

Girl Scouts San Diego Gold Award Training

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Agenda

1. What is the Gold Award
2. Who can earn the Gold Award
3. Prerequisites
4. Elements of a Gold Award
5. Time and dates
6. Getting Started
7. Proposal
8. Vocabulary and FAQs
9. Resources

Gold Award Ceremony

Girl Scouts San Diego



What is the Gold Award

- The highest achievement a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout can earn.
- A minimum of 80 hours dedicated to a project that identifies a root cause of a community issue, creates a lasting, sustainable impact, and includes a national or global link.



Girl Scouts can pursue the Girl Scout Gold Award if they:

Are in high school (grade 9-12 or equivalent)

Are registered as a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador

Have completed **ONE of the following:**

- ♣ Senior or Ambassador Journey (retired)
- ♣ The Silver Award
- ♣ A Senior/Ambassador Leadership Award

Gold Award Prerequisites

	Highest Awards	Personal Leadership	Peer Leadership	Teaching Leadership	Community Advocacy	Journeys
Bronze Award		True North 		Junior Aide 	Take Action  Global Action 	One Junior Journey
Silver Award	Earn the Bronze Award 	True North 	Silver Torch 	Program Aide 	Take Action  Global Action 	One Cadette Journey
Gold Award	Earn the Silver Award 	True North 	Gold Torch 	Volunteer in Training  Counselor in Training I and II  	Take Action  Global Action 	

Journeys
retired
OCT.
2026



Email

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Password

Password

[Forgot Password](#)

☐ Stay Logged In

Sign In

Create an Account



GoGold Online

GoGold Online is the official, interactive web-based platform designed for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors to plan, track, and submit their Gold Award projects.

It enables users to document all seven steps of the project, including brainstorming, proposal submission, and final reporting, allowing council members to review and approve work.

Helpdesk: gogoldonline@girlscouts.org



“Special Features” in GoGold

Gold Award work is done to the best of a Girl Scout’s ability.

Accommodations can be made with consideration of any specific needs.

As the caregiver or troop leader, please communicate up front with the committee mentor and/or GSSD Gold Award staff liaison to let us know how we can best work with your Girl Scout to reach success.



Elements of a Gold Award Project

Take-Action Project:

- Leadership
- Root Cause
- Sustainability
- Measurability
- National/Global Link

Highest Award Take Action Project Elements

Take Action projects have up to five elements. The Girl Scout Gold Award requires all five; the Girl Scout Silver Award requires three; and the Girl Scout Bronze Award requires two. This way, Girl Scouts learn something new and have opportunities to be challenged in different ways as they earn the Bronze, Silver, and then Gold Awards.

	Leadership	Root Cause	Sustainable	Measurable	National and/or Global Link
Bronze Juniors					
Silver Cadettes					
Gold Seniors/Ambassadors					

Required element



Introduction of new concept



Community Service Projects...

- Are done **for** the community
- Solve a problem “right now,” like collecting food for a food bank
- Have a “one-time” impact

Take Action Projects...

- Are done **with** the community
- Look for the “root cause” of an issue and work to address it
- Have the potential for making a lasting impact



Root Cause

Mind Map

Understand what triggers the
issue

Notice

Research

Identify your **Target Audience**

Step 2: Investigate

In Step 1, you identified a community issue. You'll need to narrow down the issue to its root causes for your Take Action project, and you'll need to identify an organization in the community you can partner with. You'll work on both of these in Step 2 as you investigate and research your issue more.

Start by using a mind-mapping tool to explore the root causes of the issue you've chosen. Here's an example mind map:



Start with research.

Research local organizations that address your issue.

Drive around in your community to scout out people and places related to your issue.

Make observations in your community and listen.

Then make a community map.

A community map highlights the people, things, services, organizations, and businesses in an area with a focus on those who can help support your project.

Leadership

Gathering and working with a team

Leadership Skills: Planning, Assigning, Motivating, Collaborating, and Making Decisions.

Partnering with a Community Organization





Identify a Community Partner

Identify who to contact using your community map.

Set up interviews: Reach out, schedule a date/time, and confirm details.

