl must communicate with her Advisor and council staff immediately in order to ensure the integrity of the approved project. However, neither a girl, nor her Advisor, may assume that if a Gold Award project needs to be changed that it (or an altered version) will automatically be approved once the girl/process has begun.
- A completed project, and final report, submitted for approval must include memory book with photographic documentation and tracked hours. The memory book shall be returned to the girl after the council-wide ceremony.
- Final Reports (based upon project completion) are approved by the Advisor, in partnership with council staff.
- The completed project with a final report (et al) will be accepted throughout the year, with the annual deadline on April 1. Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida will present a council-wide ceremony to present the Gold Award once annually. A girl with an approved project submitted by this date will be included in that year’s Gold Award Class. Projects completed and final reports submitted after April 1 (i.e. April 2 – March 31, annually) will receive the Gold Award at the official ceremony and be a member of the Gold Award Class for the following year.
- A girl receiving the Gold Award is invited and encouraged to take part in the official council-wide ceremony, where she will be asked to present a 3-5 minute speech about her process and her final project. In order to participate in the ceremony, Gold Awardees are required to attend a presentation workshop/rehearsal (date: TBA) and abide by the deadlines set forth, in preparation for the council-wide ceremony.

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