



The Girl Scout Gold Award



Guidelines for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
2011-2012

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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. Fulfilling the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award starts with completing two Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador leadership journeys or having earned the Silver Award and completing one Senior or Ambassador leadership journey. Each leadership journey you complete gives you the skills you need to plan and implement your Gold Award project. **This step includes completing all of the requirements for the journey award and the Take Action project, which is the service component for completing the journey. Your journey Take Action project should be a smaller scale project that takes significantly less time to complete than your Gold Award project.**

After you have fulfilled the leadership journey(s) requirement, 80 hours is the minimum hours for completing the following steps: identifying an issue, investigating it thoroughly, getting help and building a team, creating a plan, presenting your plan, gathering feedback, taking action, and educating and inspiring others.

Girl Scout Gold Award General Information

It is important to remember the following requirements:

1. **Pre-requisites:** Before submitting your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal for approval, you must complete two leadership journeys or one leadership journey plus have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award.
2. **Approval:** You must submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal and meet with the Gold Award Volunteer Committee for approval before you begin your Gold Award project.
3. **Leadership:** Your Gold Award project must be an individual project that allows you to demonstrate your leadership skills.
4. **Community Impact:** You need to address a community need beyond the Girl Scout community for your Gold Award project.
5. **Creativity:** Use your creativity to develop a project that is new, unique and uses your skills and talents.

- 6. **Time Commitment:** You need to spend a minimum of 80 hours planning and implementing your Gold Award project. This time cannot include time you have spent earning money to support your project.
- 7. **Sustainability:** You must take steps to ensure that your project lives on and has a lasting impact in the community.

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.

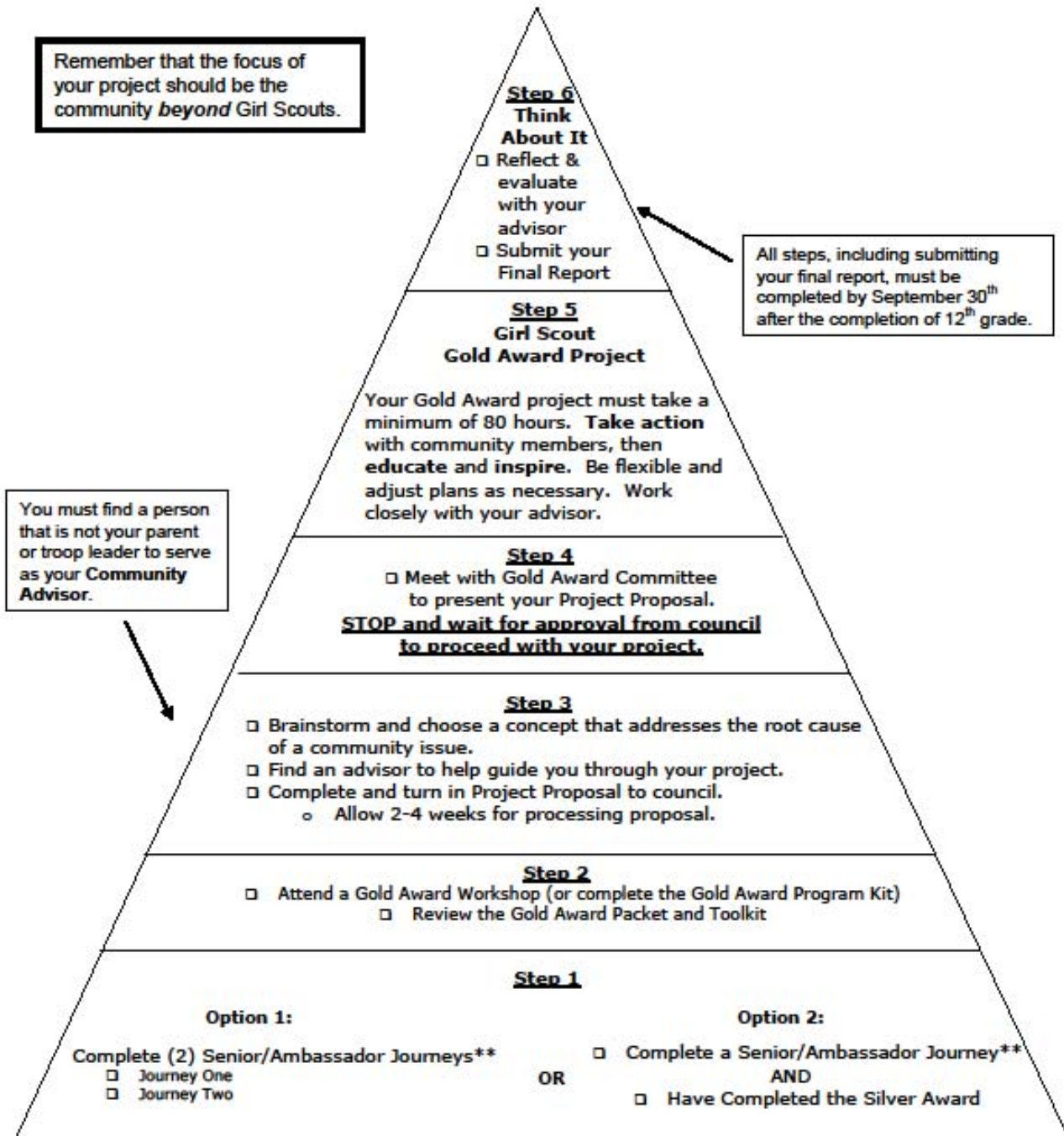
Girl Scout Gold Award Steps and Standards of Excellence

