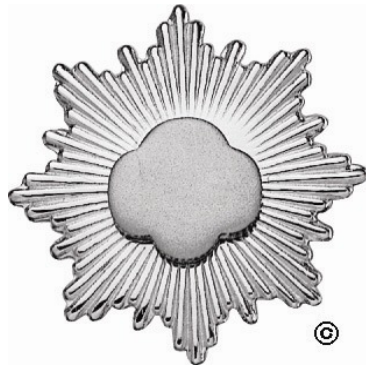


Girl Scout Gold Award Packet



Dear Girl Scout Gold Award Candidate:

Since 1916, Girl Scout's highest award has stood for excellence and leadership for girls everywhere. Soon, you will be joining the ranks of generations of young women who have made a difference in their communities and beyond.

As a Girl Scout, you are part of the sisterhood of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, a global movement comprised of more than ten million girls worldwide who are using their talents to positively impact their communities. With your talent and passion, you too can make changes in your community that can reach people around the world.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award that Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can earn. As you start this process, remember that you are the person in charge! You have prepared for this through your past experiences and are ready to use your decision-making, communication and leadership skills. There is support available to you through your troop/group leader, your advisor and the Program Department at Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois.

If you have questions as you go along your journey, your first line of help is your troop/group advisor, or the person who is supporting you as you work on your Girl Scout Gold Award. However, feel free to contact me at any time and we can work through your questions together.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Angela Grunder
Senior Program Manager and coordinator of Girl Scout High Awards
2644 Pennsylvania Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001
AngelaG@GSEIWI.org
563-583-9169

Steps to Earning Your Girl Scout Gold Award

Guidelines for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors

Step 1: Your Journeys

- A. Complete two Senior or Ambassador journeys
or
- B. Document that you have earned your Girl Scout Silver Award as a Girl Scout Cadette and complete one Senior or Ambassador journey.

Step 2: Choose and Issue

Use your values and skills to choose a community issue that you care about. Check out the Decision-Making Tips in your toolkit. If you have more than one issue that you are passionate about, interview others to help you decide. Practice making your pitch and see how it feels. You can also make a 15-second video, write a bumper-sticker slogan, or come up with another fun way to sum up why this issue is important to you.

Step 3: Investigate

Use your sleuthing skills to learn everything you can about the issue you've identified. Zoom in on your issue to identify a specific aspect of it that you would like to address, because focused effort has more impact than a big idea that's scattered.

- **Log on:** Check news sites and the sites of organizations related to your issue. Explore how the media in other countries cover your issue. **Note:** Before doing your online research, take the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge at www.girlscouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp.
- **Go to the library:** Find books that offer in-depth analysis about your issue, read your local newspaper, and look for magazine articles that offer different perspectives on your issue.
- **Interview people:** Talk to your friends, neighbors, teachers, business owners, and others who can offer information or insights about the issue you've chosen.

Knowing the various causes of a problem enables you to figure out unique ways to solve it. Use the Mind-Mapping Tool in your toolkit to create a diagram that tracks a problem and its possible causes.

Step 4: Get help

While your project must be an individual effort with you taking the lead you'll need support! Invite other people to join your team to support your efforts and help you take action. Consider reaching out to classmates, teachers, friends, and experts from organizations and businesses. Networking with people can make you a more effective leader. You are the leader of your team – plan your project, motivate your team, learn from others. Troop members may help each other with individual projects but cannot work together on one project.

***Choose a project advisor-** a project advisor is a person with expertise in the topic of your Gold Award project. An advisor can help you identify resources, provide insights, solve problems, and provide additional background information on your chosen issue. **Your project advisor cannot be a parent, guardian or troop/group leader.**

Step 5: Create a plan

Going for the Girl Scout Gold Award requires you to address the root cause of an issue and, thus, make a lasting impact in your community—take a look at the Sustainability Tips in your toolkit for ideas. Create a plan that outlines the best use of your time and talent, your resources, and your team's talents, making the most with what you have - that's your challenge!

Step 6: Present your plan and get feedback

Fill out the Project Planning Checklist in your toolkit to organize your thoughts and make sure you have everything you need before you hand in your Project Proposal Form for approval. Include what you've learned, why your project idea matters, with whom you're teaming, and your plan for making your project sustainable. Submitted proposals must be neat and professional. *Proposals that do not look neat or contain spelling errors will not be accepted.*

- Complete your proposal using a word processing program, type or print in black ink.
- Attach your detailed project plan.
- Make copies for both you and your Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor.
- Submit original into your council at least 6 weeks prior to starting your project. Do not begin your project until you have received council approval. **Mail to: ATTN: Angela Grunder, GSEIWI, 2644 Pennsylvania Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001.**

What happens to my proposal once I've submitted it?

