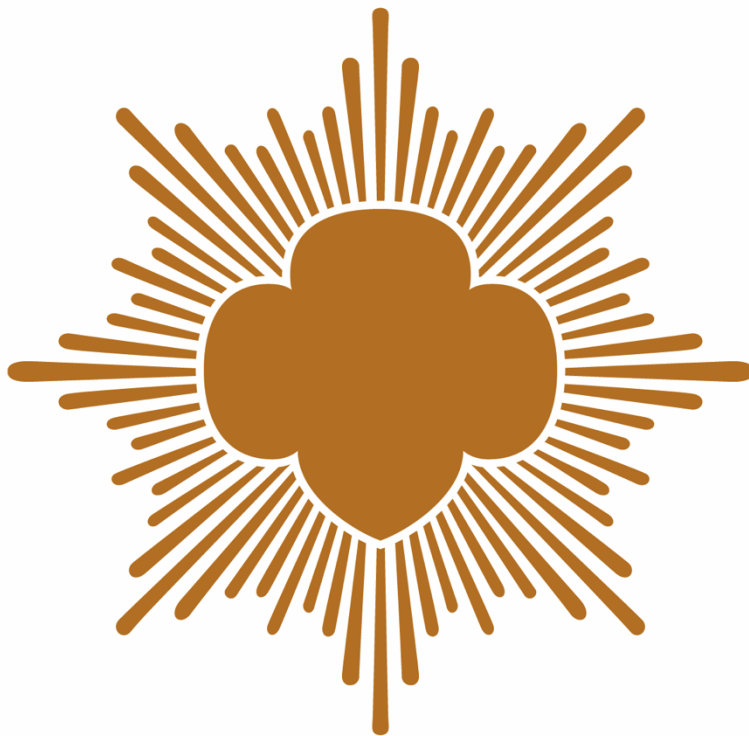


# Girl Scout Bronze Award Guidelines



Self-Study Guide

# Girl Scout Bronze Award Guidelines

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# Girl Scout Bronze Award Guidelines

Welcome to the Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council's self-study training for the Girl Scout Bronze Award Guidelines. This video course is designed to familiarize Girl Scout Bronze Award troop leaders and advisors on the guidelines and processes you need to help your Junior Girl Scouts pursue their Bronze Awards.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest and most prestigious award that Girl Scout Juniors can earn.

## **Your Role**

Your role, whether as a troop leader or project advisor, is to empower Girl Scout Juniors to:

- > Think critically
- > Be open to multiple perspectives
- > Investigate thoroughly
- > Work cooperatively
- > Identify resources within and beyond their local communities

You are supporting girls as they develop into leaders for today and tomorrow.

## **Tools**

You need two primary tools to get a girl started on her way to earning her Bronze Award. The Girl Scout Bronze Award Adult Volunteer Guide is to be used with the Guidelines for Girl Scout Juniors. The guidelines include an outline for the girls to use in earning the award. The outline can also be found in the Junior Girl's Guide. To download these tools, go to the For Girls section of our website. Click on Girl Scout Awards-Bronze Award.

## **Prerequisites**

There are certain prerequisites a girl must fulfill before beginning her Bronze Award. She must complete one Junior Journey and Take Action Project

*Take a moment now to review what you have learned so far by answering questions 1 – 2 in your self-study quiz booklet.*

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## **Bronze Award Process Overview**

Let's now look at an overview of the Girl Scout Bronze Award process. There are specific steps girls should take to earn their Bronze Award:

- Build a team
- Explore their community and identify community needs and resources
- Select a project topic
- Find a project advisor
- Make a global connection
- Make a plan
- Keep a record of the project
- Reflect on what they have learned and share their experience with others

## **Build a Team**

We will now explore each step individually.

Girls will need to build their Junior Team. The team can consist of Girl Scouts, non-Girl Scouts, or a combination of both. A Junior Troop can work on their Bronze Award together. Each member must play an active role in the project. The team will also partner with others in the community to complete the project.

## **Help girls to identify their community.**

Is it their school, their town, their county?

Assist them as they think of ways to “map” their community by identifying community needs and resources.

Walk with them through the community to see what the needs are. Is there a playground that needs renovated or a park that needs a facelift?

What are the resources? What type of businesses or organizations could help them with their project? Have the girls take notes of their discoveries! Discuss what each member identified as a community need.

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## **Have the girls work as a team to select a project topic.**

Help them develop a community contact list of people who can help with their project. Identify how the people can help and what they can offer.

