

# **Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Girl Scout Gold Award Informational Packet and Forms Supplement**



This packet contains the information and forms for the Girl Scout Gold Award pre-summer 2009 requirements using the guidelines outline in the *Girl Scout Gold Award Go For It!* booklet.. There is a transition period ending September 30, 2010. If the majority of the award's work will be done during the 2011 membership year, the new guidelines should be used.

Revised 10/09



**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois  
Girl Scout Gold Award  
Notice of Intent**

This form must be completed and submitted to the Girl Scout Center BEFORE you start to work on the Girl Scout Gold Award prerequisites using the *Girl Scout Gold Award Go For It!* Guidelines. Before mailing, make a copy of this form for yourself.

Mail this form to: **Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois  
Elgin Service Center  
12N124 Coombs Road  
Elgin, IL 60124**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop/Group number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

The best way to reach me is by (circle one): phone e-mail

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in school: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of HS graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in Girl Scouting: \_\_\_\_\_ Service unit: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I must complete all other requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award and meet with the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee chair and council representatives before beginning my 65-hour project. Planned date for completion of all requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

**I understand that I will be assigned a Girl Scout Gold Award advisor after I submit my Notice of Intent. I will not begin work on any part of my Girl Scout Gold Award until I have met and completed Step One (create a timeline) with my Girl Scout Gold Award advisor.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Girl Scout Gold Award Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**For office use only:**

Date received by the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award Advisor's name \_\_\_\_\_



# The Girl Scout® Gold Award

The Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting recognizes the leadership, effort and impact girls 14–17 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. The roots of the Girl Scout Gold Award are in the history of the organization, whose tradition of the highest leadership awards for Girl Scouts has included The Golden Eaglet of Merit (1916–1919), The Golden Eagle (1919–1939), First Class (1938–1982), and The Curved Bar (1940–1980).

## History of the Girl Scout Gold Award

- 1980 The Girl Scout Gold Award was introduced in ***You Make the Difference***. Council volunteers and staff received additional information on the Girl Scout Gold Award at the 1980 Program Conferences conducted around the country. This new recognition helped girls focus on four areas: skill development, leadership, service, and career exploration.
- 1987 A new handbook was developed for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts. Minor changes were made to the Girl Scout Gold Award, including an added service project.
- 1990 Delegates to the 1990 National Council Session approved a proposal to keep the name of the Girl Scout Gold Award in perpetuity.
- 1993 The national Council Session approved the establishment of the **Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance**.
- 1995 New resources for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts were developed with separate handbooks for each age level. Included was clarification on record-keeping for the Girl Scout Gold Award project.
- 2001 Research is done on what girls 11-17 want and need, including suggestions about the Girl Scout Silver and Girl Scout Gold Awards.
- 2002 STUDIO 2B<sup>SM</sup> materials, the result of the research, are introduced at the GSUSA national council session in California. The Girl Scout Gold Award is revised to allow for Girl Scout STUDIO 2B Focus books.
- 2004 Girl Scout Gold Awards are revised to reflect girl and council suggestions and research; new materials are prepared for girls, advisors and councils. Updated requirements are introduced in spring 2004



## Benefits of Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award®

- The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting. A national award, with national standards, it represents girls' time, leadership, creativity and effort contributed to making their community better.
- A young woman who has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award has become a community leader. Her accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set her apart.
- An increasing number of colleges and universities have recognized the achievement of leadership abilities by Girl Scout Gold Award recipients by establishing scholarship programs for them. Although Girl Scouts of the USA does not award scholarships to Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, GSUSA does publish the Scholarships for Girl Scouts Directory, which lists these schools. \* Copies of the directory are available at Girl Scout councils and online at the [studio2b.org](http://studio2b.org) Web site.
- Girls who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award often enter the four branches of the United States Armed Services at an advanced level and salary, having been recognized for their level of leadership shown in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- The achievements of Girl Scout Gold Award recipients are acknowledged by many government and non-profit organizations. A list of these organizations is available for Girl Scout councils.
- Many state and local organizations also acknowledge the recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Girls completing their Girl Scout Gold Award may apply their service hours to the President's Volunteer Service Awards at the GS Bronze, GS Silver or GS Gold levels.  
(<http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/>)
- The Girl Scout Gold Award projects themselves solve community issues and improve lives.
- The Girl Scout Gold Award process creates assets for the community and the future.

