



## Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta Frequently Asked Questions Girl Scout Gold Award

**1. Q. Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

A: Any registered Girl Scout Senior (grades 9, 10) or Ambassador (grades 11, 12) can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.

**2. Q. Can individually registered girl members or Juliettes earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

A: Yes, any girl, who meets the grade-level and membership requirements, can work on her Girl Scout Gold Award.

**3. Q. What is the deadline for a girl to finish the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

A: A Girl Scout has until September 30<sup>th</sup> (the official end of the Girl Scout membership year) of the year in which she graduates high school, or until she turns 18 years old, to finish her project and turn in her Girl Scout Gold Award Final paperwork.

**4. Q. What are the prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

A: A girl must complete two Journeys OR earn one Journey and have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award. In our council, a girl must take Gold Award training before she begins her Gold Award project.

**5. Q. Does a Senior or Ambassador need to do the two journeys in any particular order?**

A: No. She can complete two Girl Scout Senior level journeys, two Girl Scout Ambassador level journeys, or one of each, or the Silver Award plus one of either. She must do a Journey for the grade level she is in currently when she does the Journey requirements.

**6. Q. How do girls know when a *Journey* is "completed?"**

A: A Journey is completed when a girl has earned the journey awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

**7. Q. What makes the awards' guidelines different from the *Journeys*?**

A: In contrast to Journey Take Action projects, which give girls themes on which to base their Journey Take Action project, the Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. After exploring their own communities and discovering issues they wish to address, girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action project.

**8. Q. What are the suggested hours for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

A: Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. The time it takes to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team working with the girl, and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the prerequisites are fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours for the Girl Scout Gold Award is a minimum of 80 hours.

**9. Q. Are girls required to take training to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

A: No, but girls are highly recommended to take the From Good to Gold Workshop to develop their ideas and to fully understand the requirements. They will be assigned a Coach from the GSGATL Gold Award Committee after they take the workshop. These provisions help to ensure that every girl who wants to earn the Gold Award will be given the greatest chance of success.

**10. Q. When can a girl take the Gold Award workshop?**

A: We suggest that girls take the workshop during step 2 of the 7 Steps to Gold. Girls should complete their pre-requisite Journeys before they've taken Gold workshop.

**11. Q. What is the GSGATL Gold Committee?**

A: The GSGATL Gold Committee is a group of volunteers from the community who want to help girls achieve Girl Scouting's Highest Award. The Gold Committee meets regularly to hear girls' Gold Award Proposals and Final Reports. The volunteers are Girl Scout members who have earned the Gold Award themselves, or who are well trained in Highest Awards.

**12. Q. What is a Coach?**

A: The Coach is someone who will work with a Gold Candidate individually. The Coach can discuss project ideas, assist with paperwork, and help a girl prepare to appear before the Gold Committee. She is a member of the Gold Committee who may have special knowledge of a girl's project area.

**13. Q. What is a Gold Award Project Advisor?**

A: A Gold Award Project Advisor is someone in the girl's community that has expertise or experience in the content area of the girl's project. For example, if she is building a shade shelter, her Project Advisor may be an engineer or someone who manages construction projects. If she is starting a library, her Project Advisor may be a librarian or an educator. The Project Advisor may not be her Girl Scout leader or someone who is related to her. A girl needs both a Project Advisor and a Gold Committee Mentor to assist her with her Gold Award.

**14. Q Does a girl have to go before the Gold Committee to earn her Gold Award?**

A. Yes. A girl must appear before the Gold Committee when she presents her Gold Award Project Proposal and gets feedback. The Gold Committee will formally approve her project proposal, so that she can begin implementation.

**15. Q. If a girl starts working on her Take Action project and moves; can she still earn her award?**

A: Councils and Overseas Committees are encouraged to be flexible to work and serve the girls' best interests. If a girl moves, she should work with her council and/or Overseas Committees to complete the project.

**16. Q: Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

A: No. The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are done to the best of a girl's ability. There is no need to have special requirements for girls with disabilities – encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the girl individually.

**17. Q. Can a girl earn her Girl Scout Gold Award with a partner or a group of girls?**

A. No, a Girl Scout Gold Award project must be a completely individual project.

**18. Q. Can a Gold Award project be done for Girl Scouts?**

A. No, a Girl Scout Gold Award project must reach beyond the Girl Scouting community, and have an impact on the community at large.

**19. Q: What are the money guidelines that girls and troops need to follow?**

A: All of the established guidelines found in *Volunteer Essentials* should be followed by troops and girls working on their Girl Scout Gold Award projects. Of particular importance are these two:

1. Girl Scouts may not raise money for any other organization, in their roles as Girl Scouts. This means that Girl Scout Gold Award projects may not be about raising money for someone else. This is a guideline that is necessary to protect the non-profit status of our organization.
2. Girls may raise money or request donations for their Gold Award project expenses, but need to follow all safety guidelines. Girls must have an approved Girl Scout Volunteer or parent or guardian with them at all times during any Girl Scout activities, and only adults may ask for donations on behalf of a girl's project. Girls may explain the project to another adult, but then an adult – the leader, project advisor, or parent – has to actually ask for any donations of goods or services. For more clarification on this, please contact a GSHG council staff member.

**20. Q: How does a girl measure project impact?**

A: Girls identify their project goals for their community, target audience and themselves by developing success indicators using a matrix provided in the guidelines. Different projects will be measured in different ways. Deciding how to measure impact is part of the Gold Award work.

**21. Q: What if a girl's project is not completed by the council ceremony time?**

A: If a girl wishes to be recognized at the council Highest Awards ceremony in February/March, her Gold Award Final Report paperwork must be finished and submitted to council Program staff by September 30<sup>th</sup>. If she finishes after September 30<sup>th</sup>, her project will be recognized at the following year's council ceremony.