

# Girl Scouts San Diego Gold Award Training



# 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. Financing
9. Vocabulary and FAQs
10. Detailed Project Plan
11. Resources and Questions

# 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.
- Approved proposal by the Gold Committee





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
- ♣ The Silver Award
- ♣ A Leadership Award

# Gold Award Prerequisites

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

**Journeys will retire OCT. 2026**





Email

Enter Email

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](mailto: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**
- Once confirmed, **request a letter of support** from a partner organization willing to help.

# Community Partner Organization Letters

“Supplements” “Additional Files”

## Proposal: Letter of Support

- Org. letterhead
- Acknowledge, benefits, support, and signature
- Uploaded into GoGold

## Final Report: Letter of Evaluation

- Org. letterhead
- Evaluation of project, acknowledge the partnership, and signature
- Uploaded into GoGold

# Build Your Team



## Key people to support you and your project

**Project Advisor (Issue Expert)**

**Gold Award Committee Mentor (Gold Award Expert)**

**Community Organization (Gold Award Partner)**

Gold Award Staff (Me!)

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 Committee Mentor:

- Gold Award process expert
- Assigned to Girl Scouts once they complete all Gold prerequisites
- Gives suggestions to ensure project meets GSUSA requirements
  - Liaison between Girl Scout and Gold Award Committee