# GO FOR IT: THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD



All steps must be completed by Sept. 30 after the completion of 12th grade. (Young women who are developmentally delayed may have until the completion of their 21<sup>st</sup> year to finish their Girl Scout Gold Award.)

Submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal to the council. Meet with a representative from the council's Girl Scout Gold Award Committee. (Your project must be approved before you begin Step 6.)

You must be 15-18 or in grades 10-12 to start work on Steps 5-7.

Submit your Notice of Intent and you will be assigned a Girl Scout Gold Award advisor.

Remember that the focus of the project should be the community *beyond* the Girl Scout community.

## STEP 7-Think About It

- Reflect & evaluate with your advisor
- Submit your Final Report to council

## STEP 6 - Take Action

Do It! After you receive council approval, put your plans into action. Be flexible and adjust plans if necessary. Work closely with your adult advisor.

## STEP 5 - Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Your Gold Award Project must take a minimum of 65 hours.

The time you spend working on the 4B Challenge may be applied towards the 65 hours.

- Plan It
- Know More About It
- Choose It
- Rework It
- Map It

## STEP 4 - Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge

- **Become** - Assess your set of skills. Set and achieve two goals related to self-improvement
- **Belong** - Create a community profile to find out more about the community needs and assets
- **Believe** - Come up with an actual vision statement for your Girl Scout Gold Award project
- **Build** - Focus on developing a specific network of people who might help with your GS Gold Award Project (Use the *STUDIO 2B Write Now Focus* to help you write your vision statement & support your issue's position.)

## STEP 2

### Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award

- Earn 3 IPs related to parts of the GS Law
- Earn a charm from the STUDIO 2B Focus series
- Take action: spend 30 hours in a leadership role

Use *Go For It GS Gold Award STUDIO 2B Basics* insert to keep records and journal Steps 2-6. Good record keeping will help you in Step 7.

### STEP 3 - Girl Scout Gold Career Award

- Do one or 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
  - Partner with one or more Girl Scout council staff members
- **OR** Have a paying job or started you own business & put in at least 40 hours on it

## STEP 1 - BUILD A FRAMEWORK

- Read *STUDIO 2B Go For It Girl Scout Gold Award* insert **OR** attend a council sponsored Girl Scout Gold Award Workshop
- Meet with your adult advisor and develop a timeline for Steps 2-4; include some thinking about where Step 5 might fit on your timeline
- Create an agreement with your adult advisor.

- Accomplishments prior to age 14 or going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade cannot be used towards the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- A girl must be age 14-18 or in grades 9-12 to work on Steps 1-3 of the Girl Scout Gold Award.

# Responsibilities Regarding the Girl Scout Gold Award

1. All girls working on their Girl Scout Gold Award must be registered Girl Scouts and be 14-18 or in grades 9-12. (You must be 15-18, or in grades 10-12, when you work on your actual Girl Scout Gold Award Project.) In Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) you will need to complete GSNI's documentation booklet as part of earning the award.
2. GSNI's documentation booklets are available online at [www.girlscoutsni.org](http://www.girlscoutsni.org).
3. When the Notice of Intent form is received at the Girl Scout Center, an advisor will be assigned to the girl and will be notified via mail of the receipt of her Notice of Intent. The girl will receive the advisor's contact information. It is the girl's responsibility to set up an initial meeting with her advisor.
4. After the initial meeting, it is the girl's responsibility to check in with her advisor, especially if she has questions. It is not the advisor's responsibility to push the girls to finish their paperwork. If a girl wants to earn the award, she must strive to earn it herself.
5. Girls should continue working on their Girl Scout Gold Award with their advisor until they are ready to start their final project. At this time, they must meet with the **members of the volunteer Girl Scout Gold Award Committee to discuss their outline for their final project. Allow 4-6 weeks to set up an appointment.** All work that is completed on the award up to this point must be documented and reviewed before they can start on their final project. This is a section where signatures are required of everyone involved in the final project.
6. **An outline of the Girl Scout Gold Award project will be submitted to the members of the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee. Once the final project plans have been approved, the girls may begin their projects.**
7. When the final project is completed, a Final Project Review meeting must be scheduled with the volunteer Girl Scout Gold Award Committee. At the Final Project Review, all documentation, time logs and photos must be submitted for consideration. Girls should allow a half-hour minimum for this meeting.
8. Resources:
  - *Girl Scout Gold Award Go For It! Focus Book*
  - *Safety-Wise*
  - *Interest Projects for Girls 11 –17*
  - Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Gold Award Informational Packet and Forms Supplement
  - [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org)



