Girl Scout Gold Award
Project Proposal
A successful Gold Award project has five characteristics: Vision, Passion, Longevity, Connection and Community Impact.

**Vision** - Vision is about looking within the community and seeing a need - a need that is not being met.

**Passion** - Passion is the difference between doing a project just to get it done and doing a project that comes from the heart.

**Longevity** - Girl Scout Gold Award projects should have ongoing effects or be able to be continued or repeated after their completion.

**Connection** - Connecting to those being served and to those who volunteer is another key ingredient.

**Community Impact** - All stellar Girl Scout Gold Award projects go beyond Girl Scouts to affect a larger community.

The Girl Scout Gold Award provides the opportunity for each Senior Girl Scout to put her leadership skills, career interests, and personal values together to serve her community. The project should be “uniquely you” reflecting personal goals, passions and interests. Choose a project that is needed and that is also a challenge to you.

**Note:** This is a *Leadership/Service Project*, not solely a Service Project.

Remember the difference between *Leadership* and *Service*:

**Leadership:** involves working with and leading other people in an activity.

**Service:** can be given alone.

The *Leadership* component takes time to evolve. Being a leader is a complex task that requires creativity, hard work and commitment. Leadership skills are learned through practice and experience and take time and patience to develop. As a Senior Girl Scout carrying out your Gold Award project, you must demonstrate leadership skills while putting your community service project into action. Efficient organization, flexibility, good time management, and strong leadership skills will set the stage for success. Time and thought should go into choosing your project – you are more apt to follow through on something that is important to you. **Do not choose a project that has to be started immediately or it will not allow for the six-week minimum approval process.** Your Gold Award is a unique learning experience that requires time for you to make thoughtful and well researched decisions. A number of completed Gold
Award projects are listed on line at the GSUSA website [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org) as well as other council sites. These may give you some ideas for your own project.

**Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>Girls must be in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade and a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador.</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| OVERVIEW | - Complete two Journeys (Senior or Ambassador) or Earn the Silver Award and complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey  
- Individually girl led; girl selects and recruits Project Advisor  
- Take action on a community issue the girl cares about  
- Help and guidance provided by Project Advisor  
- Suggested hours included in the girl, adult, and council material  
- Council approval needed for any money earning |
| TAKE ACTION PROJECT | Individual Take Action Project that makes a lasting difference in the local community, region, or beyond.  
Put the Promise and Law into action |
| SUSTAINABLE | Take Action Project includes provisions to ensure sustainability. |
| GLOBAL | Girls identify national and/or global links to their selected issue. They learn from others and develop a plan to share the results of their project beyond the local community. |
| PROJECT APPROVAL | Council or Council’s Gold Award Committee |
| RESOURCES | - Senior and/or Ambassador Journeys  
- Gold Award guidelines on GSUSA Web site  
- Adult guide on GSUSA Web site  
- Council guide on the OCN  
- Council learning opportunities |

*Adhere to guidelines set forth in the Safety Chapter of Volunteer Essentials as well as the appropriate Safety Activity Checkpoints.*
Spend extra time on your descriptions. This is the time when you should be writing a great deal of details. The committee wants to know as much as possible up front. This will save you and the committee time later as they will have fewer questions if your application is complete and accurate.

When you fill out your forms for your Gold Award Project Proposal...

1. Have you followed directions for filling out the forms?
   - typed or written legibly and neatly?
   - answered each section and each question?
   - have appropriate signatures?
   - met deadlines?

2. Have you carefully proofread your form?
   - are all words spelled correctly?
   - are your answers (to questions) written in complete sentences?
   - are your sentences punctuated correctly?
   - is your writing grammatically correct?

3. Are your ideas clearly expressed?
   - specific examples?
   - details of your work?
   - clear descriptions?
   - complete and accurate information?
   - logical sequence of plans and activities?

4. Have you done the following:
   - answered all proposal questions in detail?
   - received all appropriate signatures?
   - completed an estimated budget?
   - completed an estimated time log?
   - agree to the Gold Award terms and conditions?

It is important that **YOU COMMUNICATE** with the **Gold Award Committee** to avoid any misunderstanding. Girl Scouts of Black Diamond will make every effort to help you in your quest to earn the Gold Award, but you also must take responsibility to communicate via telephone, email, etc.

*Don’t be afraid to ask questions!*
Successful Girl Scout Gold Award® Projects

A Girl Scout Gold Award project is different from a good community service project. It should involve girl planning, leadership and decision making and focuses on addressing a real need in your community. It encompasses the mission of Girl Scouting — creating “girls of courage, character and confidence, who make the world a better place.” Here are several examples of good service projects that have expanded into great Girl Scout Gold projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Service Project</th>
<th>Great Girl Scout Gold Award Projects!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering many hours at a Park Service site picking up litter.</td>
<td>Reseeding an area with native vegetation and ridding area of non-native vegetation. Creating an interpretive guide on what the area was like 50 years ago and why it is important to preserve native species.</td>
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<td>Working at the local library doing children’s story hours or conducting a book drive for the juvenile detention center.</td>
<td>Creating a reading program for a migrant work camp in the summer. Assuring that each child receives a book (bilingual) of their own. Matching young children with volunteer tutors from the high school Spanish club to create an ongoing service project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteering to collect games and food at the mall for a teen center.</td>
<td>Creating a health access booklet for teens in the community; culminating with a teen health fair with various organizations presenting their services. Admission is canned goods for a teen center.</td>
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<td>Acting in a play to commemorate the 100th anniversary of a community.</td>
<td>Researching and writing a script for a cemetery tour focusing on the founders of the community. Casting parts, creating costumes and arranging for a series of evening cemetery tours to kick off the founding of the community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planting flowers in a park during a community service day.</td>
<td>Working with the city parks department to start a public gardening project in your community. Providing food to a food bank from the garden. Using a greenhouse at a school to start plants yearly with kids and retired folks as mentors.</td>
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</table>
Gold Award Project Proposal

