



The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouting. A young woman who has earned the Gold Award has become a community leader. Her accomplishments reflect outstanding leadership and citizenship skills. Girls who pursue their Gold Award aspire to transform an idea and vision for change into an actionable plan with measurable, sustainable and far-reaching results.

### Girl Scout Gold Award Steps

1. **Choose an Issue:** Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about.
2. **Investigate:** Research everything you can about the issue.
3. **Get help:** Invite others to support and take action with you.
4. **Create a plan:** Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.
5. **Present your plan and get feedback:** Sum up your project plan for your Girl Scout council.
6. **Take Action:** Take the lead to carry out your plan.
7. **Educate and inspire:** Share what you have experienced with others.



### ***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 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.

### **GOLD AWARD®** KEY POINTS

- ☀️ **TAKE ACTION PROJECT:** addresses the root cause of an issue while meeting a need in the community and has a measurable impact
- ☀️ **SUSTAINABILITY:** provides sustainable change & includes provisions for continuation of TAKE ACTION PROJECT after the Girl Scout is no longer involved
- ☀️ **THINK GLOBALLY:** girls identify a global or national link to the community issue that their TAKE ACTION PROJECT addresses
- ☀️ **SPREAD THE WORD:** provisions are made to educate and inspire others to join you in addressing your issue



## Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee Gold Award Take Action Project Proposal Process

Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors must submit a Gold Award Take Action project proposal for review. The project proposal must be submitted, an interview completed and approval to proceed received **before** work on a project can begin. There are two methods for submitting a project proposal.

### 1. **SUBMITTING A GOLD AWARD TAKE ACTION PROJECT PROPOSAL**

#### **OPTION 1 ~ PAPER or Downloaded Proposal Form**

- ☀️ Download and save the fillable Adobe PDF proposal form to your computer that can be found on the GSMIDTN website: <http://tinyurl.com/GSMIDTN-GA-Proposal>
- ☀️ **Mail, e-mail, fax or hand deliver** a hard copy of your project proposal to the Girl Scout council office.

#### **OPTION 2 ~ Go Gold Award Online Application Process**

- ☀️ Use the '[Go Gold Online Application](#)' link to go directly to the Gold Award online application.
- ☀️ There you will find an introduction to the steps involved in the Gold Award Application (proposal) process.
  - Scroll down to find the links which will lead to the Gold Award Guidelines; you may download to use it as a working document throughout the Gold Award process.
- ☀️ Click on the 'Register Now' button to begin the application process. You can save this document and return to it as you progress.
  - Remember to **SAVE IT** as you complete each section! When completed, click on 'Submit.' The application will be sent for approval to the Highest Awards Committee.
- ☀️ Be sure to allow sufficient time so that your proposal forms is received at least two weeks prior to when you wish to interview with the Highest Awards Committee. Most available dates for interviews are posted on our website calendar at [www.gsmidtn.org](http://www.gsmidtn.org)

## 2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – RECEIPT OF YOUR GOLD AWARD TAKE ACTION PROJECT PROPOSAL**

- ☀ The volunteer resource manager sends you your troop leader/volunteer acknowledgement of receipt of Gold Award Proposal

## 3. **SCHEDULING A GOLD AWARD INTERVIEW**

- ☀ The Volunteer Resource Manager will contact the girl to schedule the interview as well as provide information about how to prepare and what to expect.

## 4. **PROJECT PROPOSAL PREVIEW**

- ☀ The project proposal is scanned and forwarded to the members of the committee to review prior to your interview using the Standards of Excellence checklist for project proposals.
  - If there are any points of clarification needed, you may be contacted to bring clarification or answers to questions to the interview.

## 5. **“THE INTERVIEW” TAKES PLACE**

- ☀ Interviews are scheduled for 30-minute time slots
- ☀ At the conclusion of the interview, you will be advised as to whether you may begin their Take Action Project or if further information/development is needed.
  - The Volunteer Resource Manager will send you and your troop/group volunteer a follow-up e-mail outlining the additional information/development points.

## **Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee Gold Award Final Report Approval Process**

1. **Mail, e-mail, fax, hand deliver or submit online** your Gold Award Take Action Project Final Report to the Girl Scout council office.
2. The volunteer resource manager sends you and your troop leader/volunteer acknowledgement of receipt of Gold Award Final Report.
3. The final report is scanned and forwarded to the members of the committee to review prior to their next committee meeting using the Standards of Excellence checklist for final reports.
4. Gold 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..
5. Projects may be approved as submitted or may require points of clarification or additional information prior to receiving final approval.
  - ☀ 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 #6.
6. Within 30-60 days (may take longer if submitted around 9/30 deadline), you and your 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).
7. You will receive a congratulatory letter with scholarship information and information about submitting your project to the GSUSA website Map It! page.
8. Gold Award recipients receive their Gold Award pin and a packet of congratulatory letters and certificates at the annual, council-wide spring awards ceremony. The final report deadline to be included in this annual ceremony is February 15.
  - ☀ Currently this takes place at SOLA which is typically held the first Sunday in May.