- **Prepare ahead:** Research the issue. Draft Questions:
 - Biggest challenges?
 - Root causes?
 - What's needed to address them?
 - Available resources?
 - Community strengths?
- **Conduct the interview**

Build Your Team



Key people to support you and your project

Project Advisor (Issue Expert)

Gold Award Coach via Girl Scouts (Gold Award Expert)

Community Organization (Gold Award Partner)

Council Staff

Parents/Guardians

Troop Leaders/ IRM Mentors

Volunteers

Teachers

Peers

Project Advisor:

- Expert in the chosen community issue
 - Chosen by the Girl Scout
 - Gives guidance in project topic
- Cannot be a Parent or Troop Leader

Gold Award Coach:

- Gold Award process expert
- Assigned to Girl Scouts once they complete training and make a GoGold account
- Gives suggestions to ensure project meets GSUSA requirements



Sustainable

Continues After
Lasting Change
3 methods of sustainability



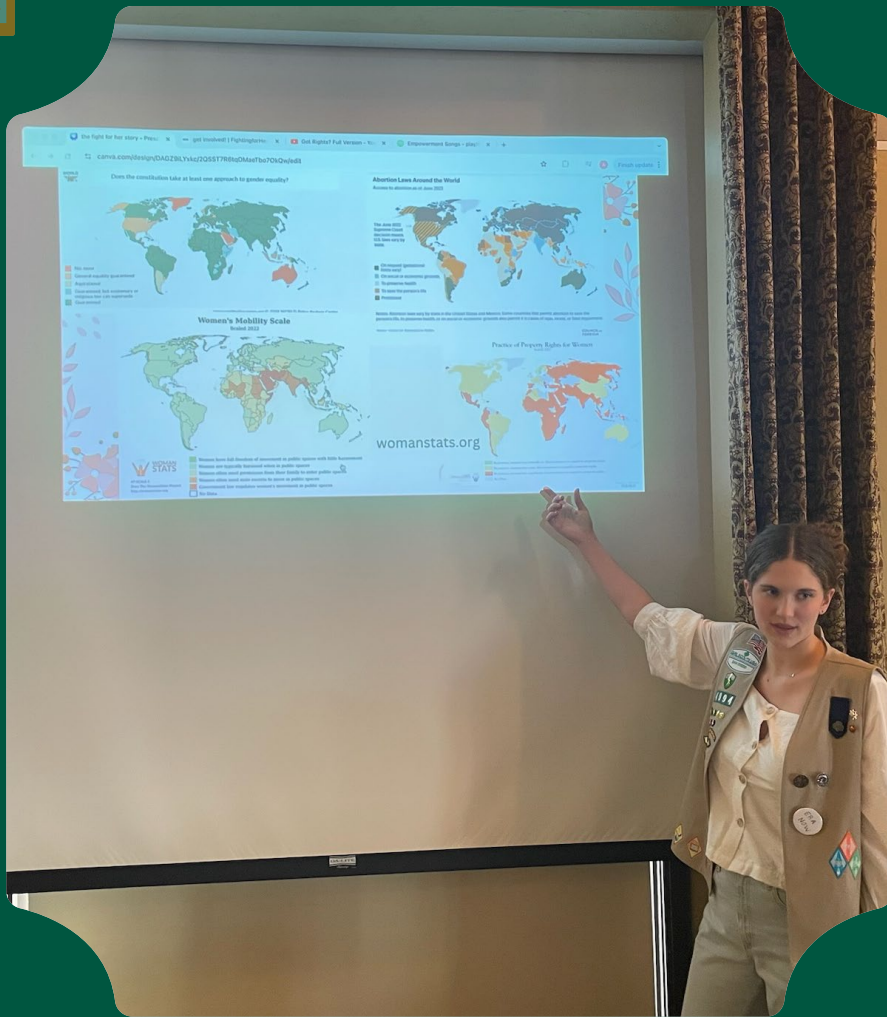


Measurable

Collect data and information throughout the project

How to measure success

Set Measurable Goals



National and/or Global Link

Project outside local community
Connecting to other communities

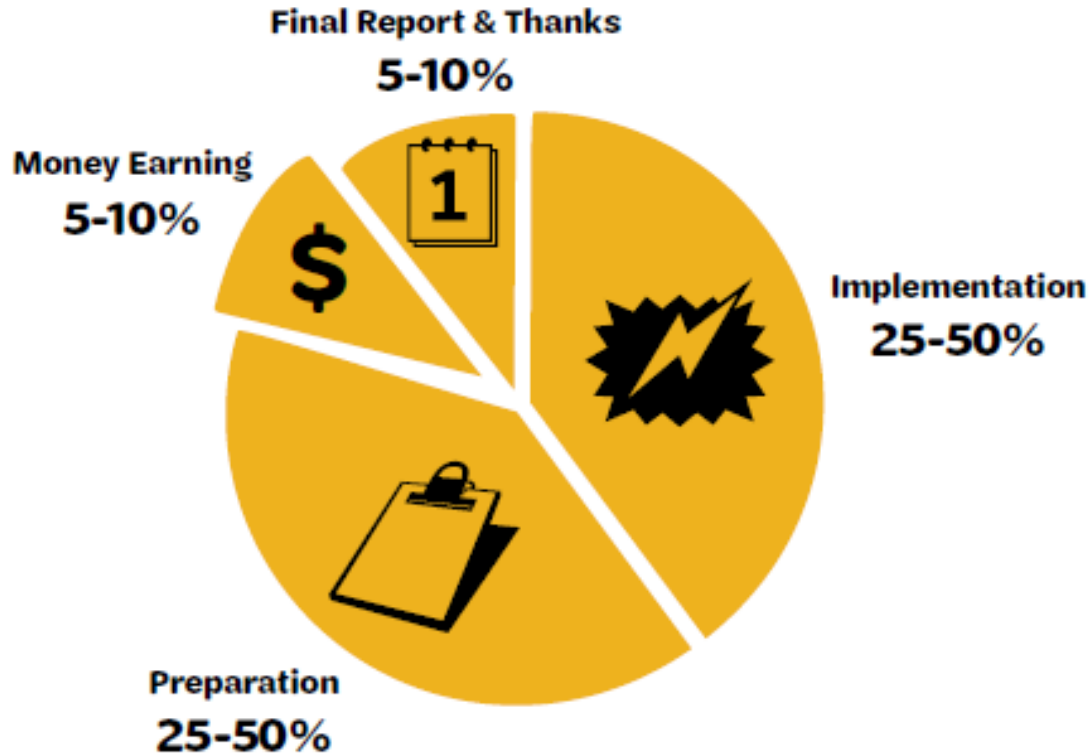
What is a community: A community is a group of people connected by shared characteristics, such as location, interests, beliefs, or goals, who often interact, feel a sense of belonging, and engage in joint action.

For example: A school, a church, a neighborhood, a town, a city, a state...

In your Gold Award project, the community is the group affected by your issue and includes your **target audience**.



How Much Time Does it Take?





Important Dates

- April 1
 - Deadline to have an approved final report to be included in that year's Gold Award Ceremony
- Sept 30 of HS graduation year
 - Deadline to have an approved final report



Getting Started Checklist

1. Complete EITHER ONE Senior or Ambassador Journey (exp. Oct. '26), **OR** earned the Girl Scout Silver Award **OR** completed ONE Leadership Award
2. Review the **Guide to Going Gold** and take Gold Award online training.
3. Create your **GoGold** Account.
4. **Let us know** that you've completed the prerequisites and are ready to be assigned a Gold Award Coach.
goldaward@sdgirlscouts.org



GoGold: Gold Award Proposal Steps 1-5

Create Your Account

Step 1: Choose an issue

Step 2: Investigate & Research

Step 3: Build Your Team

Step 4: Create a Plan

Step 5: Submit Proposal

* You need to receive confirmation from your Gold Award Coach and Council that your proposal has been approved before implementing your project.





San Diego Imperial's Gold Award Page | Profile | Sign Out

Step 1: Choose an Issue

In this step, you use your values and skills to choose a community issue that you care about. Start with the Decision-Making process. Then, brainstorm ideas to help you decide what you most passionate about. Finally, turn up your issue in a 30-second pitch. You can also make a video, or come up with another fun way to turn up why this issue is important to you.