1. You and your project advisor will receive an e-mail from Angela Grunder confirming the proposal has been received. (If you do not receive an e-mail from Angela within a week of sending your proposal, please e-mail her.)
2. Girl Scout Volunteers on the Gold Award Committee will review your proposal.
3. After your proposal has been reviewed, you will receive a letter listing feedback from the committee and whether or not your proposal was approved. Don't be discouraged if your Take Action project is not approved the first time you submit your proposal; the Gold Award Committee will give you suggestions on how to take your project one step further so that it will be approved.

Step 7: Take Action

Lead your team, carry out your plan that takes approximately **80 hours** to complete. Use the tools you have developed in the previous steps and remember to check your journey(s) for tips. If you hit a speed bump along the way, learn from it and find ways to adjust your plan. Remember: Time spent on Journeys or other Girl Scout activities (such as Studio 2B books or interest project patches) do not count towards your 80 hours.

Step 8: Educate and inspire

Tell your story and share your results. You can inspire someone who has never before considered taking action to do something! Use the Reflection Tool in your toolkit to identify how this experience has affected you and how your views may have changed.

Before you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report you must share your journey of earning your Gold Award with other Girl Scouts.

Finally, complete your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report. This report is a comprehensive account of what you've done, with whom you've connected, the lasting impact you've made, and what this experience has meant to you.

I've submitted my final report (wahoo!), now what?

1. You and your project advisor will receive an e-mail from Angela Grunder confirming the final report has been received. (If you do not receive an e-mail from Angela within a week of sending your proposal, please e-mail her.)
2. Girl Scout Volunteers on the Gold Award Committee will review your final report.
3. If your final report is approved you will receive a letter from the CEO and Board President of GSEIWI congratulating you on your success. Don't be discouraged if your final report is not approved and the committee asks for more information; the committee likes to have a clear understanding of your project before giving final approval – they want to know all about how you have helped change the world, so feel free to brag!

Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit

Use this toolkit (pg. 4 - 19) to stay organized and keep track of your ideas, contact information, appointments, and plans. Use these tools as you need them—and don't forget that your journey(s) include tools and ideas, too!

Standards of Excellence

When you decide to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, you are on your honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards set a high benchmark for everything you do and invite you to think deeply, explore opportunities, and challenge yourself. Following the Standards of Excellence challenges you to develop yourself as a leader, achieve the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes and make a mark on your community that creates a lasting impact on the lives of others.

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Tools to help you along the way!	Standards of Excellence
1. Choose an issue.	Tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decision-Making Tips – pg. 7 ▪ Interview Tips – pg. 16 ▪ Making-Your-Pitch Tips – pg. 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. ▪ Demonstrate civic responsibility.
2. Investigate.	Tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mind-Mapping Tool – pg. 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source's reliability and accuracy. ▪ Demonstrate courage as you investigate your issue, knowing that what you learn may challenge your own and others' beliefs. ▪ Identify national and/or global links to your community issue.
3. Get help.	Tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teaming Tips – pg. 8 ▪ Project Advisor Tips – pg. 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of others. ▪ Respect different points of view and ways of working. ▪ Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special skills to your Take Action project.
4. Create a plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tools: ▪ Project Planner – pg. 12 ▪ From Good to Great: successful Take Action Projects – pg. 10 ▪ Action Step Chart- pg. 13 ▪ Fundraising Facts – pg. 11 ▪ Sustainability Tips – pg. 9 ▪ Impact Planning – pg. 14-15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead the planning of your Take Action project. ▪ Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.

<p>5. Present your plan and get feedback.</p>	<p>Tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Planning Checklist – pg. 16 ▪ Project Proposal Form – pg. 18-20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit a Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive, and clear. ▪ Describe your plan including the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes you want to achieve and the impact you plan to make on yourself and the community. ▪ Articulate your issue clearly and explain why it matters to you. ▪ Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine your project.
<p>6. Take action.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so that your solution has measurable and sustainable impact. ▪ Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for your Take Action project. ▪ Challenge yourself to try different ways to solve problems. ▪ Use resources wisely. ▪ Speak out and act on behalf of yourself and others.
<p>7. Educate and inspire.</p>	<p>Tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing Tips- pg. 17 ▪ Reflection Tool – pg.17 ▪ Gold Award Final Report- pg. 23-27 ▪ Gold Award Budget Worksheet – pg. 22 ▪ Time Log – pg. 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflect on what you have learned when you present your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to your council. ▪ Summarize the effectiveness of your project and the impact it has had on you and your community. ▪ Share the project beyond your local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities. ▪ Before you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report you must share your journey of earning your Gold Award with other Girl Scouts.