## Girl Scout Gold Award® FAQs:

(Some FAQs adapted from “Girls Want to Know” section in “Go for It” **STUDIO 2B Girl Scout Gold Award** insert, as well as lessons learned)

- Q: Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?
- A: Girls must be a registered Girl Scout and be 14–18 (grades 9–12) to work on STEPS 1-4 leading up to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Girls must be 15–18, or grades 10–12, when they work on STEPS 5-7 related to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Remember, as always, the project must be completed by September 30 following a girl’s senior year in high school. If she graduates early, she has until she is 18 to complete the project.
- Q: Can a girl who is home-schooled or who has skipped grades start her work on the Gold Award prior to age 14 if she is in an advanced grade? Can she start her project prior to age 15?
- A: No. The Girl Scout Gold Award is meant to be earned between those ages.
- Q: Can a girl work on the prerequisites for her Girl Scout Award Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards the summer after she has bridged, rather than wait until the new membership year begins October 1.
- A: YES! We want girls to be excited about these awards and to use the time they have, rather than trying to cram it all into the school year or lose the momentum and interest over the summer. However, a girl must be 14 to start work on the award; and 15 to start on the project.
- Q: When the Focus books were first introduced, we were told that the charms were the equivalent of an Interest Project patch and could substitute in the pre-requisites for the Silver or Gold. Is this still the case with the new guidelines?
- A: No, the feedback from council staff and volunteers was that substituting IP’s and Focus Books was unacceptable. Based on this feedback we’ve integrated both IP’s and Focus Books into different steps in the Girl Scout Silver and Girl Scout Gold Award process.
- Q: Can girls earn the Girl Scout Gold Award if they are in a STUDIO 2Bsm group? If they are a Juliette or individual member?
- A: Girls who participate in a STUDIO 2B group and girls who are Juliettes are Girl Scouts. As always, if a girl meets the age and membership requirements, she can work towards her Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Q: Is the Girl Scout Gold Award Project an individual project, or can it be worked on by a team of girls?
- A: Girls may work with other girls, but they must keep track of their specific work and hours. Working on a project team is a life-skill and there are many different ways of assuming leadership. (See next question.)

Q: How could this project be expanded into a group project?

Example: An art therapy project for nursing home residents.

A: For more than one girl to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award doing a similar project, the girls might:

- Meet with and form collaborations with other community organizations that focus on serving the elderly.
- Expand the number of nursing homes served.
- Secure a larger grant for the project.
- Design a way for the activities to continue even after the girls have earned their awards: for example, working with the local colleges and the nursing homes to set up internships for college credit for students who participate in the project.
- Offer a greater menu of art therapy activities.
- Train a wider pool of volunteers.
- Create a tool kit or packet for nursing homes and residents that defines the project, lists available activities, and provides community contacts.

Q: Can a girl earn the Girl Scout Gold Award even if she hasn't been in Girl Scouts very long?

A: Yes! She just needs to be a registered Girl Scout and be willing to complete the hours necessary to earn this award.

Q: Does a girl have to have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award in order to do the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: No. Not at all. However, it's a great foundation for the process.

Q: Does a girl need to do the steps in any particular order?

A: The first step is to complete and submit her Notice of Intent before starting on STEPS 2 and 3. She can do the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award and the Girl Scout Gold Career Award in any order, even work on them simultaneously, but she should do STEP 4, the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge prior to working on the Girl Scout Gold Award project, STEP 5. STEPS 1-4 must be completed and the girl must be 15 or in grade 10 to begin STEP 5. A girl MUST receive council's approval before starting the Girl Scout Gold Award project (STEP 5).

