

Girl Scout Silver Award at a Glance

| | GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD® |
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| GRADE | Girls must be in 6th, 7th, or 8th grades and a registered Girl Scout Cadette |
| OVERVIEW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete a Cadette Journey ✓ Work as an individual or in a small group where girls take the lead ✓ Take action on a community issue that the girls care about ✓ Help and guidance provided by Troop/Group Volunteer ✓ Suggested minimum 50 hours for each Cadette ✓ Must be completed by 9/30 of the year the girl completes 8th grade *Council approval needed for any money earning |
| TAKE ACTION PROJECT | Individual or group Take Action Project that makes the local neighborhood or community better. ✓ Puts the Promise and Law into action |
| SUSTAINABLE | Girls demonstrate an understanding of sustainability in the project plan and implementation. |
| GLOBAL | Girls connect with new friends outside their immediate community, learn how others have solved similar problems, and determine if the ideas of others can help with their plan. |
| PROJECT APPROVAL | Project plan reviewed by volunteer resource manager;; final report reviewed by Highest Awards Advisory committee ✓ Troop/Group Volunteer submits a Silver Award Report Form for each girl |

Take Action projects for Girl Scouting’s Highest Awards, the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards, must address the root cause of an issue, and come up with sustainable, longer-lasting solutions. These projects are not only girl-led, they address an expressed community need and produce measurable outcomes.

SERVICE VS TAKE ACTION

What’s the difference?

As a Girl Scout, you use both service and action to live out the Girl Scout Law and “make the world a better place!” Girl Scouts often do both community service and Take Action Projects for Journeys and their higher awards projects. Both kinds of projects help communities in different ways. What’s the difference?

Direct and immediate service changes something right now. Longer-lasting action gets at the root cause of issues.

Community service makes the world better for some people “right now.” For example, collecting cans of food for the local food pantry feeds people “right now.” Gathering toys for a homeless family shelter makes kids happy “right now.” Providing clothing and toiletries to people who have suffered a disaster helps them get through a traumatic event “right now.” These acts of kindness are important ways to help some people—right now.

GIRL SCOUT TAKE ACTION PROJECTS

Journey Take Action projects, along with the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Award Take Action Projects, address the root cause of an issue, and come up with sustainable, longer-lasting solutions. These projects strive to make the world a better place for more people for a much longer time. Sometimes, service and action just naturally blend together into one sustainable effort. As a Girl Scout, you use both service and action to live out the Girl Scout Law and “make the world a better place!”

Service Projects are **FOR** the community
Take Action Projects are **WITH** the community

All Highest Award Take Action Projects (Bronze, Silver and Gold) require final paperwork to be submitted to the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee. Upon review of final paperwork, girls (or Junior leader/ adult volunteers for Bronze) will be advised of the status of their project. If projects meet all criteria, girls will be eligible to receive the appropriate earned award.

GIRL SCOUT JUNIORS HAVE UNTIL 9/30 OF THE YEAR THEY FINISH 5TH GRADE TO COMPLETE THE **BRONZE AWARD**

GIRL SCOUT CADETTES HAVE UNTIL 9/30 OF THE YEAR THEY FINISH 8TH GRADE TO COMPLETE THE **SILVER AWARD**

GIRL SCOUT AMBASSADORS HAVE UNTIL 9/30 OF THE YEAR THEY GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL/FINISH 12TH GRADE TO COMPLETE THE **GOLD AWARD**

WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT EVERY GIRL HAS A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE in pursuit of our highest awards. Should a Take Action Project be judged to not meet the quality standards set forth, we will work with girls and their advisors to assist them in bringing their project up to an acceptable level. We are available for consultations, advice and assistance at any time during the process.

SILVER AWARD® KEY POINTS:

- ☀ TAKE ACTION PROJECT: meets a need to improve their neighborhood or local community in collaboration WITH the community, identifies the root cause and has a measurable impact
- ☀ SUSTAINABILITY: girls demonstrate an understanding of how their improvement can continue
- ☀ THINK GLOBALLY: girls discover how it connects/relates to others outside of her school or community
- ☀ SPREAD THE WORD: share your story to get others to act to continue the project



Forms for the Silver Award Take Action Project are available on our website: <http://gsmidtn.org/earn-an-award/> Girl Scout Cadettes need to complete a pre-approval form and submit their proposed Silver Award Take Action Project after completing their Journey and doing research with their community. Final reports received after 10/1/16 not meeting GSUSA and GSMIDTN guidelines will be returned with the pre-approval form for re-submission.

THE GSMIDTN SILVER AWARD PROCESS

1. Cadette Leader or Troop/Group Volunteers submit Silver Award final report for each project completed on behalf of the girls in their troop who have completed a Silver Award Take Action Project.
 - ☀ There are sections for each girl to respond as it relates to her role in the project.
2. The volunteer resource manager sends each girl and her troop leader/volunteer acknowledgement of receipt of Silver Award Final Report
3. Silver Award Final Reports are reviewed at the next Highest Awards Committee by members of this volunteer committee. This committee meets monthly based on the number of projects received..
 - ☀ Projects may be approved as submitted, see #4
 - ☀ If a project cannot be approved as submitted, the volunteer resource manager will send an e-mail to the girl offering suggestions on how to make it approvable or asking for clarification about the project
 - Once clarification/additions are received, process moves on to #4.
4. Within 30-60 days (may take longer if submitted around 9/30 deadline), troop leader/volunteer receives a congratulatory e-mail with Save the Date information for the annual council-sponsored ceremony, Salute to Outstanding Leadership Awards (SOLA).

5. Each girl will receive a congratulatory letter with the same information (or more if available) following the e-mail.
6. Silver Award recipients are invited to the annual, council-wide spring awards ceremony. The final report deadline to be included in this annual ceremony is February 15.
 - * Silver Award recognitions are provided by and presented by the council each spring. Currently this takes place at SOLA which is typically held the first Sunday in May.