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p>1. Choose an issue: Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. ▪ Demonstrate civic responsibility.
<p>2. Investigate: Research everything you can about the issue.</p>	<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.
<p>3. Get help: Invite others to support and take action with you.</p>	<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 Gold Award project.

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps and Standards of Excellence (continued)

<p>4. Create a plan: Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead the planning of your Gold Award project. ▪ Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.
<p>5. Present your plan and get feedback: Sum up your project plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit a Project Proposal 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: Take the lead to carry out your plan.</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 Gold Award 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: Share what you have experienced with others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflect on what you have learned when you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report. ▪ 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.

Girl Scout Gold Award Pyramid Pathway



**Note: The Take Action Project in each Journey is SEPARATE from the Gold Award Project which is a large-scale Take Action Project.

Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit

Stay organized and keep track of your ideas, contact information, appointments, and plans with the Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit. This toolkit includes a Standards of Excellence tracking sheet, tips, planning guides, and advice to help with each step of your Gold Award project. Use these tools as you need them—and don't forget that your leadership journey(s) include tools and ideas, too!

1. **Choose an 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.

Tools:

- **Decision-Making Tips (page 9)**
 - **Interview Tips (page 10)**
 - **Making-Your-Pitch Tips (page 11)**
2. **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.

Tool:

- **Mind-Mapping Tool (page 12)**

- 3. Get help:** 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. Also, the more people you have behind you, the more likely you will positively influence your community. You are the leader of your team—plan your project, motivate your team, learn from others. Choose a project advisor, a person with expertise in the topic of your Gold Award project, but is not your parent/guardian or troop leader. An advisor can help you identify resources, provide insights, solve problems, and provide additional information on your chosen issue.

Tools:

- **Teaming Tips (page 13)**
- **Project Advisor Tips (page 15)**

- 4. 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!

Tools:

- **Financing Your Project and Ways to Fund Your Project (pages 13-14)**
- **Project Planner (page 16)**
- **Planning and Budgeting Tips (page 17)**
- **Sustainability Tips (pages 18-19)**

5. **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 Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal. (It is up to your Gold Award advisor/troop volunteer to approve completion of activities in steps 1-3. Submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal after completing steps 1-3 and at least one month prior to your Gold Award presentation.) On your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal include what you've learned, why your project idea matters, with whom you're teaming, and your plan for making your project sustainable. **Girl Scout Council approval is required before you can continue working on your project.** Once your project is approved, take a look at your Project Planner from step 4. Do you have everything you need?

