



Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida Gold Award Guidelines and Procedures

Effective: October 1, 2008 • Revised: January 1, 2018

PURPOSE:

The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouts. Open only to girls in high school, the Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award in the world for girls—and the most difficult to earn—and it's only available to Girl Scouts. As a Gold Award Girl Scout, girls are challenged to change the world—or at least their corner of it. By the time girls finish this seven-step project; she will have harnessed a passion, solved a problem and grown as a leader in her community.

This document is designed to guide those interested in striving for this esteemed goal - and ensure the integrity and consistency of the process for all girls.

GUIDELINES:

- The Gold Award is an earned recognition available for those registered girl members currently in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade.
- To pursue the Gold Award (and requirements) a girl must be a registered member of GSUSA and GSSEF; while earning perquisites and actively working on a Gold Award Take Action Project.
- A girl is officially a Girl Scout Senior, after she bridges from Girl Scout Cadette, and/or on October 1st of her 9th grade academic year. Work, other than the prerequisites*, started prior to bridging to Girl Scout Senior may not be applied toward this award.
- The approved Gold Award Take Action project must be completed and submitted to the Council by September 30th immediately following the girl's graduation from the 12th grade.
- The Gold Award is earned by an individual girl, not as a member of a troop or group.
- The assigned Gold Award Advisor shall not be the girl member's parent, guardian or leader.
- A girl is required to abide by the GSSEF "Volunteer Policies and Procedures" – as well as GSUSA's Safety Activity Check Points and the Blue Book of Basic Documents – as it pertains to all of the Gold Award Take Action project activities. This includes regarding money-earning activities.
- Gold Award Take Action project proposals may be submitted via GoGold.Com throughout the year, once all prerequisites* have been satisfied.
- The official GSUSA "Gold Award Take Action Project Proposal Form" and "Gold Award Final Report Form" must be used.
- Time Logs must be submitted with the "Gold Award Final Report Form."
- Photo Documentation must be submitted with the "Gold Award Final Report Form."
- *Prerequisite note 1: prerequisites include the completed and approved Journey work, earning of the Girl Scout Silver Award and attending the Council's required Gold Award Workshop.
- * Prerequisite note 2: Girl may attend the Gold Award Workshop as of August 1st immediately following the girl's graduation from 8th Grade.



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PROCEDURES:

- To begin, we strongly recommend girls review the following:
 1. GSUSA's Gold Award Guidelines
 2. Gold Award Take Action project proposal form
 3. GSSEF's "Gold Award Guidelines and Procedures" (this document)
 4. GSSEF's timelines and deadlines
 5. GSUSA's online GoGold.Com portal (requires registration)
- Gold Award Take Action project proposals may be submitted via GoGold.Com throughout the year, once all prerequisites* have been satisfied.
- Council staff will review and respond to Gold Award Take Action project proposals throughout the year, and within four weeks of submission.
- Approval of the Gold Award Take Action project is sent via email.
- Following the approval of the Gold Award Take Action project, a volunteer Gold Award Advisor is assigned to the girl. Notification is sent via email.
- From this point, the Gold Award Advisor is the girl's primary contact person for the duration of the project.
- Girls must meet with her Gold Award Advisor within 45 days of notification, to review the Gold Award Take Action project proposal and discuss specific plans for implementation.
- Girls should initiate a communications plan (e.g. text, phone, email, FB Private Messenger, or in-person) with her Gold Award Advisor to ensure consistent and predicable contact.
- Girls agree to stay in consistent contact with her Gold Award Advisor. Updates should include, but are not limited to: milestones achieved, set-backs encountered, ideas for money-earning activities, intended requests for grants or gifts-in-kind, intentions to contact the media or elected officials and changes made to the project content, scope, intended audience or goals.
- Should any significant changes or alterations be made to the original project proposal, a girl must communicate with her Gold Award Advisor (who will communicate with Council staff) in order to ensure the integrity of the approved project. 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 work/process has begun.
- Girls should use the Time Log or other tracking mechanism and track her Take Action hours. Samples may be found on GSUSA's website and in the "Girls Guide to Girl Scouting" Handbook.



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PROCEDURES Continued:

- Only the assigned Gold Award Advisor may approve the Gold Award Final Report and its required accompaniments:
 1. Completed Gold Award Final Report form
 2. Complete Time Log form(s)
 3. Photographic documentation**
- Completed and approved Gold Award Final Report and its required accompaniments, are accepted throughout the year.
- GSSEF sets an annual deadline of April 1st *** to delineate each individual Gold Award Class. Completed projects and reports etc. received after April 1st *** will put the girl into the following year's Class.
- GSSEF presents a council-wide ceremony to honor Gold Award Girl Scouts and their families, as well as present the Gold Award, each year in May.
- Gold Award Girl Scouts are warmly invited and encouraged to take part in the official event.
- The Gold Award (e.g. certificate, Gold Award pin, Gold Award companion pin, etc.) will be presented at the council's event. These items are not distributed before the event.
- **Photographic documentation may include a wide-range of options, including memory books, scrapbooks, PowerPoint presentations, videos, etc. These items will be returned to the girl following the council's event in May.
- ***When April 1st occurs on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, the Council's deadline is moved to the next regular business day.

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