# Sustainable

Continues After  
Lasting Change  
3 methods of sustainability



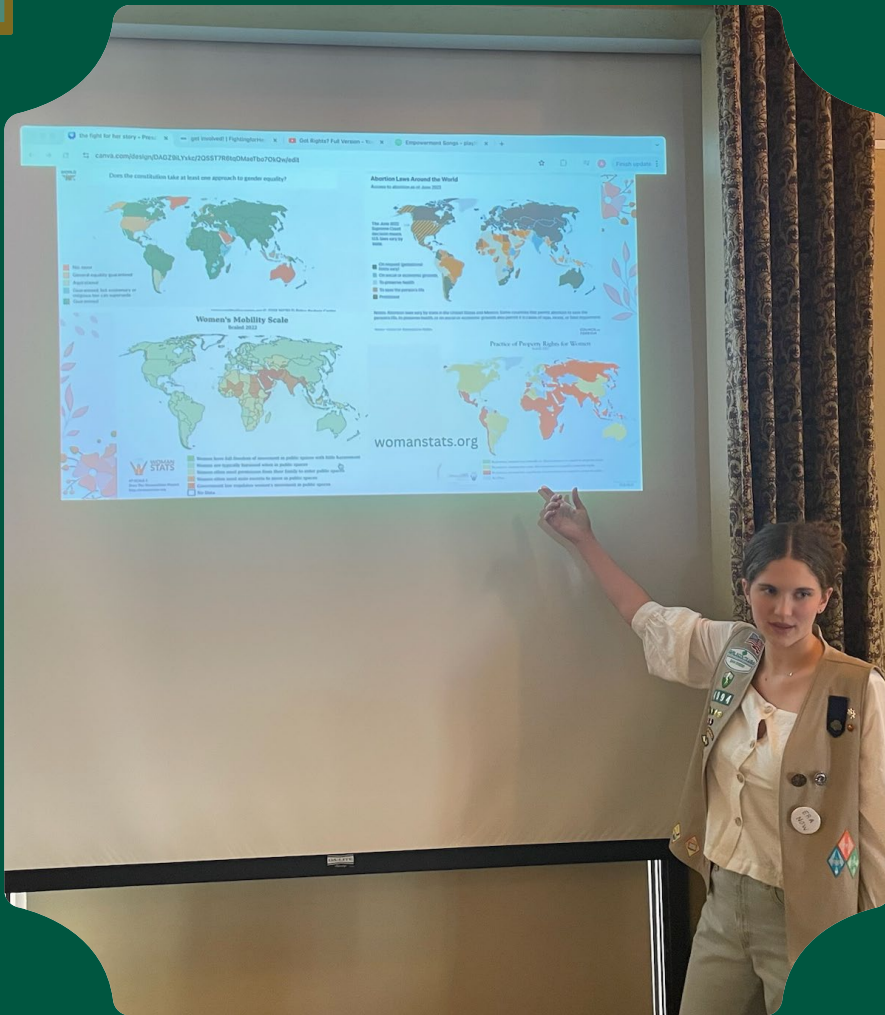


## Measurable

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

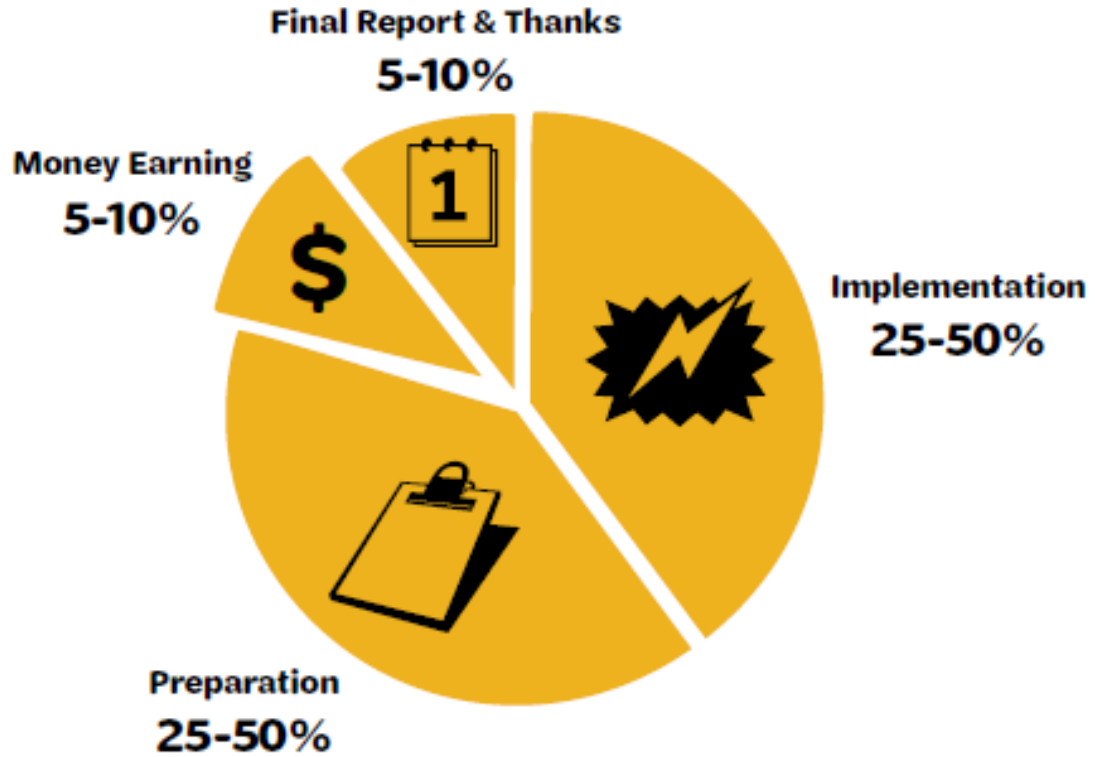
**What is a community:** A community is a group of people connected by shared characteristics, such as location, interests, beliefs, or goals, who often interact, feel a sense of belonging, and engage in joint action.

