

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. 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
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 will retire OCT. 2026





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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



“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

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



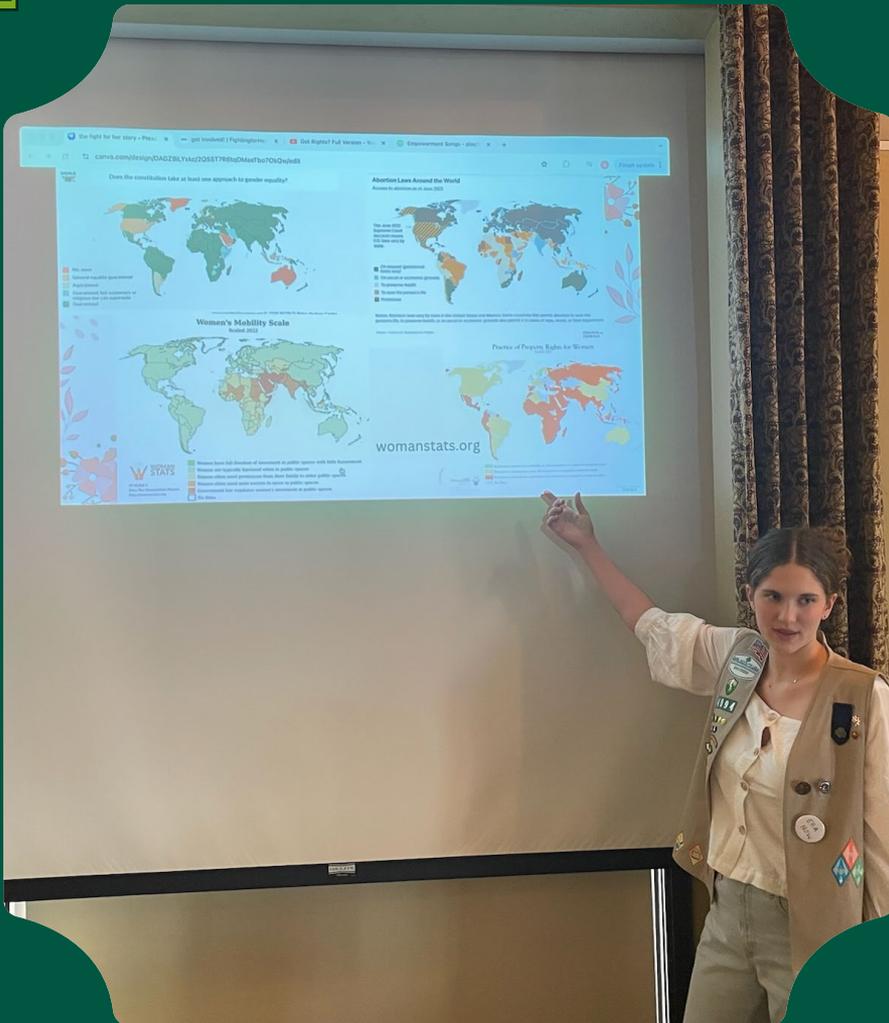
National and/or Global Link

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.

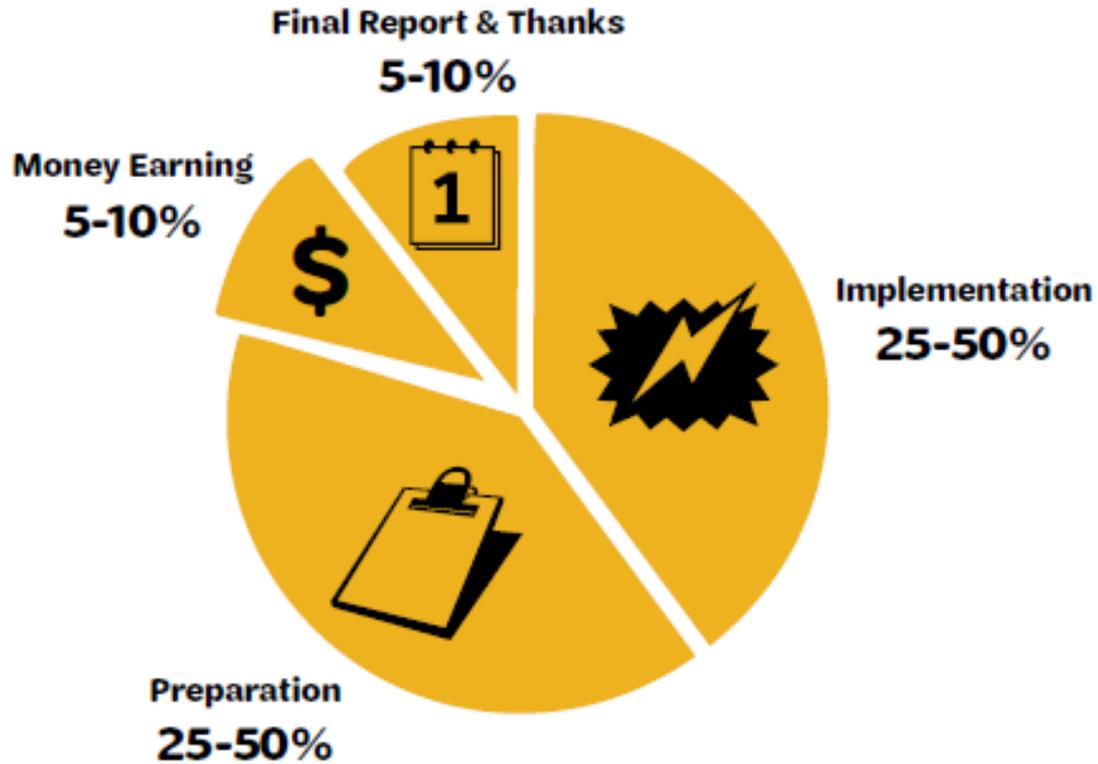
For example: A school, a church, a neighborhood, a town, a city, a state...