Don't forget to Celebrate! Be sure to thank your project advisor, your team, and all the other people who helped you along the way. You will also be invited to an awards ceremony for you and other girls who have earned one of the highest awards in Girl Scouting. An invitation will be sent to you with details about the event.

Decision-Making Tips

You are about to make a big decision that will have a significant impact on your life and may even change it forever. Take some time to reflect and get inspired. Start with yourself.

- What inspires you? Is it something in your school, community, country, or the world?
- What motivates you into action? Is it people, events, activities, places?
- What skills, talents, and strengths do you have to offer?
- How do you want to make a difference? As an advocate for justice? A promoter of environmental awareness? As a trainer, mentor, or coach? As an artist, actor, or musician? As an organizer of petitions or campaigns? As an entrepreneur?
- What motivates, inspires, and interests others? Can you build a team to support your idea?
- What would benefit the community both immediately and long-term?
- Check back through your Girl Scout leadership journey(s). What interested you that you might be able to translate into an award project?

Need some inspiration? Search through these sites to see what others are doing to make a difference!

- **The Corporation for National and Community Service:** www.serve.gov
- **Global Citizens Corps:** www.globalcitizencorps.org
- **Global Youth Action Network:** www.youthlink.org
- **Global Youth Service Day:** <http://gysd.org/share>
- **Learn and Serve America:** www.learnandserve.gov
- **Taking IT Global:** www.tigweb.org
- **Youth Venture:** www.genv.net

Project Advisor Tips

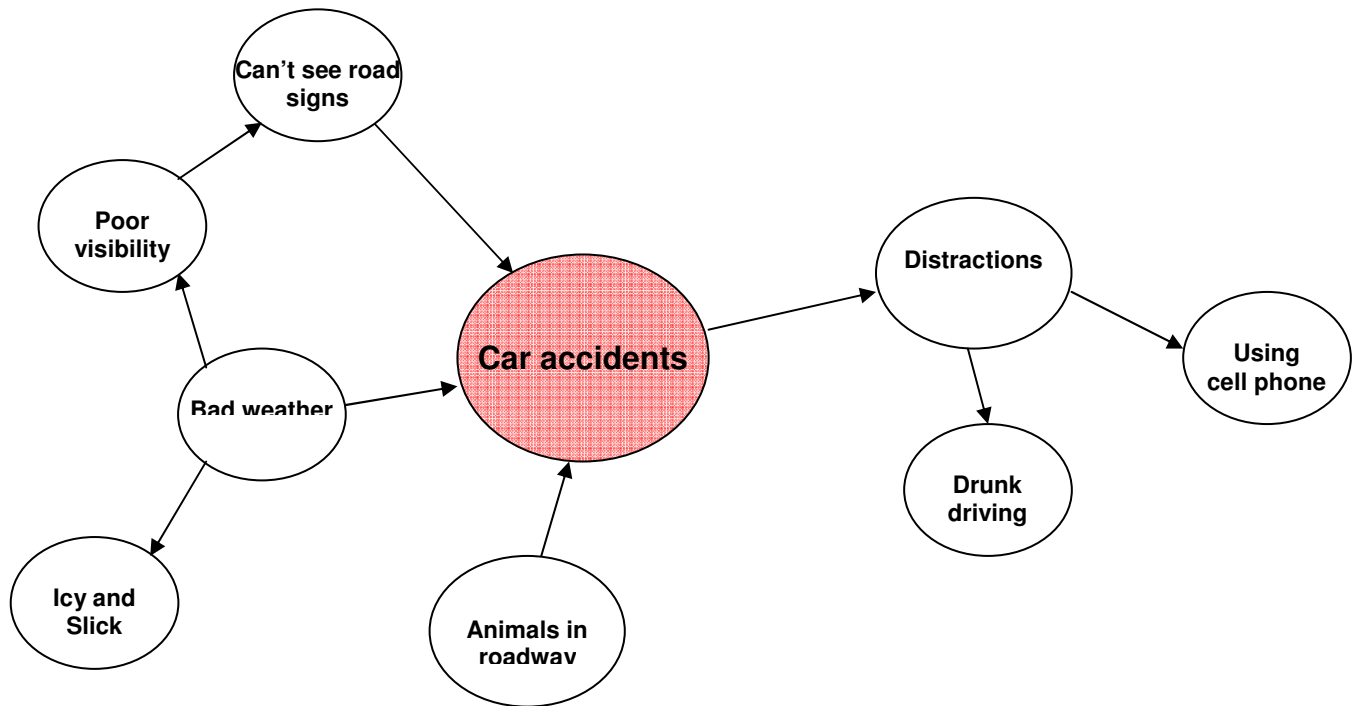
- **Reach out:** You've figured out the issue you're going to address with your project. Now it's time to find an expert to help along the way and give you advice and suggestions. Ask your troop/group volunteer or your council for suggestions. Then, select a few people who are related to your issue area with whom you'd like to work.
- **Safety first:** Before you meet with new people, talk to your troop/group volunteer for some safety tips and do's and don'ts. Make sure your family knows who you're talking to and meeting with.
- **Ask:** Start with your first choice, and if she or he can't help, go to your next choice. (**Hint:** There may be many others who are willing to help!) Approach the people you selected one at a time. Introduce yourself by sending a brief letter or e-mail, explaining what you're working on and the advice you would like. Give some background. Give an estimate, asking about time commitments and which way would be best to communicate.
- **Say thanks:** When an individual accepts, send her or him a thank-you note, along with a brief description of your project and a list of areas where you think you'll need the most help.
- **Think ahead when asking for help:** Before you compose an e-mail or call your project advisor, think about how you can simplify a problem you're having, so that she or he can offer quick suggestions.
- **Share your progress:** Make sure to tell your project advisor (in a quick e-mail or phone call) about your progress and how her or his help is making your project better, easier, and so on.
- **Celebrate together:** After your project is completed, invite her or him to your Gold Award ceremony and/or your own celebration. Don't forget to send a thank-you note!