Council Name:   Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council

Council Address:  P.O. Box 507, Charleston, WV  25322

Council Telephone:  (304) 345-7722 or (800) 756-7616   Council Email:  gsawards@bdgsc.org

Prior to submitting the Gold Award Proposal, the Girl Scout and the project advisor must watch the Gold Award training video.

Submit this form at least 4 – 6 weeks before the anticipated start date of your project. Please remember that you may not start your Gold Award project until you have approval from the Gold Award Committee.

A girl has until she turns 18 or September 30th of the current membership year to complete the Gold Award project.

Contact Information

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip Code: ____________

Home Telephone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: ________________

E-mail: ________________________________________________________________

Age: _______ Grade: _________ School: ______________________________________

Service Unit: ____________________________________________________ Troop #: __________________

Troop/Group Leader Information

Troop/Group Leader: ________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip Code: ____________

Home Telephone: ______________ Work Phone: ______________ Cell Phone: ______________

E-mail: ________________________________________________________________
**Project Advisor Information** (Each Gold Award project must have a Project Advisor who is not the troop leader).

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor: ________________________________

Project Advisor’s Organization: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

City: ______________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ________________

Home Telephone: __________ Work Phone: __________ Cell Phone: __________

E-mail: ________________________________

**Prerequisites**: Two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or one journey and the Girl Scout Silver Award. List the journeys that you have completed along with your troop/group leader’s signature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior/Ambassador Journey Books</th>
<th>Take Action Project Theme</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Troop/Group Leader’s Signature</th>
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Girl Scout Silver Award Completion Date

Council Where You Earned the Award

**Your Team**

List the names of individuals and organizations that you plan to work with on your Take Action project. This is a preliminary list that may grow through the course of your project.

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<th>More Team Members</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Role</th>
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Gold Award Project

Project Title: ________________________________

Proposed Start Date: _________________ Proposed Completion Date: _________________

One a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions, giving detailed responses. Don’t limit yourself to one or two sentences.

A. In concise words, describe the issue your project will address and who is your target audience.
B. Discuss your reasons for selecting this project.
C. Outline the strengths, talents, and skills that you plan to put into action. What skills do you hope to develop?
D. Describe the steps involved in putting your plan into action, including resources, facilities, equipment, and approvals needed. (attach a detailed project plan.)
E. Enter the names of people or organizations you plan to inform and involve.
F. Estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs.
G. What methods or tools will you use to evaluate the impact of your project?
H. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?
I. Describe how you plan to tell others about your project, the project’s impact, and what you have learned (Web site, blog, presentations, posters, videos, articles, and so on).
Gold Award Project

Estimated Budget Sheet

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<th>Item(s) Needed</th>
<th>How are you going to get item? i.e. donation, troop sponsored, etc.</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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Gold Award Project Time Log

NAME: _____________________________________________________________

PROJECT TITLE: ____________________________________________________

An estimated Time Log must be submitted with your proposal, with the council's understanding that the hours will change as you work on your project. Record hours spent in all activities of your project, including planning, preparing materials, purchasing supplies, conference time with advisors and consultants, soliciting donations from businesses or holding money earning events, preparation time spent at pre-meetings, special events, actual time spent leading an activity or event, etc. The majority of your time should be spent on the project itself and not the paperwork. Please use your time wisely.

Hours spent on your Journey/Take Action projects are not counted toward the required hours for your Gold Award project.

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<th>Activity</th>
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Total Number of Hours (suggested minimum of 80)

________________________________________  Date  ___________________________________________
Your Signature                                    Troop /Group Leader’s Signature  Date

________________________________________  Date
Project Advisor’s Signature
Girl Scout Terms and Conditions

I have completed the above items as indicated for my Girl Scout Gold Award. I will submit my Gold Award Project Proposal to the Girl Scout Gold Award committee for approval before beginning the project. I have read and understand all the requirements and guidelines for the Girl Scout Gold Award. I have reviewed the Girl Scout Gold Award Girl Guidelines for Girl Scouts Seniors and Ambassadors. I have reviewed the safety information in Volunteer Essentials and the Safety Activity Checkpoints appropriate for my project. I am aware of all deadlines for the Girl Scout Gold Award and the consequences of not meeting those deadlines. Should any major plans change, I will contact the appropriate council staff.

Girl Scout Signature: _____________________________ Date: __________

Project Advisor Signature

I have reviewed the above Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal including the answers to the proposal questions. I am aware of the requirements and guidelines of the Gold Award and will continue to support this Girl Scout during the completion of her project. I have reviewed the Girl Scout Gold Award Adult Volunteer Guide.

Project Advisor’s Signature: _____________________________ Date: __________

*******************************************************************************************

For Council Use Only

Date Received by Council: _____________________________

Date Submitted to Gold Award Committee: _____________________________

Approval Given to Begin Project: _____________________________

Council Representative Signature: _____________________________