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Decision-Making Tips

What inspires you? Is it something in your school, community, country, or the world?

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Standards of Excellence

When you decide to earn the Gold Award, you're on your honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards set a high benchmark for everything you do and make you to think, create, problem-solve, and act.

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Step 2: Investigate

In this step, you'll use your scouting skills to learn everything you can about the issue you've identified. Zoom in on your issue to identify a specific aspect of it that you would like to address, because focused effort has more impact than a big idea that's scattered.

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Mind-Mapping

Use the Mind Mapping tool, like the example shown here, to come up with different ways to approach a problem, used as different ways to address it.

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

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Step 3: Get Help

In this step, you'll learn to support your efforts and help you take action. Consider reaching out to classmates, Scouters, and experts from organizations and businesses in the area. You'll also choose a project advisor who will help you with your chosen topic. A project advisor helps you identify resources, provides insight, and provides additional background information on your chosen issue.

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Reach Out

Name of Project Advisor or Leader
Project Advisor's Place of Work
Project Advisor's Email

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

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Step 4: Create a Plan

Getting the Girl Scout Gold Award requires you to address the root cause of an issue, so that you can make a lasting impact in your community. From there, you'll create a plan that divides the best use of your time and talents, your resources, and your team's talents, making the most with what you have—that's your challenge!

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Create Your Project Proposal

Project details
Your project title
Proposed start date
Proposed completion date
Project description

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

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Step 7: Educate & Inspire

In this step, you'll share your story and inspire others to act on their community issue. You'll also share your story and inspire others to act on their community issue. You'll also share your story and inspire others to act on their community issue.