Your project advisor cannot be a parent, guardian or troop/group leader.

Mind-Mapping Tool

Create your own mind-mapping diagram like the one shown here, using one of the issues facing your community. This activity will help you come up with different ways to approach a problem, as well as different ways you might address it. Follow these instructions:

- Write the community issue in the middle of the paper or anywhere that works for you.
- Think about what some of the causes of this issue could be. In this example, one of the main causes of car accidents is bad weather. Notice how many different causes connect from bad weather.
- Now, try connecting the different causes you come up with to each other and to the main issue. How do the causes connect to each other?
- Do you see a pattern?



Teaming Tips

Think about the people who might be able to help you put your project into action. Choose people who will stick it out until the project is complete. You don't have to limit your team to people your age or just Girl Scouts.

Working in a group will help you make a bigger impact and cover more ground than you would on your own. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you build your team:

- Promote a sense of trust and belonging
- Share ownership
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Communicate regularly and openly
- Respect diversity
- Have fun and be creative
- Be open to new ideas and different ways of working

Sustainability Tips

Girl Scout Gold Award projects are not “one shot”—they create lasting change. You can ensure a lasting project by setting clear timelines, collaborating with community organizations, building alliances with adults and mentors, and keeping good records. Sustainability often involves influencing others to pitch in. Here are some examples of sustainable projects.

Example #1

Community issue: Food waste from school lunches poses a danger to the environment.

Root cause: No community composting or recycling program.

Take action: Create a food-waste composting program for the school.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Work with school officials to find biodegradable plates and cups to use in the cafeteria.
- Work with town/state food waste officials to ensure the system is in place.
- Implement a plan in your school to separate their cafeteria waste into composting, recycling, and trash bins. (Farmers can use the compost to fertilize crops, improve the quality of the soil, decrease soil runoff, and so on.)
- Get a commitment from school administrators to carry on when your project is complete.

Making your project bigger (national and/or global link): Recruit students at schools in the area to develop the program for their schools and/or contact local and state officials about adopting the program.

Global link: Find out how people in other parts of the world deal with food waste in schools. What kinds of programs do they have in place? How can you learn from this?

Example #2

Community issue: Teen suicide.

Root cause: Lack of awareness and prevention.

Take action: Establish an awareness and prevention program.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Produce a short video that can be used in other communities with an online brochure outlining the steps to an awareness and prevention program.
- Share the video and online brochure with schools and community organizations.

