



## Girl Scout Gold Award® Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?
- A: Girls must be a registered Girl Scout and be 14–18 (grades 9–12) to work on STEPS 1-3 leading up to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Girls must be 15–18, or grades 10–12, when they work on STEPS 4-7 related to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Remember, as always, the project must be completed by September 30 following the girl's senior year in high school. If she graduates early, she has until she is 18 to complete the project.
- Q: Can girls earn the Girl Scout Gold Award if they are an individually registered member?
- A: As always, if a girl meets the age and membership requirements, she can work towards her Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Q: Is the Girl Scout Gold Award Project an individual project or can it be worked on by a team of girls?
- A: Girls may work with other girls, but they must keep track of their specific work and hours. Working on a project team is a life-skill and there are many different ways of assuming leadership.
- Q: Can a girl earn the Girl Scout Gold Award even if she hasn't been in Girl Scouts very long?
- A: Yes! She just needs to be a registered Girl Scout and be willing to complete the hours necessary to earn this award.
- Q: Does a girl have to have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award in order to do the Girl Scout Gold Award?
- A: No, not at all. The Girl Scout Silver Award is a great foundation for the process but not necessary.
- Q: Does a girl need to do the steps in any particular order?
- A: She can do the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award and the Girl Scout Gold Career Award in any order, even work on them simultaneously, but she should do STEP 4, the Girl Scout Gold 4 Bs Challenge prior to working on the Girl Scout Gold Award project, STEP 5. STEPS 1-4 must be completed and the girl must be 15 or in 10<sup>th</sup> grade to begin STEP 5. A girl MUST receive approval from her council before starting the Girl Scout Gold Award project (STEPS 5-7).

Q: What is the difference between a Troop Leader/Advisor and a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor in the Girl Scout Gold Award process? Do girls need both?

A: A Troop Leader/Advisor is the adult who is working with a troop and works with girls in the first three steps of their Girl Scout Gold Award — helping them get initial information, working on the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award, and the Girl Scout Gold Career Award. Some resource consultants may be brought in while girls are working on specific Interest Projects but the Troop Leader/Advisor will help girls keep on track and lay out an overall timeline and they may help girls with the initial activities in working on the 4B's. Once a girl (or girls) develops her vision statement, the Troop Leader/Advisor might also help identify a person in the community who might be a great Project Advisor.

The Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor is an adult who has specific experience related to the topic of the Gold Award project. For example, if a girl is doing a project to address a concern about AIDS in her community, the Project Advisor might be someone from a non-profit organization that works with teens and health issues or an AIDS educator. Or, if girls are doing a literacy project for children of migrant workers, the Project Advisor might be an English as a second language (ESL) teacher or a social worker giving assistance to the migrant workers.

Q: At what point should a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor be identified?

A: It's great to have a Project Advisor to expand the network of adults and provide expertise for a girl's project. If a girl has an idea before she starts any work on her Girl Scout Gold Award, she might want to identify her Project Advisor from the very beginning. A girl's Troop Leader/Advisor can act as the Project Advisor on the Girl Scout Gold Award through STEP 4, but GSUSA highly recommends that a Project Advisor be available when the project starts to come into focus during STEP 4, the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge. The Project Advisor should be identified in the planning phase before the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal is turned into the council. If a girl is having difficulties identifying an Project Advisor for the project, she or her troop/group advisor should feel free to contact the council for assistance **before** the project proposal is submitted.

Q: What if a girl has already done some similar activities while doing other Girl Scout awards? Can these activities count toward her Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: Activities done prior to working on the Girl Scout Gold Award may not count toward the number of hours for this award.

Q: What is the role of the council's Girl Scout Gold Award committee?

A: This is a group of adult volunteers, including past recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, dedicated to helping a girl succeed. They will review the size, scope and cost of each project and make recommendations to ensure that it is in fact an appropriate project to earn a Girl Scout Gold Award. They might also be aware of community issues and dynamics that impact the project and may be able to introduce a girl to other adults who can assist her in her project.

Q: Is it recommended that a girl's parent be her Troop Leader/Advisor or Project Advisor for the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: GSUSA strongly recommends against it, even if a girl's parent is her Troop Leader/Advisor. Ideally, she should have an Project Advisor that has experience in the area of her project. Avoid situations where parents do a girl's work, even when it comes to calling and asking questions. If money earning is involved, the girl and her Troop Leader/Advisor can act as a team, with the girl doing the planning and the adult doing the "ask."

Q: What if a girl is 16 and graduating from high school? **Can she complete her project when she is in college?**

A: Yes, a girl has until she turns 18 or until the end of the Girl Scout membership year when she is a senior in high school.

Q: What if a girl graduates and is 18 and doesn't have her project completed?

A: In this case the girl would have until September 30 of the year she graduates.

Q: Can a girl who is developmentally delayed earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: The Girl Scout Gold Award is something done to the best of a girl's ability and it is possible to work with someone who needs to adapt the Girl Scout Gold Award with the existing requirements. Young women who are developmentally delayed have until the age of 21 to complete the project requirements.