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

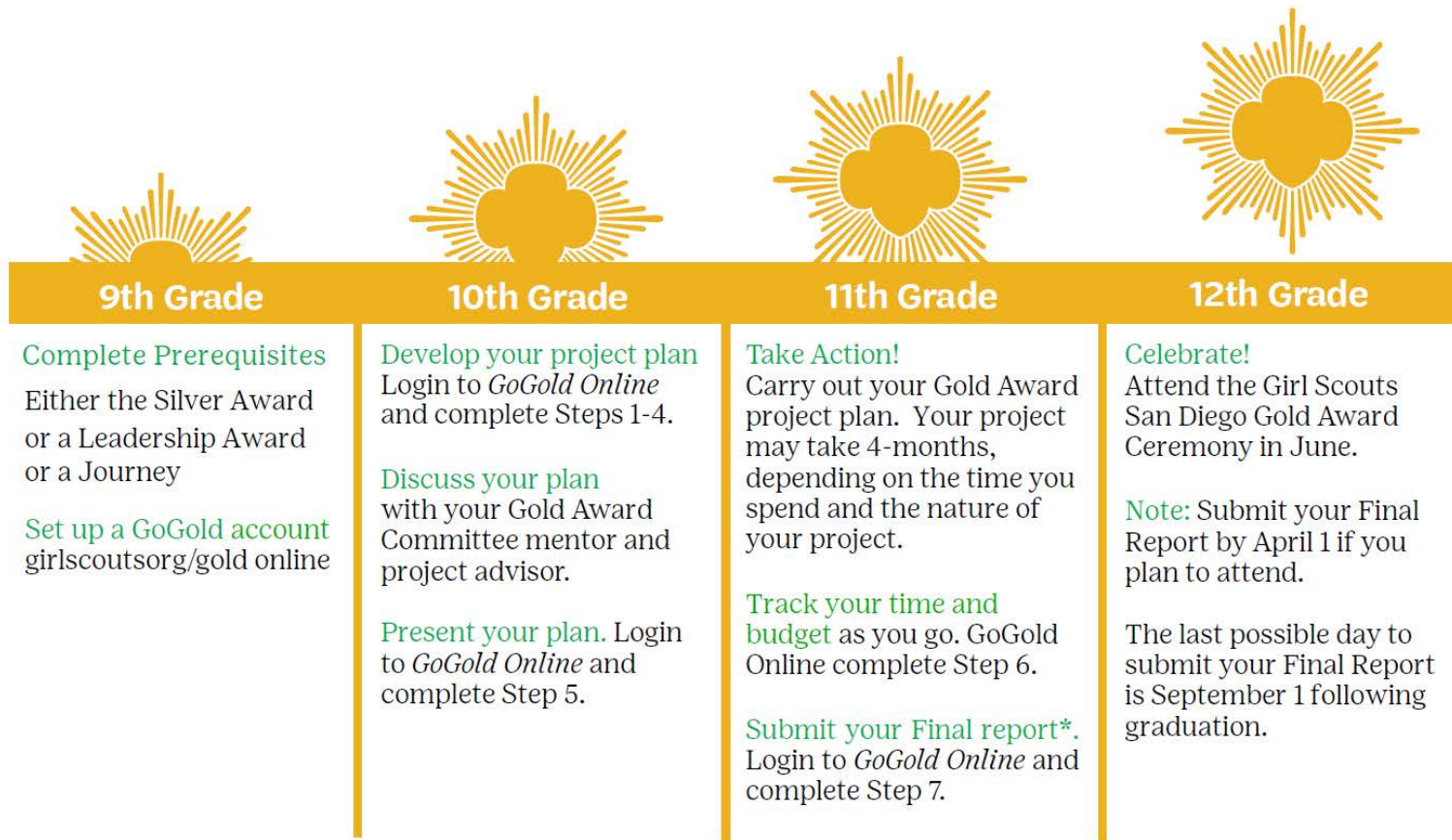
In your Gold Award project, the community is the group affected by your issue and includes your **target audience**.



# How Much Time Does it Take?



# When to start?



\* Proposal and final reports must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the first business day of the month.



# Important Dates

- First business day of each month
  - Submission deadline (proposals and final reports) to be reviewed at that month's committee meeting
- April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Deadline to submit final report to be included in that year's Gold Award Ceremony
- Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> of HS graduation year
  - Last deadline submit final reports



## Getting Started Checklist

1. Complete EITHER ONE Senior or Ambassador Journey (exp. Oct. '26), **OR** earned the Girl Scout Silver Award **OR** completed ONE
2. Review the **Gold Guide**.
3. Create your **GoGold** Account.
4. **Let us know** that you've completed the prerequisites and are ready to be assigned a Gold Award Committee mentor **[goldaward@sdgirlscouts.org](mailto: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 Mentor and Council that your proposal has been approved before implementing your project.





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## Step 1: Choose an Issue

In this step, you'll 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're most passionate about. Finally, sum up your issue in a 30-second pitch. You can also make a video, or come up with another fun way to sum up why this issue is important to you.

**Decision-Making Tips**  
What inspires you? Is it something in your school, community, country, or the world?

**Tools and Resources**  
[Take Action Project Issue](#)  
[Inspiring Tips](#)  
[Making Your Pitch](#)

**Standards of Excellence**  
www.girlscouts.org/standards

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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. This you could like to address, because you need to identify how it impacts the big idea that's scattered.