Have the girls prepare their questions ahead of time before approaching community members. They should be clear and to the point as to what they need from each member.

## **Find a project advisor.**

The project advisor is an expert who can answer specific questions about the issue. Have the girls look at the list of people they met while researching the issue. Is there someone who can serve as the advisor? The project advisor should be someone other than the troop leader or parent.

## **Questions to ask before starting the project:**

What steps do the girls need to take to reach their goals?

What special talents can each girl use to help make the project a success?

What did they learn when they earned their Junior Journey award and how will that help them make sure this project runs smoothly?

Do they know enough about the subject to get started or do they need more background information?

## **Now, it's time to help the girls develop a plan.**

Ask these questions to get the girls started.

- What is the issue the girls want to address?
- What is the root cause of the issue?
- What are the tasks to address the issue?
- Who will do each task? What are the special skills of the team?
- How will each task be done?
- When will each task be completed?
- Is it realistic?

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## **Mind-Mapping Tool**

A tool your girls might find helpful in digging toward the root cause of an issue is mind-mapping. Place the community issue in the middle. Add some causes of the issue.

For example, one of the main causes is bad weather. Try to connect the different causes to each other and to the main issue. This will help girls come up with different ways to approach a problem, as well as different ways they might go about addressing the issue.

Girls can create their own mind map on paper, or they can download a free mind-mapping tool at the address here: (<http://www.imindmap.com/us/>).

## **Get Help**

Encourage the girls to seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of others in your community.

- How can they help?
- What resources could they provide for the project?
- Respect different points of view and ways of working.

## **Help the girls identify national and/or global links to the community issue.**

- Has this issue been addressed in other areas?
- How have they approached the issue?
- What can we learn from that approach?
- What might we do differently?

## **Sustainability**

As the girls are planning their Bronze Award project, they need to think about sustainability. How will their project create a lasting change? How will the project continue after their involvement?

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## **Community Service vs. Take Action**

It is important for you to help the girls determine the difference between a short-term community service project and a long-term take action project. An easy way to remember the difference is by whether the project is being done for the community or with the community

## **Community Service**

If the girls are doing something FOR the community they are most likely working on a short-term community service project.

A Community-Service project addresses an immediate need in the community. For example, they may collect clothing for needy families. Although the project addresses a need in the community, it is only for a short period of time.

## **Take Action**

If the girls are doing something WITH the community then they are working on a Take Action Project.

A Take Action Project picks up from where a short-term project leaves off. For example, if they are organizing a clothing drive then help them start a Take Action Project by creating a clothes closet for the community.

## **Create a Budget**

The girls should next create a budget. Consider how the project will be funded. Make sure that the ideas are in-line with the Girl Scout policies. These can be found in Volunteer Essentials, which can be accessed under publications on our website. How will the project be funded? Girls must complete an expense sheet.

## **Document Hours**

Each girl must document a minimum of 20 hours of service on her Project Time Log and turn in with the final report.

## **Evaluation**

How will the girls evaluate their project? How will they measure the impact they have had on the community? Some examples may be that they create a pre- and post-test for presentations or a survey following an event.

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## **Final Report**

Encourage the girl to reflect on what they have learned when they present their Girl Scout Bronze Award Final Report to the Council.

They should summarize the effectiveness of the project and the impact it has had on them and their community.

Include any evaluation results that were obtained.

## **Educate and Inspire**

Encourage the girls to share the project beyond their local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities.

All projects must be completed by Sept. 30 of the girl's 6th grade year.

*Take a moment now to review what you have learned so far by answering questions 3 - 8 in your self-study quiz booklet.*

## **Other Awards**

Did you know Junior girls can earn other great awards and participate in a variety of trainings?

- Junior Aide pin
- Global Action pin
- Bronze Cross pin
- Medal of Honor pin
- Community Service bar
- Girl Scouting Service bar
- Journey Summit pin
- 7 Legacy badges
- 15 Skill-building badges
- 2 Cookie Business badges



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- 2 Financial literacy badges
- Make your own badge
- Safety Award
- My Promise, My Faith pin
- World Thinking Day
- Cookie Activity Award

If you have any questions regarding the Bronze Award process or other Girl Scout awards please contact:

Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council  
Program Department  
[gsawards@bdgsc.org](mailto:gsawards@bdgsc.org).

All forms for the Bronze Award can be found on the Bronze Award page under for girls on our website. You can also access the forms by clicking on the link showing now.

Congratulations! You have completed your training and you are ready to assist your girls to go for the Bronze! Please complete and return the self-study quiz to insure proper training credit.