Tools:

- **Project Planning Checklist (Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal)**
- **Project Proposal Form (Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal)**

6. **Take action:** Lead your team, carry out your plan. Use the tools you have developed in the previous steps and remember to check your leadership journey(s) for tips. If you hit a speed bump along the way, learn from it and find ways to adjust your plan.
7. **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. Finally, complete your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, which 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.

Tools:

- **Sharing Tips (page 22)**
- **Reflection Tool (page 24)**
- **Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report (Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report)**

Congratulations! Celebrate! Be sure to thank your project advisor, your team, and all the other people who helped you along the way.

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
1. Choose an issue.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. ▪ Demonstrate civic responsibility.
2. Investigate.		<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.		<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 Gold Award project.
4. Create a plan.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead the planning of your Gold Award project. ▪ Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet (continued)

<p>5. Present your plan and get feedback.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit a Gold Award Project Proposal 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 Gold Award 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>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflect on what you have learned when you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report. ▪ 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.

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? Can you think of another role?
- 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 address issues in their community.

- United We Serve: 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
- Prudential: www.spirit.prudential.com
- Taking IT Global: www.tigweb.org
- United Nations Millennium Development Goals: www.un.org/millenniumgoals
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts: www.waggs.org
- Youth Venture: www.genv.net

Interview Tips

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

- 1. Making arrangements:** Decide who you would like to interview, contacting the person, and set up a date and time.
- 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?

If, on the other hand, you've already chosen an issue, move ahead to the interview.

- 3. Conducting the interview:** Bring a notebook to take notes. Here are some tips:
 - Find a quiet place where you'll have each others' full attention, and agree to 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. Do your research. Preparation is key!
 - Ask the person you interview if she or he would like to hear more about your 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. Reviewing information and setting 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. Remember to check and recheck your facts!

Making Your Pitch

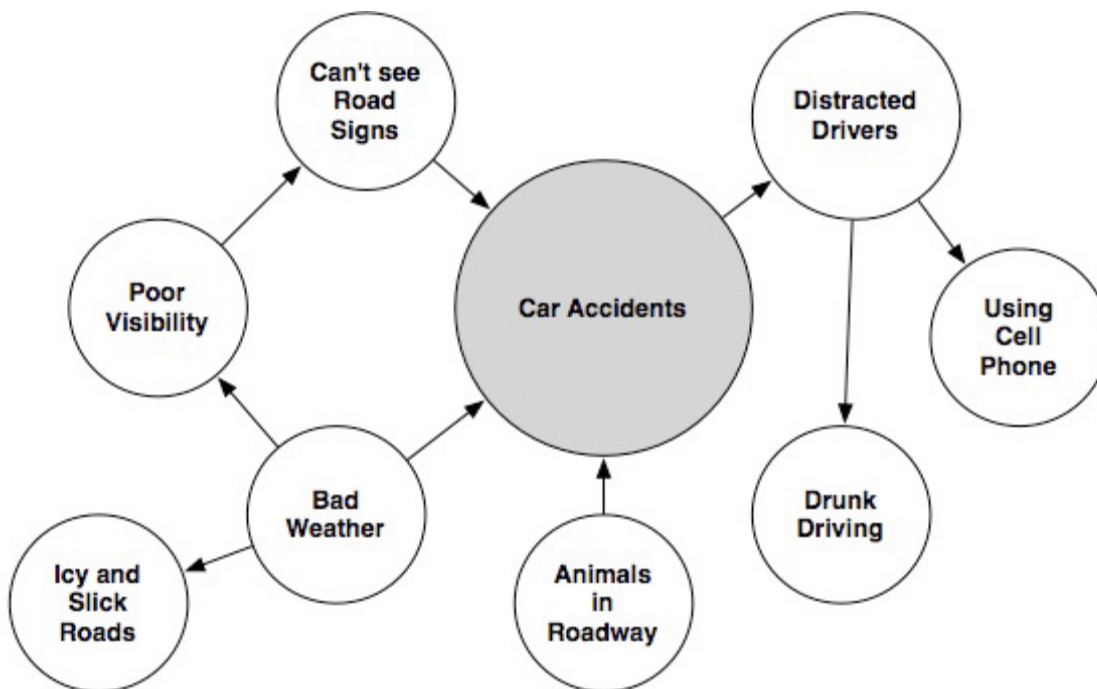
You've seen the advertisements and most times you even remember the slogans. What makes them memorable? It could be because they're clever or catchy or funny. Now that you've chosen your issue, think of a way that you can let people know about it. You should be able to describe the issue you've chosen 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 for you, your potential team, target audience, and supporters. Remember, 15 seconds. Go!

