

Girl Scout Gold Award

Updated 2007-2008

What is it?

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting; it recognizes the leadership, effort, and impact girls 14-18 have had on their communities. Only about five percent of eligible girls take the rigorous path towards earning this prestigious award, but those who complete the journey change the lives of others and their own in amazing and significant ways. In addition to the Council recognition, a growing number of colleges and universities are awarding scholarships and grants to Girl Scout Gold Award recipients. Also, Girl Scout Gold Recipients are eligible to apply for GSUSA's Elks Scholarships.

Girl Scouts must be age 14 or going into grade 9 to work on steps 1-3 of their Girl Scout Gold Award. Girls must be 15 or going into grade 10 to start work on Steps 4-7. Girls must complete the Girl Scout Gold Award project and paperwork before age 18 or the end of their final girl membership year, September 30th.

Keep these points in mind while thinking about your Girl Scout Gold Award project:

- It must reach outside the Girl Scout community.
- It must satisfy a need in the community.
- It must continue in the future when you are through with your project.
- It must be original and unique in your community.
- Is it something you are interested in?

When thinking of a Girl Scout Gold Award project, do not expect to complete this great achievement overnight. It is intended to take a long period of time to complete. It takes planning, hard work, and commitment. Remember, this is the highest award in Girl Scouting and will not be given out undeservingly. We salute the young ladies who will strive to earn this great achievement!

There are seven steps to completing the Girl Scout Gold Award. The first four steps build up to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project and must be completed before the Gold Award Project is undertaken.

The seven steps are:

1. *Build a Framework.*

- ❑ ***Must attend*** either the Girl Scout Gold Award section of the OGCS Members Workshop or the Girl Scout Gold Award section of the Mini Workshop held in January. Obtain an ***updated 2007-2008*** Girl Scout Gold Award Packet. After attending one of these workshops send in Form 1, Intent to Earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- ❑ Read "Go For it" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert.
- ❑ Choose, meet with, and make agreement with an advisor. This should not be a member of your family or your troop advisor. Develop a timeline for steps 2-4. Think about where Step 5 might fit on your timeline.

Girl Scout Gold Award continued

2. Earn the Girl Scout Gold Award Leadership Award charm.

- ❑ Earn the three Interest Project Awards found in *Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11-17* related to parts of the Girl Scout Law.
- ❑ Earn the charm for STUDIO 2B Focus book *Take Charge*.
- ❑ Take Action: 30 hours in a leadership role.
- ❑ Use "Go For It" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B pages to keep records, journal for discussion, & evaluate with advisor.

3. Earn the Girl Scout Gold Career Award charm.

- ❑ Do a combination of the following for a total of 40 hours: career-shadow one or more people, get an apprenticeship or internship, visit colleges or trade schools, organize a career fair, publish a newsletter or create a web page about careers for school.
- ❑ Use "Go For It" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B pages to keep records, journal for discussion, & evaluate with advisor.

4. Earn the Girl Scout 4 B's Challenge charm.

- ❑ Become, Belong, Believe, & Build
- ❑ Use page 18 in STUDIO 2B Focus book: *Write Now*.
- ❑ Use "Go For It" Girl Scout Silver Award STUDIO 2B insert to keep records, journal for discussion, & evaluate with advisor.

5. Plan Your Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

- ❑ Plan it. Planning and action steps should take a minimum of 65 hours. Use "Go For It" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert to keep records, journal for discussion, & evaluate with advisor.
- ❑ Know more about it – research information on it.
- ❑ Choose it – brainstorm ways to solve a problem & create a budget.
- ❑ Map it – create a timeline of project steps & list of resources needed. Seek approval from Girl Scouts of NOARK Council on any money earning projects or gifts related to the project.
- ❑ Submit Form 2, Girl Scout Gold Award Project Plan, to Girl Scouts of NOARK Council for council approval by the Girl Scout Gold Award Task Group. A girl can **NOT** begin work on her Girl Scout Gold Award project until she has received council approval. **Please review next section titled Gold Award Deadlines.**
- ❑ Receive feedback and meet with Girl Scout Gold Award Task Group. Adjust plans as needed.

6. Take Action.

- ❑ Do it! Put plans into action.
- ❑ Be flexible.
- ❑ Adjust plans as needed.
- ❑ Carry out project.
- ❑ Use "Go For It" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B pages to keep records, journal for discussion, & evaluate with advisor.

7. Think About it.

- ❑ Use "Go For It" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B pages to keep records, journal for discussion, & evaluate with advisor.
- ❑ Submit Form 3, Girl Scout Gold Award Final Project Report, to Girl Scouts of NOARK Council.
- ❑ Be proud of a project well completed!
- ❑ Celebrate with Girl Scouts of NOARK Council at the Annual OGCS Recognition Reception. Note: The Girl Scout Gold Award will be presented at the 7th Annual OGCS Recognition Reception to be held on June 14, 2008 in Fayetteville if Final Project **is received by May 1st, 2008**. If you are unable to attend the reception then your Girl Scout Gold Award will be sent to your advisor after the reception date.

Gold Award Task Group

Deadlines & Advice

Each girl expecting to be finished with her Gold Award & is expecting to be recognized at the 7th Annual OGCS Members Recognition Reception **must submit Form II by Friday, April 4th, 2008**.

Gold Award Task Group interviews will be held in April at the Fayetteville Service Center (some girls may interview earlier, depending on their project timeline). Each girl will be contacted about her interview date.

Once project is approved, each girl may move forward with her project. **Form III is due Thursday, May 1st** and must be in OGCS Program Director's hands on that day. Gold Award Task Group will notify each girl of their final interview and Gold Award status by Monday, June 2nd, 2008. Again, some girls will complete their project before this timeline.

Gold Award Recipients will be recognized at the 7th Annual OGCS Members Recognition Reception if these deadlines are followed. Otherwise, Gold Award Recipients will be recognized the following year.

Please note that if you want to be recognized in June 2008 at the OGCS Recognition Reception and wait until the April 4th deadline to turn in Form II, you will have less than a month to finish your project because Form III is due on Thursday, May 1st. Please pay attention to all requirements. Gold Award seekers will have two interviews with the Gold Award Task Group and has to have their approval before actual project can begin. Therefore, you will be leaving yourself less than a month to finish your project.

If you want to be recognized the following year, then you will have to follow similar deadlines.

Turning in paperwork early is always a good thing! Especially, if the Task Group asks you to redo something within your project. Remember, the Gold Award Task Group's duties is to make sure you meet all requirements and follow the guidelines set out before you.

Gold Award recipients will receive their Gold Award pin and their advisor will receive their advisor pin at the OGCS Recognition Reception. If you are unable to attend, pins will be mailed to the Gold Award recipient the week after the OGCS Recognition Reception.

