



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



ONE TAKE ACTION PROJECT AT A TIME

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.

BRONZE AWARD® KEYPOINTS:

- ☀ TAKE ACTION PROJECT: identifies the root cause of an issue, meets a need or improves their local or Girl Scout community and has a measurable impact on the community served by the project
- ☀ SUSTAINABILITY: girls begin to have an understanding of how their actions can be long lasting
- ☀ THINK GLOBALLY: girls consider if there are any other local communities or Girl Scout councils that have this same need
- ☀ SPREAD THE WORD: girls share their story with others who could be inspired to make a difference, too



The Bronze Award final report form is available for download on our website by clicking on Things to Do → Earn An Award → Bronze.

THE GSMIDTN BRONZE AWARD PROCESS

1. Junior Leader or Troop/Group Volunteers submit a Bronze Award final report on behalf of the girls in their troop who have completed a Bronze Award Take Action Project.
2. Volunteer Resource Manager sends troop leader/volunteer acknowledgement of receipt of Bronze Award Final Report
3. Within 30-60 days (may take longer if submitted around 9/30 deadline), troop leader/volunteer receives a congratulatory e-mail followed by a letter authorizing her to purchase Bronze Award Pins in the Girl Scout Shop. This mailing also includes certificates to present the girls at a local ceremony. This can take place at a special Court of Awards held by the troop or local service unit.
4. Each girl will receive a congratulatory letter from the council's CEO, Agenia Clark.
5. Each year Bronze Award recipients are invited to the spring awards ceremony if their final report is submitted by February 15. This invitation is evaluated yearly based on the total number of highest awards earned
 - ☀ Leaders will receive invitations to inform and respond for the girls and families in her troop.
 - ☀ All girls earning their Bronze will be asked to stand as a group to be recognized for earning their Bronze; they will not go onstage since they have already received their awards. This is a great opportunity for the girls to see what is in store for girls earning the Silver and Gold Awards.