Mind-Mapping Tool

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



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. It might be challenging at times, but remember to always be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, and responsible for what you say and do. 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
- Keep learning and growing

Financing Your Project

When designing your Girl Scout Gold Award project, be realistic about planning a budget. Financing your project is a huge part of the process. You will gain great leadership skills by conducting supply drives in your neighborhood, doing council-approved money-earning projects, or finding new ways to serve your community that don't require a lot of cash or fancy supplies. Be prepared to share your budget during your presentation to the Girl Scout Gold Award approval committee.

When planning your Gold Award project, remember:

- Girl Scouts cannot raise money for other organizations
- As a girl member, you cannot personally ask for a donation of items. It is your responsibility to share information about your project and then an adult must ask, on your behalf.

Ways to Fund Your Project

Event Fees

If you are hosting events for your project, you can collect event fees to cover professional services, supplies and food. However, Girl Scout Gold Award Projects cannot make money and excess project money cannot be deposited into a troop or Juliette account.

Donations

Donations can come in the form of supplies, services, or volunteer time.

Troop or Juliette Account

You can use money from your troop or Juliette account. The decision to use troop funds for a Girl Scout Gold Award project must be agreed upon by all troop members.

Cookie Credits

Cookie credits can be used to finance your Girl Scout Gold Award project. Cookie credits redeemed cannot expire before submitting your final report. After your project has been approved and completed, submit cookie credits and your project receipts with your final report. You will receive a reimbursement check through the mail.

Personal Contribution

You are permitted to make personal contributions to carry out your project. This is a great way to invest in your leadership development.

Family Contribution

Family members can also make a contribution (up to 25 percent of the project costs). However, we encourage you to work with others to earn the money. That's part of the process. "Going for the Gold" is not meant to be a hardship on a family or individual.

Money-Earning Activities

Remember to follow all troop money-earning guidelines outlined on the River Valleys website. Girl Scout Gold Award projects *must* comply with all council money-earning guidelines.

Grants

You may be able to apply for a grant to help you fund your project, but you must first receive approval from River Valleys. Please contact funddevelopment@girlscoutsrv.org if you are interested in applying for a grant. Your Girl Scout Gold Award advisor, your community advisor, or another adult has to do the actual ask and sign on the dotted line.

Project Advisor Tips

Here you'll find tips for selecting and working with your project advisor.

- **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 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 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 Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony and/or your own celebration. Don't forget to send a thank-you note!

Project Planner

A Girl Scout Gold Award 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. 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? _____
 The difference I intend to make in the world is _____

- **Steps to meet the goals:** List step-by-step what it will take to reach your goal. Think about specific tasks you will need to accomplish. 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 and, if needed, speak with your Girl Scout troop volunteer to make sure that your ideas are in line with the Girl Scout policies outlined in *Volunteer Essentials* and River Valleys' Troop Money-Earning Project Approval Form. Remember, you can make an impact without spending money by influencing policy and so on. See pages 13-14 of this packet for more information.
http://www.girlscoutsrv.org/forms_resources/grants_and_finance/
- **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 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 volunteer, and project advisor, who else can you recruit to help with your project?
- What supplies will you need?
- How will you finance your project?
- How will you measure your success as you go?
- How will your project create lasting change?

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: 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 and get commitments that they will continue to use the resources.