Q: What if a girl has already done some similar activities while doing other Girl Scout awards? Can these activities count toward her Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: Activities done prior to submitting her Notice of Intent for the Girl Scout Gold Award may not count toward the number of hours for this award. However, if a girl has earned the charm for a STUDIO 2B Focus book that is one of the requirements for one of the awards, she will need to set new goals for herself in that Focus book.

Q: What is the role of the council's Girl Scout Gold Award committee?

A: This is usually a group of adult volunteers, including past recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, dedicated to helping a girl succeed. They will review the size, scope, and

cost of a project and make recommendations to ensure that it is in fact an appropriate project to earn a Girl Scout Gold Award. They might also be aware of community issues and dynamics that impact the project and may be able to introduce a girl to other adults who can assist her in her project.

Q: What is the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge?

A: The 4 B Challenge will help girls be better prepared and informed before choosing a project to spend many hours on. It was initiated to end the frustration girls expressed about the difficulty of coming up with ideas for projects.

Q: Do the hours put into planning and researching for the 4 B's Challenge count towards the hours needed for the Girl Scout Gold Award project?

A: Yes. Even if a girl decides not to do the project she comes up with in the "4B's visioning process" when she gets down to planning with her advisor, she has not wasted the time in learning the process required to focus on a vision. A girl shouldn't be focusing on a project that she really doesn't want to be doing, or isn't able to do because of something she's discovered in her research or community networking. A girl might even discover a project advisor in the community networking process who sparks a different twist on her vision. The more that is found out about something, the more possibilities there are—the trick is to end up with a project that meets needs of the community and that allows a girl to be effective and passionate in what she is doing. For example, a girl may find that a safety program is not what is needed to prevent accidents in her community—what's needed is a stop light at a dangerous intersection. That will require focusing on a different network as she works with the community to make that kind of a change and her project advisor may need to be someone from the city council instead of a safety educator.

Q: The focus books seem to be so easy compared to Interest Project Awards.

A: The STUDIO 2B Focus books look deceptively simple (it must be all the pictures); however, the most important component of each booklet is the goal setting. Yes, it is possible to breeze through one, but if a girl is really true to the concept, and working "on her honor" she will set goals that involve stretching and learning—allowing for a thorough exploration of the topic in order to meet her goals. The role of the advisor is key to the goal setting process.

Q: How can we assure that Girl Scout Awards represent quality projects? In the past we have had some projects that resemble service projects signed off by advisors.

A: The best way to assure that a girl is doing the best of her ability is to ensure that both she and her advisor receive orientation about the award and about the difference between a service project and a Girl Scout Gold Award project—whether it is through training, Web site information, or a marketing piece. The last thing a Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee or council wants to do is to be put in the position of telling a girl her project isn't a Girl Scout Gold Award when the final report comes in. The project

at that point reflects on the adults who are advising her and it would be unacceptable to refuse her the award if she had put in the hours and gone through with the process.

Q: Is it recommended that a girl's parent be her advisor for the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: GSUSA strongly recommend against it, even if a girl's parent is her leader/advisor. Ideally, she should have an advisor that has experience in the area of her project. Avoid situations where parents do a girl's work, even when it comes to calling and asking questions. If money earning is involved, the girl and her advisor can act as a team, with the girl doing the planning and the adult doing the "ask."

Q: What if a girl is 16 and graduating? Can she complete her project when she is in college?

A: Yes. A girl has until she turns 18 or until the end of the Girl Scout membership year when she is a senior in high school.

Q: What if a girl graduates and is 18 and doesn't have her project completed?

A: In this case the girl would have until September 30 of the year she graduates.

Q: What if a girl's project is not completed by the council ceremony time?

