



## GIRL SCOUT BRONZE, SILVER and GOLD AWARDS FAQs

### Who is eligible to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

- The Bronze Award – Registered Girl Scouts in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade may earn the Bronze Award.
- The Silver Award – Registered Girl Scouts in 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades may earn the Silver Award.
- The Gold Award – Registered Girl Scouts in 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades may earn the Gold Award.

### Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) from one Girl Scout level to the next?

Yes. Girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer. Gold Award Take Action Projects must be approved by a Gold Award Review Panel before the girl begins work on the project.

### If a girl starts working on her Take Action project and moves, can she still earn her award?

Yes. Councils and Overseas Committees are encouraged to be flexible to work and serve the girls' best interests. If a girl moves, she should work with her council and/or Overseas Committees to complete the project.

### Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards?

No. The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards are done to the best of a girl's ability. There is no need to have special requirements for girls with disabilities — encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the girl individually.

### What pre-requisites must girls meet to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards?

- The Bronze Award –Registered Girl Scouts in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade must complete 1 Junior Journey and a quality project to earn the Bronze Award.
- The Silver Award – Registered Girl Scouts in 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades must complete 1 Cadette Journey and a quality project to earn the Silver Award.
- The Gold Award – Registered Girl Scouts in 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades must complete 2 Senior or Ambassador Journeys OR 1 Senior or Ambassador Journey and a Silver Award before beginning to work on a Gold Award Project. Gold Award Take Action projects must be approved by The Gold Award Review Panel.

### **What are the deadlines for earning the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards?**

- The Bronze Award – The Final Report should be completed and submitted while the girl is still a Junior or prior to the start of her 6<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- The Silver Award -- The Final Report should be completed and submitted while the girl is still a Cadette or prior to the start of her 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- The Gold Award – The Final Report should be completed and submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> of the year the girl graduates from high-school. After this date, the girl's membership expires and she no longer meets the eligibility requirements for the award.

### **What are the deadlines for submitting the Gold Award paperwork for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania?**

All Gold Award Proposals and Final Reports received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month are reviewed by the Gold Award Review Panel at the next panel meeting - in the first week of the following month (i.e, Proposals received by April 15<sup>th</sup> are reviewed in early May). A Graduating high-school senior has until September 30<sup>th</sup> of the year she graduates to submit her completed paperwork.

### **Can a troop work on a Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Award together?**

Each award level brings a new progression of leadership development and each award level has different group guidelines. At the Bronze level girls must work together in a team setting. When girls work on their Silver Award they have the option to work individually or in a small group setting. The Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting and girls must earn the Gold Award as an individual.

### **Can individually registered girl members or Juliettes earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

Yes, any girl, who meets the grade-level and membership requirements, can work on her Girl Scout Gold Award.

### **Who approves the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Award for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania?**

A Troop Leader must consult with her Membership Associate to begin the process of earning the Bronze or Silver Award. The Associate can advise whether a project meets the current guidelines for approval. The Membership Associate should sign the Final Report forms for the Bronze and Silver Awards and submit them to council on the troop's behalf. Gold Award projects are reviewed and approved by a small group of committed volunteers with specific training on the Gold Award Standards of Excellence.

### **Who can be an advisor for the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards?**

Parents or Troop Leaders can advise troops working on their Bronze and Silver Awards. A Project Advisor, someone who provides project support and/or expertise, is required for girls completing their Gold Awards. Cadettes earning the Silver Award may also find it helpful to reach out to a Project Advisor.

### **Who can use the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Adult Guides?**

Any adult is welcome to use the adult guides. The guides were designed for volunteers working directly with girls on achieving their awards – this includes Troop Leaders and Project Advisors.

### **Can Take Action Projects for the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards focus on Girl Scouting?**

Final Take Action Projects for the Girl Scout Bronze Award may focus on service in support of the Girl Scout movement, while Take Action Projects for the Girl Scout Silver Award and Gold Award are

expected to reach beyond Girl Scouting to "make the world a better place." The award progression is planned to offer our younger girls the opportunity to develop their planning and leadership skills within the comfort and familiarity of Girl Scouting if they so choose. As they mature within Girl Scouting, our Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are ready to move beyond the Girl Scout family to share their leadership skills with the wider community. It is in fully exploring their communities that our older girls exemplify the Girl Scout mission to "Build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place."

### **How can we make sure that Girl Scout Awards represent quality projects?**

The best way to make sure that a girl is doing her best is to ensure that both she and her Advisor understand the difference between a one-time community service opportunity or event and a Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Take Action project. In short, Take Action projects should address a community need, make a lasting impact and help girls develop as leaders.

### **What are the suggested hours for earning each of the awards?**

Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. The time it takes to earn the awards will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community. After the journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours for the Bronze Award is 20 hours, the Silver Award is 50 hours and the Gold Award is 80 hours.

### **Is sustainability differentiated at each grade level?**

The guidelines give girls tools to examine the underlying root cause of issues, develop a sustainable project plan and measure the impact of their project on their community, the target audience and themselves. There is progression. While Girl Scout Juniors working on their Girl Scout Bronze Award will reflect on how the project could be kept going, Girl Scout Cadettes plan for sustainability. Seniors and Ambassadors work to ensure the sustainability of their project in order to meet the Gold Award Standards of Excellence. Seniors and Ambassadors earning the Gold Award are expected to assess an issue and its effect more broadly by interviewing community leaders. They should demonstrate that they have done some research, using a variety of sources and they are proposing a well-thought-out solution to a community issue.

### **What does it mean to have a sustainable project?**

A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girl's involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl's involvement.