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.

Impact Planning

Using the Impact Planning Chart, describe the impact you hope your project will have on your community, your target audience, and you. You will need to submit the same chart with your Project Proposal, so use this chart to brainstorm your answers.

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?

Project Planning Checklist

The answers to all of the questions below must be yes before you submit your plan for council approval.

- 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 project 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?

Once you answer yes to all the items on this checklist, you're ready to submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal Checklist

Be sure the following is included before sending in your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal:

- Completed Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal with signatures from you, your Project Advisor, your Troop Volunteer and your parent/guardian.
- Completed answers to the Gold Award Project questions (A-J), typed on a separate sheet of paper
- Girl Scout Gold Award Proposed Project Budget
- Girl Scout Gold Award Proposed Project Timeline

Send these items to:

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
ATTN: Girl Scout Gold Award
5601 Brooklyn Blvd
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

You do not need to turn in the paperwork that you filled out while planning your Gold Award project (i.e. the Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet, Planning and Budgeting Tip chart and the Impact Planning chart.) That is for your reference when planning and implementing your project.

Remember to make a copy of everything you turn in. Mail or hand-deliver the materials listed above at least one month before you plan to begin your Girl Scout Gold Award project. Applications may be emailed, but the candidate is required to follow-up by phone to ensure that it has been received.

Sharing Tips

It's time to tell others about what you did, 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 do something to make their community better!

Here are a few suggestions for how you can demonstrate your project achievements and share what you learned:

- 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/take_action
 - Taking IT Global: www.tigweb.org
 - Global Youth Service Day
- 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.

Impact Reflection Chart

Using the Impact Chart, describe the impact signs your project has had and will have on your community and your target audience. You will need to submit the same chart with your Final Report, so use this chart to brainstorm your answers.

Impact On . . .	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact	Possible Future Impact
Community	What community issue was addressed?	What examples of the project impact might you see in future?	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?

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.

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 Final Report Checklist

Be sure the following is included before sending in your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report:

- Completed Girl Scout Gold Award final report form with signatures from you, your Project Advisor, your Troop Volunteer and your parent/guardian.
- Completed answers to the Gold Award Project questions (A-I), typed on a separate sheet of paper
- Girl Scout Gold Award Final Project Budget
- Girl Scout Gold Award Final Project Timeline
- Submit a signed Photo/Interview Consent Form giving Girl Scouts permission to use your photos and photos that may be taken of you at the awards ceremony.
- Receipts and cookie credits, if applicable
- Photographs—Please e-mail the following photos to goldaward@girlscoutsrv.org. Otherwise, photos may be submitted on a CD or in hard copy (in an envelope with your name printed on the envelope and on the back of each photograph). Photos will not be returned.
 - “Head-and-shoulders” school-like photograph of you to be used for Girl Scout Gold Award publicity.
 - 5-10 photographs of your project being implemented, including a picture of you doing your project.
- Completed copy of the online award publicity form located at http://www.girlscoutsrv.org/forms_resources/award_publicity_form/.

Send these items to:

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
ATTN: Girl Scout Gold Award
5601 Brooklyn Blvd
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Remember to make a copy of everything you turn in. Scrapbooks and other materials do not need to be submitted with your final report. These items may be displayed at the Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony.



Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal
 Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys

Submit the original completed form to council **four** weeks prior to your intended start date. **You must meet with the Gold Award Committee for project approval before starting your Gold Award project.** Make copies for your Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor and you to keep.

Your Information (Please type or print clearly)

Name: _____ Date submitted: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Best way to contact you: Phone or E-mail

Graduation Year: _____ Service Unit: _____

Troop Number: _____ Troop Volunteer: _____

Troop Volunteer's Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor: _____

Project Advisor's Organization: _____

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

Service Center you would like to have your Gold Award Presentation:

Brooklyn Center Northfield Redwood Falls Rochester St. Paul

Project Information

Project Title: _____

Project Start Date (estimated): _____

Project End Date (estimated): _____

Prerequisites: Two Senior or Ambassador leadership journeys or one leadership journey and the Girl Scout Silver Award. List the leadership journey(s) that you have completed along with your troop volunteer’s signature. Remember, this step includes completing all of the steps for the journey award and completion of the Take Action project.

