

**Attention Traveling Girl Scouts!**

The Val Manuel Take Action Travelship



Do you want to help make the world a better place through travel and service? Long to see new places and explore new cultures, but don’t know how to fund your trip? The Val Manuel Take Action Travelship encourages older Girl Scouts to build leadership skills by completing a Take Action project as part of their travel experience.

Requirements and Criteria:

* Recipient must be a currently registered member of Girl Scouts of Western Washington in grades 8-12
* Recipients must provide leadership in a Take Action project, for example:
  + Recognize a need and develop a plan to address it
  + Organize the project or assist others in organizing it, but must have a specific role in the planning and implementation of the project
* The project needs to impact and reach outside the Girl Scout community
* Eligible travel experiences: GSUSA*destinations* trips, Girl Scout troop/travel group trips, and individual travel with a non-Girl Scout organization. Travel must include a Take Action project on the trip or implementation of a project related to the travel experience (can be on the trip, or back at home)
* Travelship funds can be used to cover the costs of program fees, transportation, lodging, project materials, promotion of project, etc. All payments must be documented
* Funds must be used by September 30 unless otherwise arranged by recipient and travelship committee. After September 30, they revert back into the travelship fund
* Maximum travelship amount: $1,500. Travelship amount will be determined based on depth and breadth of proposed travel and Take Action Project.

Applications available at: <https://www.girlscoutsww.org/Things-To-Do/discover-more/Pages/Scholarships.aspx>. Questions? Email [scholarships@girlscoutsww.org](mailto:scholarships@girlscoutsww.org).

*Please note: applying for The Val Manuel Take Action Travelship does not guarantee funds. All applicants will be evaluated and selected based on the scholarship criteria, other applicants, proposed travel, and take action service project.*

**what does it mean for a girl scout to take action?**

The Take Action leadership key gets girls motivated and excited about making an impact in their community that can be felt in the long term. Take Action encourages girls to think bigger and to address problems in such a way that they do not reoccur. And, perhaps most important, a girl’s Take Action project changes the world in a meaningful way.

* **Girls can identify community needs.** In order for girls to start working on their project, they must first find out what the community is in need of. Girls also learn how to identify the root cause of the issue they choose to address.
* **Girls are resourceful problem solvers.** Undoubtedly, there will be roadblocks along the way, which means that girls will need to come up with creative ways to solve the problems that arise.
* **Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.** As they learn about the issues in their communities and work to solve them, girls stand up for issues they believe in, influence policy, and identify ways to continue their project goals into the future.
* **Girls educate and inspire others to act.** By spreading the word about their experiences, girls educate others about issues that are important to the community and inspire others to act. This approach cannot help but have a positive effect on their communities.
* **Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.** Girls develop leadership skills and use the knowledge they gain through their experiences to improve their community…and the world!

**reasons for embracing take action projects**

* Builds leadership skills in girls
* Helps communities, long-term

**Community Service Projects vs. Take Action**

**Community Service Projects Defined:**

Some community service projects address an immediate need in the community: girls organize a book or clothing drive, paint walls to cover up graffiti, or hold a one-time march or fair to highlight a community problem. Although these projects address a need in the community, they do so for only a short period of time, and can be considered short-term projects.

**Take Action Defined:**

A Take Action project picks up from where a short-term project leaves off. For example, the girls organizing the book or clothing drive could make their project a Take Action project by holding the drive annually and getting a sponsor to advertise and organize it every year. The girls who painted the walls to cover up graffiti can create a club that travels around the city painting beautiful murals on buildings that have been defaced. And the girls who held the march or fair could expand the event to include community artisans and make it an annual gathering. For each project, girls can publicize and get people in the community to come out and support. They can even get community leaders involved.

When girls pursue Take Action projects, they take time to identify and understand the root cause of the issue they are addressing. Girls also must make sure that each project is sustainable and that the impact is measurable. Because these two words are nebulous and difficult to define, take the time to define each with participants.

* **Measurable:** The success of the project can be determine based on the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, any reduction in the community’s need, and other concrete numbers.
* **Sustainable:** Girls must make arrangements (such as collaborating with community leaders and/or organizations; building alliances with mentors) to ensure that the project creates lasting change and is not a one-time event.

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| **Community Service/Short-Term Project**  [a one-time effort; has short-term impact] | **Take Action Project**  [identifies the root cause; has long-term benefits and sustainable support] |
| **Issue:** An uninsured family’s home is destroyed by a fire.  **Solution**: Collect clothes, household goods, and food for the family. | A solution could be to establish a relationship with a building group in the community organize a work group to rebuild the family’s home. |
| **Issue:** Racial tensions exist in the community.  **Solution:** Organize a one-time diversity celebration**.** | One solution could be to create an organization that  holds regular seminars/meetings/workshops about  racial tolerance and understanding other cultures |
| **Issue:** Families are going hungry.  **Solution:** Hold a food drive for families in need. | One solution could be to come up with easy-to make recipes (in a free booklet) that include as ingredients the items families regularly receive from food pantries. |