Making your project bigger (national and/or global link): Share the program with local youth groups, health/human services agencies, community centers, church/synagogue/mosque community centers, or school district.

**From Good to Great:
Successful Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Projects**

A Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action 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 creating long term change in your community. Below are several examples of good service projects that have expanded into great Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action projects. For more examples of Take Action Projects, log on to www.GSEIWI.org.

Good Service Projects	Great Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Projects
Volunteer for many hours at a Park Service site picking up litter.	Reseed an area with native vegetation and rid the area of non-native vegetation. Create an interpretive guide on what the area was like 50 years ago and why it is important to preserve native species.
Work at the local library doing children's story hours or conducting a book drive for the juvenile detention center.	Create a reading program for a migrant work camp in the summer. Assure that each child receives a bilingual book of their own. Match young children with volunteer tutors from the high school Spanish club to create an ongoing service project.
Volunteer to collect games and food at the mall for a teen center.	Create a health access booklet for teens in the community; culminating with a teen health fair with various organizations presenting their services. Charge "admission" of canned goods for a teen center.
Act in a play to commemorate the 100 th anniversary of a community.	Research and write a script for a cemetery tour focusing on the founders of the community. Cast parts, create costumes and arrange for a series of evening cemetery tours to kick off the founding of the community.
Plant flowers in a park during a community service day.	Work with the city parks department to start a public gardening project in your community and donate the food to a food bank from the garden. OR Use a greenhouse at a school to start plants yearly with kids and retired folks as mentors.

Money Raising and Your Take Action Project

One of the challenges facing every girl “going for the Gold” is financing the project. Sometimes, when the planning gets serious, adjustments have to be made to your project. On the one hand you are asked to meet a need in your community; on the other hand, there are clearly defined ways you are allowed to help as a Girl Scout. So what’s a girl to do?

Here are a few items to help you decide how you can help your community while following standards set by *Safety-Wise* and Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois.

1. You can’t ask for money as a girl member of Girl Scouts. You can’t ask for materials or services (technically called “gifts-in-kind”) either. This asking is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout policies — and for a lot of reasons (legal and otherwise), adults are the only people who can raise money for Girl Scouting.

What you can do: Since adults can solicit money, work with an adult partner if you really need to get a donation of materials or need some funds. You **can** describe your project to others, write a letter, create a PowerPoint presentation or write the grant, but an adult has to do the actual ask and sign on the dotted line. And don’t forget to clear the solicitation with your council. No way around it.

2. You can’t raise money for another organization as a Girl Scout. That means you can’t have a bake sale and tell people that you are giving the proceeds to a homeless shelter for meals, you can’t ask for pledges for a walk-a-thon to benefit breast cancer research, and you can’t hold a benefit dance to raise money for Sally’s kidney operation.

What you can do: This is where it gets a bit tricky. Your troop/group **can** hold a bake sale or birdhouse sale and can charge a fee to an approved event that you put on to earn money **for your troop/group’s activities**. However, **your troop/group must have council permission for any money-earning activity. Your troop/group may then decide to use that money toward** the completion of a Girl Scout Gold Award Project, such as the purchase of materials. It must be a troop/group decision. If you receive donations make sure to write a thank-you note! on how to allocate the funds, which can be used for group or individual projects.

3. You may use money you have earned through a job. Many girls choose to use money from a summer job to pay for parts of their Gold Award Take Action project. Jobs girls have used to earn money include: babysitting, pet sitting, and mowing lawn. You may also receive help from your family. Earning your Girl Scout Gold Award is not meant to be a hardship on a family or individual and we encourage you to work with others to raise money if necessary for your Take Action project.

Hey Girl Scout Juliettes!

If you are an individually registered member, some things are slightly different. **You cannot earn money as an individual Girl Scout for yourself.** The money you earn must go to an account held by a group (troop/group, service unit, or your council). Next, you must present your need for funds to that group. There is no guarantee that you will get back the amount of money you earned for the group, as the dispersal of funds is a group decision. First, check with your council about the options available. There may be a grant process in place for funds earned by individual girls on product sales, or you might be put into a Girl Scout Gold Award interest group or group of “Juliettes” where, working with other girls and an adult advisor, you can develop a funding base for activities. If you have questions about this, please contact Jamie Harrington, the council’s Juliettes coordinator, at JamieH@GSEIWI.org or by calling 319-232-6601.