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Take Action Project:

Contact details
Your name
Email
Address

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

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Step 6: Take Action

In this step, you'll take your plan and carry out your plan. Use the tools you have developed in the previous steps and remember to check in with your Girl Scout advisor for tips. If you're a speed learner, you'll learn from it and find ways to adjust your plan. And always ask for help when needed.

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Take Action Project:

Time Log
Date
Hours
Details

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

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Step 5: Present Your Plan

This is an exciting step because you'll submit your Project Proposal form to your Girl Scout council for approval, which is required before you can continue working on your project. You'll then receive feedback either a thumbs-up that you can proceed, or advice on how you can refine your plan.

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Take Action Project:

Submit Your Project Proposal

[Take Action Project Home](#) [Research Tip](#) [Tools and Resources](#)

Standards of Excellence

When you decide to earn the Gold Award, you're on your honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards set a high benchmark for everything you do and make you to think, create, problem-solve, and act.

You're ready to submit your proposal when:

- ◆ You've met the prerequisites
- ◆ Your project contains the **five elements** of a Gold Award (root cause, leadership, sustainable, measurable, and global link).
- ◆ Your proposal is original. You've done all the work.
- ◆ You've chosen a **project advisor** who is an expert in your chosen issue
- ◆ You have a **team** of volunteers who will take action with you.
- ◆ You've partnered with a **community organization** to address your issue.
- ◆ Your project addresses the needs of a **target audience**.
- ◆ Your budget is realistic.
- ◆ Your project will take at least **80 hours** to complete.
- ◆ You have the skills and resources to carry out your project.
- ◆ You've set **clear goals**. You can say, "Here is the change I hope to make, and here's how I'll know I've made it."



PRESENT YOUR PLAN

Submit your proposal!

It's time to send your proposal to your council for review and approval. You will receive a copy. Before you send, review the email below and customize it.

CC:

Subject:

Kate Hahn's Project Proposal

Email Body:

191 / 2000

Dear Girl Scouts Test Council,

Here is my Girl Scout Gold Award Proposal
Please note that I have also uploaded additional
files.

I look forward to your approval.

Sincerely,

Step5 Hahn

These files are attached to every recipient in this email.

[albatross.jpg](#)
[snowyowl.jpg](#)
[pinewarbler3.jpg](#)
[pinewarbler4.jpg](#)
[tufted titmouse.jpg](#)
[bluejay.jpg](#)
[pinewarbler2.jpg](#)
[cardinal.jpg](#)
[pinewarbler.jpg](#)
[owl.jpg](#)

Before Submitting Your Proposal

- You can log up to 20% of total project hours before approval.
- Preparation can include research, contact venues/partners, and recruit volunteers.
- Download a copy and email your Gold Award Coach before submitting.
- Do not start implementing the project until approval.

GoGold: What Happens When Girl Scouts Hit “Submit”?

Gold Award Girl Scout

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[Start](#)[Checklist](#)[Summary](#)[Council](#)[Upload](#)

PRESENT YOUR PLAN
It's time to submit your proposal!



Submit your project proposal to your council. Approval is required before you can actually get started.

[Get started](#)

*"The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."
- Juliette Gordon Low*

Gold Award Girl Scout

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[Start](#)[Description](#)[Theme](#)[Issue](#)[Root Cause](#)

EDUCATE AND INSPIRE
Complete Your Final Report



Read over your notes and spend some time reflecting on your experiences. Then tell your story and share your results!

[Get started](#)

*"The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."
- Juliette Gordon Low*

What Happens When Girl Scouts Hit “Send to Council”?

- Girl Scouts submit proposals and final reports after speaking with their Gold Award Coach via GoGold Online
- They must notify council with their Coach that they are pending approval

Gold Award Vocabulary



Target Audience (TA)

The community identified as the beneficiaries of your project.

Implementation

The hours spent with your Target Audience. This portion makes up a minimum of 20 hours of your project hours.

Gold Award Coach

Assigned by Girl Scouts San Diego; coaches are experts in Gold Award requirements and provide guidance throughout the project process.

Gold Award Project Advisor

An expert selected by the Girl Scout in the project area who is not a parent or troop leader.

GoGold

The online platform where Girl Scouts submit their Gold Award Project Proposal and Final Report.

Community Partner (CP)

An organization who agrees to work with you and support your Gold Award project.



Things To Keep In Mind

- Choose a topic you're passionate about.
- Take photos and videos!
- You can log up to 20% of your hours before your proposal has been approved.
- Keep line of communication open with your team.
- Give thanks!



girl scouts gold award

Resources

sdgirlscouts.org/gold



girl scouts gold award

Thank You!

Girl Scouts San Diego Gold Award Team

customercare@sdgirlscouts.org

619-610-0813