**Mind-Mapping**  
Use the Mind Mapping tool, like the example shown here, to come up with different ways to approach a problem, as well as different ways to address it. Follow these instructions:  
1. Download the template below.

**Tools and Resources**  
[Research Tips](#)

**Standards of Excellence**

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## Step 3: Get Help

In this step, your form learns to support your efforts and help you Take Action. Consider reaching out to classmates, Scouters, and experts from organizations and businesses. In this step, you'll choose a project advisor who has expertise in your chosen topic. An advisor helps you identify resources, provide insight, and provides additional background information on your chosen issue.

**Reach Out**  
Name of Project Advisor or Leader  
 Project Advisor's Place of Work  
 Project Advisor's Email

**Tools and Resources**  
[Timing Tips](#)  
[Project Advisor Tips](#)

**Standards of Excellence**  
When you decide to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, you're on your honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards set a high benchmark for everything you do.

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## Step 4: Create a Plan

Getting to 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!

**Create Your Project Proposal**

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

**Project description**

**Tools and Resources**  
[Project Planner](#)  
[Goals and Objectives](#)  
[Sustainability Tips](#)  
[Planning and Budgeting Tips](#)

**Standards of Excellence**

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## Step 7: Educate & Inspire

In this step, you'll share your project with others. When you're ready for your final approval, be sure to share with all the people that support you using the tools that you've created for them!

**Take Action Project:**  
Use the online log to mark major events on your path to earning the Gold Award. Photos add record your progress, accounting for income and expenses.

**Tools and Resources**  
[Timing Tips](#)  
[Reflection Tool](#)

**Standards of Excellence**  
When you decide to earn the Girl Scout 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.

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## Step 6: Take Action

In this step, you'll take your team and carry out your plan. Use the tools you have developed in the previous steps and resources to check your Gold Award journey for tips. If you're a speed learner, along the way, learn from it and find ways to adjust your plan. And always ask for help when needed.

**Take Action Project:**  
Use the online log to mark major events on your path to earning the Gold Award. Photos add record your progress, accounting for income and expenses.

**Public Sharing**  
 I understand my posts will be public to my council, family and friends. I accept this.  
 Public Sharing Guidelines  
 Public Sharing on  
 Public Sharing off

**Standards of Excellence**  
When you decide to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, you're on your honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards set a high benchmark for everything you do.

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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:**  
Once you submit your project proposal below, you'll hear feedback from your council. Continue to check your homepage for status.

**Submit Your Project Proposal**

**Standards of excellence**  
When you decide to earn the Girl Scout 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.

# 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 and secured your letter of support.
  - ◆ 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."



## 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 Mentor before submitting.
- Do not start implementing the project until approval.


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

Gold Award Girl Scout  
**gogold**

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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  
**gogold**

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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 via GoGold Online by the first business day of the month
- Shortly after, they receive confirmation email from GSSD Gold Award Team
- Committee mentors work with Girl Scouts on any edits to proposal or final report; ensure documents and supplements meet Gold Award standard
- Committee mentor adds Girl Scout’s documents to meeting agenda (committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month)



## Gold Award Finances

### Guidelines:

- Money Handling
- Usage Rules for Award Projects
- In-Kind Donations
- Things you CAN'T do to raise money
- Things you CAN do to raise money

# Handling Monetary Donations

**Deposit Immediately:** All monetary donations must be deposited into the approved Girl Scout troop bank account.

**Document the Funds:** Clearly document all donations in the Troop/Group Annual Financial Report.

**Donations Over \$250:** According to [GSSD policy](#), all donations of \$250 or more require an official acknowledgement from GSSD.

**Donation Identification:** Ensure donors identify the specific troop receiving the funds to aid the accounting team.

## Usage Rules for Award Projects

**Project-Specific Only:** Funds received for a Highest Award project must be used exclusively for that project.

**No Personal Benefit:** Funds cannot be used for individual troop member expenses or personal gain.

**Returning Leftover Money:** If a project does not use all the money donated, it cannot be kept by the troop for general expenses. Leftover funds must be returned to the donor or managed according to council guidelines.