Project Planner

A Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project addresses the root cause of an issue, produces impact that is measurable and sustainable, and is a local project that links to a national and/or global issue. **Your project plan must be attached to your Gold Award Take Action project proposal.** Here are a few tips to help you lay out your project plan:

- **Set project goals:**

What is your project? _____

Why does it matter? _____

Who will it help? _____

I intend to make a difference in the world by _____

- **Steps to meet the goals:** List step-by-step what it will take to reach your goal. Be as specific as possible so that you can put together a timeline and draw on your team to help you reach your goals.
- **Develop a timeline:** This will help you determine how much time should be allotted to each part of your project.
- **Think about money-earning:** Brainstorm ways to finance your project, if needed, and speak with your Girl Scout troop/group volunteer to make sure that your ideas are in line with Girl Scout policies. Check with Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois. Remember, you can make an impact without spending money by influencing policy and so on.
- **Establish a global link:** Consider how to connect your project to an issue that affects people in other parts of the country or the world.

Use the following questions to help you determine what you need and what you need to do.

- What is the goal that you would you like to achieve with your project?
- How do you plan to achieve this project goal?
- What are the foreseeable obstacles?
- Aside from your team, troop/group volunteer, and project advisor, do you need any one else to help with your project?
- What supplies will you need?
- If necessary, how will you earn money or fundraise?
- How will you measure your success as you go?
- How will your project create lasting change?

Action Step Chart

Now that you have an idea of what you need to do, list out each step and use this chart to figure out what you need, where you can get it, the cost and how to cover those costs!

List the Steps to Achieve Your Goal	What Resources and Materials Will You Need?	Where Can You Get the Resources and Materials?	How Much Will They Cost?	How Do You Plan to Cover These Costs?
<i>Example: Create a flyer</i>	<i>A computer Printer</i>	<i>Use own Computer Local Print Shop</i>	<i>\$0 Approx \$100</i>	<i>Do it myself Donation from Print shop</i>

Taking a step back: Does your plan sound doable? If not, take a step back and refocus. Try to find a different angle to pursue. Work with your troop/group volunteer, project advisor, and Take Action team to find solutions to problems and obstacles that come up along the way.

Impact Planning

Using the Impact Planning Chart, describe the impact you hope your project will have on your community, your target audience, and you.

Impact On . . .	Goals	Potential Impact
Community	What community issue do you plan to address?	What examples of the project impact might you see in future?
Target Audience (workshop participants, other youth, community members, and so on)	What skills, knowledge, or attitudes will your target audience gain?	How will you know that the target audience gained skills or knowledge?

(Impact Planning, continued)

The following is a list of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes.* Check each one you think you will develop through this project. Keep this to review after your project is finished.

Discover:

- I will develop a stronger sense of self.
- I will develop positive values.
- I will gain practical life skills.
- I will seek challenges in the world.
- I will develop critical thinking.

Connect:

- I will develop healthy relationships.
- I will promote cooperation and team building.
- I will resolve conflicts.
- I will advance diversity in a multicultural world.
- I will feel more connected to my community, locally and globally.

Take Action:

- I will identify community issues.
- I will be a resourceful problem solver.
- I will advocate for myself and others, locally and globally.
- I will educate and inspire others to act.
- I will feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

*Want more information on the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes? Visit www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/outcomes/transforming_leadership.asp.

Making Your Pitch

You've seen the advertisements and many times you even remember the slogans. What makes them memorable? It could be because they're clever or catchy or funny. Now that you've chosen your issue, think of a way that you can let people know about it. You should be able to describe the issue you've chosen in about 15 seconds. Here are some tips to help you do that.

- **Make it memorable:** Develop a slogan. What makes you remember the slogan in those commercials on TV? How can you incorporate that into your pitch?
- **Target your audience:** Who are you trying to reach? If you are aiming for kids, think of a story or riddle that would relate this to them. Young kids love to rhyme. If you're reaching out to adults, no cute stories! Think about your audience and try to tailor your pitch so that it connects with them.
- **How you will help:** You've gotten their attention with your story. Now tell them what your project will do to make their lives better.
- **Personalize it:** Why this project? Why this target audience? How will doing this make you a better person?
- **Do it:** Put it all together. Explain your idea in a short and motivating way that clarifies it for you, your potential team, target audience, and supporters. Remember, you've got 15 seconds. Go!

Interview Tips

Find out what you need to prepare and conduct an interview.