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?

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
<p>Complete Prerequisites Either the Silver Award or a Leadership Award or a Journey</p> <p>Take Gold Award Online Training sdgirlscouts.org/gold</p> <p>Set up a GoGold account girlscoutsorg/gold online</p> <p>Attend Gold Award Workshop after April 1.</p>	<p>Develop your project plan Login to <i>GoGold Online</i> and complete Steps 1-4.</p> <p>Discuss your plan with your Gold Award Committee mentor and project advisor.</p> <p>Present your plan. Login to <i>GoGold Online</i> and complete Step 5.</p>	<p>Take Action! Carry out your Gold Award project plan. Your project may take 4-months, depending on the time you spend and the nature of your project.</p> <p>Track your time and budget as you go. GoGold Online complete Step 6.</p> <p>Submit your Final report*. Login to <i>GoGold Online</i> and complete Step 7.</p>	<p>Celebrate! Attend the Girl Scouts San Diego Gold Award Ceremony in June.</p> <p>Note: Submit your Final Report by April 1 if you plan to attend.</p> <p>The last possible day to submit your Final Report is September 1 following graduation.</p>

* 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 1st
 - Deadline to submit final report to be included in that year's Gold Award Ceremony
- Sept. 1st 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 Leadership Award
2. **Gold Award Online Training Request Form**
sdgirlscouts.org/gold
3. Review the **Gold Guide** and take Gold Award online training.
4. Create your **GoGold** Account.
5. **Let us know** that you've completed the prerequisites and are ready to be assigned a Gold Award Committee mentor
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.





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

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 sleuthing 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.

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. Complete reading out to classmates, advisors, mentors, 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 story and inspire others. When you've completed the project, you'll have a chance to share your story and inspire others. You can do this in many ways, such as giving a presentation, writing an article, or creating a video. You can also use your story to inspire others to take action on their own projects.

Take Action Project:
Use this tool to track major events on your path to earning the Gold Award. Photos add record your progress, according to 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.

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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 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 this tool to track major events on your path to earning the Gold Award. Photos add record your progress, according to income and expenses.

Public Sharing
 I understand my public will be visible 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, create, and inspire others.

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."



Send Preview Verify

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 receipt in

- [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 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)

Implementation

Gold Award Mentor

Gold Award Project Advisor

GoGold

Community Partner (CP)

Community Partner Letter of Support

Community Partner Evaluation Letter

The community identified as the beneficiaries of your project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 1st 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.

Issue	What issue do you want to address?	My issue is
Root cause	Use a mind map (page 13) to find the root cause, or trigger, of your issue. Share it here.	My issue is happening because The change I want to make is
What will you do to make the change you identified above?	Prep work includes research, contacting possible venues or community partners, finding potential volunteers, setting goals and making a plan. Implementation is the process of leading and performing the work you define in your project proposal	Do the prep: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much background research time do you need? • How many planning meetings? • How many test runs? Make a plan – set goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will you do at your events, presentations, workshops, meetings, sessions, etc.? • How many days/times will events, presentations, workshops, meetings, or sessions be held (if applicable)? • How long will each be? • How many participants will be at each? In total?
Who 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.	
When?	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.	
Where?	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



girl scouts gold award

Thank You!

Girl Scouts San Diego Gold Award Team
goldaward@sdgirlscouts.org, 619-610-0813