**Girl-Led Process:** The decision on how to use funds should be determined by the Girl Scout(s).

## In-Kind Donations (Supplies & Equipment)

**Receipt Tracking:** When receiving in-kind donations (e.g., paint from a store, supplies), it is recommended to get a receipt showing the value of the items.

**Report Value:** Include the value of in-kind donations as income on your Troop/Group Annual Financial Report.

# Things you can't do to raise money.

- Raise or solicit money for other organizations.
- Raise money by associating Girl Scouts with a product, political viewpoint, or cause (like Avon, Mary Kay, Tupperware, Pampered Chef, candle parties, etc.).
- Sell products that create profits for a business besides Girl Scouts, like selling M&M's, Krispy Kreme, See's Candies, Pizza Hut, Papa John's, Rubio's or other restaurants, catalog sales, etc.
- Sell items on the Internet.
- Use crowdfunding sites (no Kickstarter, IndieGoGo, or GoFundMe).
- Raise money using games of chance like bingo, a raffle, or a contest.

## Money Earning Guidelines

**Council-sponsored product sales.** Participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program and Fall Sale.

**Troop/group money-earning.** These are activities that are organized by your troop (not by Girl Scouts San Diego). Examples include car washes, present wrapping stations, bake sales, garage sales, recycling, etc.

If you want to use **troop funds**, you must obtain a letter from your troop acknowledging that they agree to let you use troop funds and how much.

IRMs CANNOT use **Cookie Bucks** (Cookie Bucks are in lieu of troop funds earned from council sponsored product sales).

IRMs CAN do a **money earning project**.

Gold Award projects shouldn't have a financial barrier! Keep budget in mind when creating your project plan.

# 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 Mentor

Assigned by Girl Scouts San Diego; mentors 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.

Community Partner Letter of Support

A letter from your community partner that acknowledges support and lists benefits of your project.

Community Partner Evaluation Letter

A letter from your community partner that evaluates the impact and acknowledges the partnership of your Gold Award project.



## Things To Keep In Mind

- Choose a topic you're passionate about.
- Take photos and videos!
- Complete at least 20 hours of implementation hours with your target audience.
- 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!



## FAQs:

- ♣ Can I use my senior project as also my Gold Award?
- ♣ Can my project benefit Girl Scouts?
- ♣ What can I put on college applications if I haven't completed my project?
- ♣ What do I do if I need to make changes to my project that impact what was approved on my proposal?
- ♣ Can I complete my project after I've graduated from High School?
- ♣ What happens if I miss the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the Ceremony?

## Your Detailed Project Plan (DPP):

- Issue and Root Cause
- Who, What, When, Where
- Sustainable, Measurable, Leadership, and Global Link

**Activity:** Let's create a sample DPP based on an idea you might use for your Gold Award. This can be a real idea you want to pursue or a made-up one to help you start thinking like a Gold Award candidate.

<b>Issue</b>	What issue do you want to address?	<b>My issue is</b>
<b>Root cause</b>	Use a mind map (page 13) to find the root cause, or trigger, of your issue. Share it here.	<b>My issue is happening because</b>  <b>The change I want to make is</b>
<b>What</b> will you do to make the change you identified above?	<b>Prep work includes</b> research, contacting possible venues or community partners, finding potential volunteers, setting goals and making a plan.  <b>Implementation</b> is the process of leading and performing the work you define in your project proposal	<b>Do the prep:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much background research time do you need?</li> <li>• How many planning meetings?</li> <li>• How many test runs?</li> </ul> <b>Make a plan – set goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What will you do at your events, presentations, workshops, meetings, sessions, etc.?</li> <li>• How many days/times will events, presentations, workshops, meetings, or sessions be held (if applicable)?</li> <li>• How long will each be?</li> <li>• How many participants will be at each? In total?</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b> in the community do you plan to reach or help with your project?	This is your target audience. Your project may have more than one.	
<b>When?</b>	Schedule your project. Is it best to do it in spring or fall? On a weekend or afterschool, during the summer? Decide when works best for you and meets your target audience's needs.	
<b>Where?</b>	What community partner are you working with? Have they offered use of their facilities? (See page 14-15 of YG2GG.)	



# girl scouts gold award

## Resources

[sdgirlscouts.org/gold](https://sdgirlscouts.org/gold)



# girl scouts gold award

# Thank You!

Girl Scouts San Diego Gold Award Team  
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