Senior/Ambassador Leadership Journey Books	Date Completed	Troop Volunteer’s Signature
1.		
2.		

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 Gold Award project. This is a preliminary list that may grow through the course of your project.

Team Members	Role

Gold Award Project

Please type your answers to the following questions in paragraph form on a separate piece of paper and attach your answers to this form. Remember to check your responses for grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.

Project Title: _____

Proposed Start Date: _____ Proposed Completion Date: _____

- A. Describe the issue your project will address and what you hope to achieve. 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. Describe the steps involved in putting your plan into action, including resources, facilities, equipment, and approvals needed. (Explain your project as if you are speaking to someone who needs all the details.)
- E. Enter the names of people or organizations you plan to inform and involve.
- F. What methods or tools will you use to evaluate the impact of your project?
- G. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?
- H. 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).
- I. Using the template on page 6, estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs. Use Ways to Finance Your Project and Planning and Budgeting Tips for guidance.
- J. Using the template on page 7, develop a timeline that shows your plan for achieving your project goals. Use Planning and Budgeting Tips for guidance.

Impact Planning

Using the Impact Planning Chart, describe the impact you hope your project will have on your community, your target audience, and you. You may answer on another sheet, if you need more space.

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?

Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes

The following is a list of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes.*

Which do think you will develop through this project?

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.

Girl Scout Gold Award Proposed Project Budget

Expenses	How did you get this item? (Donations, On Hand, Need to Purchase)	Cost to purchase
Supplies		
Facility Rental		
Advertising/Promotion		
Professional services		
Mileage		
Food		
Postage		
Other/Misc.		
	Total Cost Estimate	

Income	Amount
Event fees	
Donations (supplies, services)	
Troop/Juliette account	
Cookie credits (can not expire before submitting final report)	
Personal contribution	
Family contribution	
Money-Earning	
Other/Misc.	
Total Income Estimate	

Girl Scout Signature

I have completed the above items as indicated for my Girl Scout Gold Award. I will present my Gold Award project plan 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 consulted *Volunteer Essentials*. 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.

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisors' Signatures

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

Project Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Troop Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

I recognize that it is the applicant's responsibility to fulfill the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award including all deadlines. I understand she must uphold all guidelines specific to her project as outlined in *Volunteer Essentials*.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Proposal Deadlines

Submit this project application **at least four weeks** prior to your Girl Scout Gold Award presentation. **Do not begin your project until you have received council approval.**

If you wish to be recognized at the Spring Girl Scout Silver/Gold Award Ceremony, you must submit your project application by November 1 of the previous year. You also need to present your project to the approval committee by December 15. Your project must be completed and the final report submitted by March 1. Final reports submitted after March 1 will be recognized the following year. Girls that have graduated from high school must submit their final report by September 30th of their graduation year. Make one copy each for yourself and your advisors, of all project proposal materials before submitting them for council approval.

Send the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal to:

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
ATTN: Girl Scout Gold Award
5601 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429



Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report

Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report
Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys

Submit the original completed form to your council. Make copies for your Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor and you to keep.

Your Information (Please type or print clearly)

Name: _____ Date submitted: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Best way to contact you: Phone or E-mail

Graduation Year: _____ Service Unit: _____

Troop Number: _____ Troop Volunteer: _____

Troop Volunteer's Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor: _____

Project Advisor's Organization: _____

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

Project Information

Project Title: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____ Hours Completed: _____

Your Team: List the names of individuals and organizations that worked with you on your Gold Award Project.

Team Members	Role

Gold Award Project

Please type your answers to the following questions in paragraph form on a separate piece of paper and attach your answers to this form. Remember to check your responses for grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.

