

Gold Award Quick-Start Guide for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors

Before You Begin: Complete the Prerequisites

If you earned your Silver Award, you'll need to complete 1 Senior or Ambassador Journey. No Silver Award? You'll need to complete 2 Senior or Ambassador Journeys (FYI—Girls may complete any of the six available Journeys). Discover, Connect and Take Action! with the skills you learned completing your Journey. The Journey will help you build the courage, confidence, and character you need to make a lasting impact in your community. It also helps you learn how to take the lead and work collaboratively as a member of your team.

Step One: Choose an Issue

What concerns you? Is it students with disabilities? Animal cruelty? What about social justice and equity? Whatever you want to change about the world around you, focus on that. What you care about influences your behavior and how you interact with your environment and with others.



Step Two: Investigate

Research everything you can about the issue. Identify the national and/or global links to your community issue. Use a variety of sources to gather information and evaluate the reliability and accuracy of all your sources. What you learn may challenge your own beliefs and the beliefs of others—and that's OK!

Step Three: Get Help

Invite others to support and take action with you. Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special knowledge and skills to your Take Action project. Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths in others. Respect different points of view and styles of work. Think about who would be an asset to your project goals.

Step Four: Create a Plan

Use GoGold Online to submit your Gold Award proposal to the Gold Award Panel. Complete and upload the supplemental form on our website, www.gscnc.org, under About > Our Program > Highest Awards > Gold Award. Don't forget to submit a letter of endorsement!

Step Five: Present Your Plan

Gold Award Proposals are due the 1st of the month to be reviewed in that month. You can sign-up to present your Gold Award project plan to the Gold Award Panel, but it is not required. Presentation sign-ups open on the 15th of the previous month and close the same day that proposals are due.

Step Six: Take Action

Create a list of what needs to be done, how you want to do it and figure out who will be doing what. When you lead a team, everyone needs a role and responsibilities. Decide on a date for each task to be completed. Keep records as you complete the tasks and if a task requires follow-up, write those items into the plan too. If a task takes more time than you planned, do not be discouraged. Great plans take time!



Step Seven: Educate and Inspire

Celebrate your accomplishment! You met the challenge and made a difference in your world! Demonstrate your courage and share your newly discovered information with the community.

For more information, please see the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting for Seniors* or the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting for Ambassadors*.