

High Awards FAQ's

Why are Journeys pre-requisites to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

The Journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills girls gain while working on the Journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action project.

How do girls know when a Journey is 'completed'?

A Journey is completed when a girl has earned the Journey awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

What makes the award guidelines different from the Journeys?

In contrast to Journey, Take Action projects, which give girls themes on which to base their Journey Take Action project, the Girl Scout Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. Girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action project.

Do girls have to complete the Bronze Award to be able to do a Silver Award and also have to complete the Silver Award to complete the Gold Award?

The answer to this question is no. Each award is set up to give the girls progression but if they happen to miss the opportunity to a Bronze or Silver Award, they can still complete their Gold Award. We have set up a way for them to get the same skills in the Journey books; by earning Journey awards, they are learning how to do a Take Action project. So if a girl hasn't completed any awards and wants to go for Gold, she just has to complete two Journey books in a Senior or Ambassador level.

What are the required minimum hours that each girl must contribute to their project?

The time it takes to earn the awards will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours, however we want to ensure each girl is dedicating the required amount of contribution to projects. After the Journey requirement is fulfilled, the minimum number of hours are:

The Bronze Award -- minimum 20 hours

The Silver Award -- minimum 50 hours

The Gold Award -- minimum 80 hours

Can a troop work on an Award together?

Each award level brings a new progression of leadership development and each award level has different group guidelines.

At the Bronze level, girls may work together in a team setting.

At the Silver Award level, girls have the option to work individually or in a small group setting of no more than 5 girls.

The Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting and girls must earn the Gold Award as an individual.

Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after the bridge (transition) from Girl Scout level to the next?

Yes however, the deadline to turn in projects is September 30th of the year they bridge to the next level. It takes time to do these projects so be sure they have ample time to complete their project. Deadlines for completed projects to be turned in are:

Bronze Award -- September 30th immediately following their 5th grade graduation.

Silver Award -- September 30th immediately following their 8th grade graduation.

Gold Award -- April 1st of the current year in order to be recognized in that year OR September 30th immediately following their 12th grade graduation. Submissions after April 1st will be recognized in the next award year.

Can Take Action projects for the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards focus on Girl Scouting?

The Bronze Award may focus on service in support of the Girl Scout movement. The Silver and Gold Award are expected to reach beyond Girl Scouting to 'make the world a better place.' The award progression is planned to offer our younger girls the opportunity to develop their planning and leadership skills within the comfort and familiarity of Girl Scouting if they so choose. As they mature within Girl Scouting, our Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors are ready to move beyond the Girl Scout family to share their leadership skills with the wider community. It is in fully exploring their communities that our older girls exemplify the Girl Scout mission to 'Build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.'

If a girl starts working on her Take Action project and moves, can she still earn her award?

Councils and Overseas Committees are encouraged to be flexible to work and serve the girls' best interests. If a girl moves, she should work with her Council and/or Overseas Committees to complete the project.

Is sustainability differentiated at each grade level?

Yes, the Bronze Award will reflect on how the project could be kept going. The Silver Award will plan for sustainability. The Gold Award will work to ensure the sustainability of their project in order to meet the Gold Award standards of excellence.

Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

Any girl that is a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador and have completed the pre-requisites.

Why can't a parent be the Gold Award Advisor for her Girl Scout?

Girls are encouraged to connect with their community when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. That means working with a project advisor who is not her parent.

What does it mean to have a sustainable project?

A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girl's involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-[profit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl's involvement.