Project Title: _____

Start Date: _____ Completion Date: _____ Hours Completed: _____

- A. Describe the issue your project addressed, what impact you had hoped to make, and who benefitted.
- B. What was the root cause of the issue? How did you address it?
- C. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?
- D. Explain the national and/or global link to your project.
- E. Describe any obstacles you encountered and what you did to overcome them.
- F. Describe what steps you took to inspire others through sharing your project. (Website, blog, presentations, posters, videos, articles, and so on).
- G. Describe what you learned from this project including leadership skills you developed. What did you learn about yourself as a result of this project?
- H. What was the most successful aspect of your project?
- I. What aspects of your project would you change or do differently if you could start over?

Girl Scout Gold Award Final Budget

Expenses	How did you get this item? (Donations, On Hand, Need to Purchase)	Cost to purchase
Supplies		
Facility Rental		
Advertising/Promotion		
Professional services		
Mileage		
Food		
Postage		
Other/Misc.		
	Total Cost	

Income	Amount
Event fees	
Donations (supplies, services)	
Troop/Juliette account	
Cookie credits (can not expire before submitting final report)	
Personal contribution	
Family contribution	
Money-Earning	
Other/Misc.	
Total Income	

Impact Reflection Chart

Using the Impact Chart, describe the impact signs your project has had and will have on your community and your target audience. You may answer on another sheet, if you need more space.

Impact On . . .	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact	Possible Future Impact
Community	What community issue was addressed?	What examples of the project impact might you see in future?	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 Scout Leadership Outcomes

Impact On...	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact
<p>You</p>	<p>Which of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes* listed do you think you were able to develop through this project?</p> <p>Discover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I developed a stronger sense of self. <input type="checkbox"/> I developed positive values. <input type="checkbox"/> I gained practical life skills. <input type="checkbox"/> I sought challenges in the world. <input type="checkbox"/> I developed critical thinking. <p>Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I developed healthy relationships. <input type="checkbox"/> I promoted cooperation and teambuilding. <input type="checkbox"/> I resolved conflicts. <input type="checkbox"/> I advanced diversity in a multicultural world. <input type="checkbox"/> I felt more connected to my community, locally and globally. <p>Take Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I identified community issues. <input type="checkbox"/> I was a resourceful problem solver. <input type="checkbox"/> I advocated for myself and others, locally and globally. <input type="checkbox"/> I educated and inspired others to act. <input type="checkbox"/> I feel empowered to make a difference in the world. <p>*Want more information on the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes? Visit www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/outcomes/transforming_leadership.asp</p>	<p>Within each leadership key (Discover, Connect, and Take Action), list one or two examples of your growth as a leader.</p>

Photo/Interview Consent Form for Minors

I hereby consent that _____ may be interviewed about and/or
Girl's first and last name

photographed at Girl Scout activities by the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, or it's approved media partner.

I understand that resulting photographs, writing, artwork, audio, or video, as well as those submitted for her Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, may be used for any purpose by the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys or its approved media partner.

Furthermore, I hereby consent that such material shall be the property of the organization or its approved media partner, and that the council or its approved media partner shall have the right to sell, duplicate, reproduce, and make other uses of such material free and any claim whatsoever on my part.

Parent/guardian name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Service Unit _____

Service Center _____

Possible Future Impact

How do you think your leadership skills will grow in the future because of this project?

Girl Scout Signature

I verify that the final report and attachments accurately document my Girl Scout Gold Award project. I understand that my final report must be submitted by **March 1** to participate in the spring ceremony. (If you are in 12th grade, this form must be submitted no later than September 30 and before you register as an Adult Girl Scout.)

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Advisor Signature

I have reviewed the above Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report and all attachments and verify that the information accurately documents the Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

Project Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Final Report Deadlines

If you wish to be recognized at the Spring Girl Scout Silver/Gold Award Ceremony, your project must be completed and the final report submitted by March 1. Final reports submitted after March 1 will be recognized the following year. Girls that have graduated from high school must submit their final report by September 30th of their graduation year. Make one copy each for yourself and your advisors before submitting to council.

Send the Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report and all other components to:

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
ATTN: Girl Scout Gold Award
5601 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429