1. **Make arrangements:** Decide who you would like to interview, contact each person, and set up a date and time for each interview.
 2. **Preparation:** Gather research and background information to help you formulate questions to ask the interview subject(s). Use these sample interview questions to get you started, and then add some of your own. If you need help choosing an issue, you'll want to ask the following types of questions:
 - What are the biggest challenges/problems that you have faced or are facing?
 - What do you think is the root cause of these issues?
 - What will it take to address these issues?
 - Are there any resources available to do that?
 - What do you consider to be the strengths of the community?
 3. **Conduct an interview:** Bring a notebook to take notes. Here are some tips:
 - You are strongly encouraged to wear your Girl Scout uniform when interviewing people for your Girl Scout Gold Award. The official Girl Scout uniform is a vest/sash, white collared shirt and khaki pants/skirt.
 - Find a quiet place where you'll have each others' full attention, and turn off your cell phones.
 - Start by thanking the interviewee for her/his time, and then briefly describe your project.
 - Keep questions simple and related to the issue at hand. Remember, preparation is key!
 - Ask the person you interview if they would like to hear more about the project as it develops.
 - Send a thank-you note to everyone you interview within a week of the interview. Mention the possibility of a follow-up interview.
 4. **Review the information and, if needed, set up a possible follow-up interview:** Your interview is over. Now what? You have to sift through to find the information that's relevant to what you are working on. If there are some gaps that you need to fill, contact your interview subject(s) to get more information and to find out whether or not you have your facts correct.
-

Project Planning Checklist

You should be able to check all of the following boxes before you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project proposal. Once you can check these, you're ready to submit your proposal!

- Will your project demonstrate your leadership skills?
- Have you set your project goal and identified what you would like to learn?
- Have you chosen your Take Action team? Have you discussed the project with them?
- Have you created a budget for the project?
- Have you created a plan to raise funds, if necessary?
- Have you made a timeline for your project?
- Does your project address a need in the local community and have you found national and/or global links?
- Can your project be sustainable?
- Does your project challenge your abilities and your interests?

Sharing Tips

It's time to tell others about what you have done, what you have learned, and the impact you hope your project will have on its intended audience. Your story may inspire others to take action to make their community and the world a better place!

Hey! Don't Forget:

Before you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, you must share your journey of earning your Gold Award with other Girl Scouts. By talking about the Gold Award process, you will be able to "toot your own horn" about your project, as you educate and inspire other girls to make a difference just like you have! Ask to speak to girls at a day camp, resident camp, program event, troop/group meeting or other places Girl Scouts gather! If you need help finding a place to talk to Girl Scouts, contact Angela Grunder at AngelaG@GSEIWI.org or call 563-583-9169.

Here are a few suggestions on other ways to demonstrate your project achievements and share what you learned with your family, friends and community:

- Create a Web site or blog or join a social networking site (Facebook, MySpace, and so on) to post updates and details about your project and its impact on the national and/or global community.
- Log on to some Web sites where you can share your story:
 - **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts:** www.wagggg.org/en/projects
 - **Taking IT Global:** www.tigweb.org
 - **Global Youth Service Day:** www.globalyouthserviceday.org
- Create a campaign that showcases your cause. Make buttons, posters, and flyers to let people know about your cause.
- Present what you have learned and what your project will do for the community at a workshop for community members.
- Make a video about the effects of your project. Post it online. Invite friends, community leaders, and people from organizations who are tackling the same or a similar issue to take a look at it.
- Write an article for your local newspaper or create a newsletter about your project.

Reflection Tool

Reflection is more than talking about your feelings; it's about thinking critically, solving problems, and interpreting and analyzing the results of your experiences so you can gain a better understanding of who you are. After you complete your project, take some time to assess yourself. Use these questions to help you when talking to others about what you have learned while earning your Girl Scout Gold Award.

1. Which values from the Girl Scout Promise and Law did you employ?
2. Which new leadership skills have you developed?
3. How are you better able to advocate for yourself and others?
4. How has your access to community resources and relationships with adults changed as a result of this experience?
5. How important has cooperation and team building been in developing your leadership skills?
6. What changes would you make if you were to do this project again?
7. Has this helped you get an idea of what your future career might be?
8. Now that you have planned, developed, and taken action on your project, how are you better equipped to pursue future/life goals?

