



## Gold Award Frequently Asked Questions

### **Am I eligible to earn the Gold Award?**

Girl Scouts in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who are currently registered as Girl Scout Seniors or Ambassadors are eligible to earn the Gold Award.

To be eligible, Girl Scouts must complete one of the following:

- Completion of the Silver Award and one (1) Senior or Ambassador Journey
- Completion of two (2) Senior or Ambassador Journeys
- Completion of one (1) Leadership Award at the Senior or Ambassador level

Please note: **Journeys will be retired as a prerequisite option on October 1, 2025. Girl Scouts who complete a Journey before this date will still be able to count it toward their Gold Award. Once a Girl Scout earns a Journey, it never expires.**

Additionally, GSGCF Girl Scouts must attend a [Highest Awards Information Session](#) and complete the [Gold Award Question and Answer Review](#) before submitting a proposal.

---

### **Where can I register for an information session?**

[Highest Awards Information Session](#) are offered biweekly by council staff. Check our calendar for the webinar schedule and to register.

---

### **What are the benefits?**

Earning the Gold Award comes with many benefits. In addition to making a lasting impact on your community, you'll be recognized as a VIP at our annual Young Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony and celebrated at a special Gold Award Celebration with your family and friends. Gold Award Girl Scouts also receive exclusive media opportunities, including a professional photo and video shoot highlighting your project.

You'll become eligible for the GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship, as well as other unique scholarship opportunities. Gold Award Girl Scouts are often recognized by local, state, and national organizations and government officials. The U.S. military offers an advanced rank for Gold Award recipients upon enlistment. Earning the Gold Award also strengthens college applications and résumés, setting you apart as a proven leader and changemaker.

---

### **Is earning the Silver Award necessary before pursuing the Gold Award?**

No. Completing the Silver Award is one option, but not required. You may meet prerequisites through completion of Journeys, Leadership Awards, or a combination as listed above.

---

### **How do I submit my proposal for review?**

The only way to submit your Gold Award proposal for official approval is through [GoGold Online](#). While you may use a PDF or printed document to draft your proposal, the council can only accept submissions through GSUSA's official platform. Do not print or email PDF proposals to the council — they will not be reviewed.

---

### **Can family members and Girl Scout friends be on my project team?**

Yes. However, you also need **3-5 non-family, non-Girl Scout members** from your community. These could include teachers, neighbors, coaches, or others with a role in your project. Roles must be defined in your proposal and final report.

---

### **Am I allowed to raise money for my Gold Award project?**

Yes. Girl Scouts may use Cookie proceeds, personal funds, and seek donations to support their projects. All fundraising must follow council guidelines and requires submitting a Money-Earning Activity Request for approval.

Fundraising cannot be conducted on behalf of another organization.

---

**Can I use my Gold Award hours to fulfill my high school's community service requirement?**

If your school allows it, yes. However, the Gold Award is a leadership award, not a service award. Your project should demonstrate leadership, innovation, and sustainability.

---

**Can I receive a Community Service bar for my Gold Award hours?**

No. The Gold Award is a Take Action project designed to create measurable, sustainable impact. Volunteer hours alone do not meet this requirement.

---

**I didn't know I needed council approval and I started working on my project. Can I still get the Gold Award?**

No. Your proposal must be approved by council before any work begins. Work done prior to approval cannot count toward the award.

---

**Can homeschooled students earn the Gold Award?**

Yes, as long as they meet grade-level and membership requirements.

---

**Can students graduating early or through alternative programs earn the Gold Award?**

Yes. You may earn the Gold Award until September 30 of the year you would have graduated high school, as long as you remain a registered Senior or Ambassador.

---

**Can a troop or group work toward the Gold Award together?**

No. The Gold Award is an **individual leadership award**. Others may help or join the project team, but leadership must be demonstrated individually.

---

**What is the difference between a troop volunteer and a Gold Award project advisor?**

A troop volunteer works with Girl Scouts generally. A project advisor offers expertise specific to your project. **Parents, guardians, or troop leaders cannot serve as advisors.**

---

**Why can't a parent or caregiver be a project advisor?**

To maintain fairness and integrity, advisors cannot be family members or troop leaders. Girls are encouraged to expand their networks.

---

**Can Juliettes (individually registered Girl Scouts) earn the Gold Award?**

Yes, if they meet grade-level and membership requirements.

---

**Do Girl Scouts with disabilities, social, or learning differences have different award requirements?**

No. All Girl Scouts complete awards to the best of their ability, with accommodations as needed.

---

**How can I receive accommodations?**

At Girl Scouts, we believe the Gold Award is achievable for any Girl Scout who is ready to make a difference. The award is earned to the best of a girl's ability — there is no separate set of standards for Girl Scouts who need accommodations. We believe in the power of all girls and work with each Girl Scout on a case-by-case basis to provide accommodations that help her succeed.

To request accommodations, please use the Special Factors section of GoGold Online when submitting your proposal. Once your account is created, we will reach out to you for more information about your accommodations request.

Additionally, if you have a preferred method of communication (such as email or text) please let us know. We will ensure your Gold Award Liaison and any relevant GSGCF staff are aware and respect your preferences.

For questions or to discuss specific needs, please contact us at [customercare@gsgcf.org](mailto:customercare@gsgcf.org).

---

**Can Girl Scouts begin working toward awards the summer after they bridge levels?**

Yes. Work may begin after bridging to a new level.

---

**How many hours should my Gold Award project be?**

A minimum of 80 hours is required. Most projects are completed within 3–12 months.

---

**I don't have my own email address. Can I use my parent's?**

Yes, but **all communication with council must come from the Girl Scout herself**. The Gold Award is meant to encourage independence and leadership.

---

**How do I join the Highest Awards Committee?**

If you are interested in joining the Highest Awards Committee, please email [mianoj@gsgcf.org](mailto:mianoj@gsgcf.org) for more information.