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal

- Complete your proposal using a word processing program, type or print in black ink.
- Attach your detailed project plan.
- Proposals must be neat and professional. *Proposals that are incomplete, do not look neat or contain spelling errors will not be accepted.*
- Make copies for both you and your Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor.
- Submit original to GSEIWI at least six weeks prior to starting your project. Do not begin project until you have received council approval. **Mail to: ATTN: Angela Grunder, GSEIWI, 2644 Pennsylvania Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001.**

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Your E-Mail: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Troop/Group Advisor: _____ Troop/Group Number: _____

Troop/Group Advisor's Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

I. Complete 2 Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journeys

Title of Journeys Completed:

Journey 1: _____ Journey 2: _____

OR

I. Complete 1 Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journey and the Girl Scout Silver Award

Title of journey completed: _____

Girl Scout Silver Award completion date: _____

Council where you earned the award: _____

II: GET READY

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor: _____

Project Advisor's Phone: (____) _____ Project Advisor's E-Mail: _____

Attach copy of timeline developed by you and your advisor.

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 throughout the course of your project.

Team Members	Affiliation	Role

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois
(Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal, continued)

III. Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Title of Project: _____

Proposed start date: _____ Proposed completion date: _____

A. Describe the issue your project will address and who your target audience is. Remember your 15-second pitch.

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. List the people or organizations you plan to inform and involve.

(Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal, continued)

E. Estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs.

F. 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, including Girl Scouts, about your project, the project's impact, and what you have learned (Web site, blog, presentations, posters, videos, articles, etc.).

Attached is my detailed project plan that describes the steps involved in putting my plan into action, including resources, facilities, equipment, and approvals needed.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Advisor signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____ Date: _____
 Council Representative

Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Project Budget Form

Great Budgeting Tip: Start by figuring out what you need and where you can get it for little or no cost. If that's not possible, think about how much it is going to cost and how you can cover those expenses. Use your influence and leadership skills to come up with ways that you can make a difference that might not include earning money.

Income Item

(Money from fund raisers, donations, event fees, etc.)

Amount

Income Total _____

Expense Item

Amount

Expense Total _____

State any income left over and what the money was used for:

Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report

- Complete your final report using a word processing program, type or print in black ink.
- Proposals must be neat and professional. *Final reports that are incomplete, do not look neat or contain spelling errors will not be accepted.*
- Attach your time log and budget form.
- Make copies for both you and your Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor.
- **Attach a photo of you working on your project.** *This photo will not be returned.*
- **Mail to: ATTN: Angela Grunder, GSEIWI, 2644 Pennsylvania Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001.**

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Your E-Mail: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Troop/Group Advisor: _____ Troop/Group Number: _____

Troop/Group Advisor's Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor: _____

Project Advisor's Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Title of Project: _____

Team Members	Affiliation	Role

I. Tracking Project Hours

Date started: _____ Date Completed: _____

II. Reflection and Evaluation

A. Briefly summarize your project. Include the issue your project addressed and the methods you used for meeting the project objectives.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois
(Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued)

B. Discuss the benefits your project provided to others in the community.

C. Detail the method used for evaluating the impact of your project.

D. What did you learn about yourself as a result of this project?

E. What aspects of your project would you change or do differently?

F. What was the most successful aspect of your project?

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois
(Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued)

Impact Community and Target Audience

Using the Impact Chart, describe the impact signs your project has had and will have on your community and your target audience.

Impact On:	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact	Possible Future Impact
Community	What community issue was addressed?	What are concrete examples that you made a difference?	What examples of the project impact might you see in future?
Target Audience (workshop participants, other youth, community members, and so on)	What skills, knowledge, or attitudes did your target audience gain?	What examples demonstrate that the target audience gained skills or knowledge?	What would be examples of a long-term impact on your target audience?

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois
(Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued)

Impact on You

Check each of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes* listed you think you were able to develop through your Take Action project. Under each leadership key (Discover, Connect and Take Action) Describe one or two examples of ways you have grown as a leader.

Within each leadership key (Discover, Connect and Take Action) list one or two examples of your growth as a leader.

Discover:

- I developed a stronger sense of self.
- I developed positive values.
- I gained practical life skills.
- I sought challenges in the world.
- I developed critical thinking.

Your growth as a leader: _____

Connect:

- I developed healthy relationships.
- I promoted cooperation and team building.
- I resolved conflicts.
- I advanced diversity in a multicultural world.
- I felt more connected to my community, locally and globally.

Your growth as a leader: _____

Take Action:

- I will identify community issues.
- I will be a resourceful problem solver.
- I will advocate for myself and others, locally and globally.
- I will educate and inspire others to act.
- I will feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

Your growth as a leader: _____

*Want more information on the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes? Visit www.girlscouts.org