A: This is up to the girl. She might be recognized for her work in progress at the Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony for her peers, or she can be honored in a separate ceremony or come back for the council-wide ceremony the next year. If the council has a set time for honoring Girl Scout Gold Awardees, this should be part of the orientation to girls planning their Girl Scout Gold Award. Girls and their advisors should be encouraged to work within the council timeline; however, the ceremony time should not dictate whether a girl is able to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award or not. A council or Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee cannot insist that a Girl Scout Gold Award project be completed by a certain time other than within the national guidelines—by the end of the Girl Scout membership year when a girl graduates or when she turns 18 years old.

Q: Can a girl who is developmentally disabled/delayed earn the Girl Scout Gold Award? Don't we need a different set of requirements?

A: The Girl Scout Gold Award is something done to the best of a girl's ability. It is totally possible to work with someone who needs to adapt the program with the existing requirements. For example, a young woman who will never hold a job because of the severity of her disabilities was able to adapt the career component, turning it around so that she learned how to select her personal caretaker, how to evaluate her caretaker, and how to let her go. Her project focused on a community awareness program involving the group home that she lived in and was overseen by her caretaker. Her troop/group helped do the "legwork" and she provided the vision. There is not a need to have special requirements for girls who are handicapped or mentally challenged—encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the girl

individually. Specific questions on adaptations can be directed to the Gold Award Consultant or Disabilities Consultant in the Mission to Market Group at GSUSA.

Q: Where does a girl wear her related Girl Scout Gold Awards?

A: If a girl wears the Girl Scout uniform for girls 14-18, she can choose to wear her earned charms on the STUDIO 2B Bracelet or on the STUDIO 2B Charm Holder pinned to the sash or vest with other earned insignia. She can wear the STUDIO 2B Bracelet and Charm Holder and the Girl Scout Membership Pin and Girl Scout Gold Award with regular clothing as well. See "Girl Scout Central" on [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org) for more information.

If a girl has chosen to wear the Girl Scout Leadership Pin, the Girl Scout Challenge Pin and the Girl Scout Career Exploration Pin, she should wear them on her uniform as shown in diagrams.

The official Girl Scout Gold Award pin goes to the left of the Girl Scouts of the USA Membership Pin on the girl uniform and can be worn on the right side of the adult Girl Scout uniform in line with membership pins or on regular clothing. The miniature pin can be worn on the lapel of regular clothing.



## Ways Parents/Guardians Can Support Girls Working on the Girl Scout Gold Award®

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting that girls 14-18 can earn. It represents a girl's commitment to herself and to her community, as she focuses on leadership, career exploration, personal challenges and completing a lasting project that will benefit her community. It takes many hours of preparation, planning and work to accomplish the goals a girl has set for herself.

Parents/guardians play a significant role in supporting a girl's path to the Girl Scout Gold Award. As a parent you may be called upon to be coach, mentor, cheerleader, sounding board and chauffeur. As a parent, you are not expected to be a taskmaster—this is the girl's project. However, you can assist a girl by:

- Reading through the materials provided to girls regarding the Girl Scout Gold Award so that you feel comfortable offering support.
- Helping her choose a topic that will become the basis for her project if she asks for ideas. Remember, however, that the topic is based on her passion, not yours.
- Encouraging and supporting her, but not pressuring her. "Going for the Gold" is something that a girl has to want to do herself.
- Recognizing that your daughter is capable, competent and worthy of respect as she assumes greater citizenship and responsibility. You can help provide her with positive and constructive support on this journey.
- Aiding her in accessing a network of adults who can lend insight, provide contacts, and point to resources. You may work with someone who has just the skill set your daughter needs in an advisor, or someone who belongs to a service club that your daughter and her advisor can approach for financial assistance.
- Helping and supporting girls in any Girl Scout safety or money-earning guidelines during her path to the Girl Scout Gold Award. These are important to assure the safety of your daughter and the integrity of the Girl Scout program.
- Allowing your daughter to stumble and learn the lessons that come with the Girl Scout Gold Award project. She will be working with a Girl Scout Gold Award Project advisor, an adult who has been trained to assist her in partnership who has skills specific to the project, and a council Gold Award Mentor Committee.
- Helping with the project as asked or cheerleading from the sidelines if appropriate.
- Joining in the celebration as she is honored for her accomplishments.



## Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Girl Scout Gold Award Dos and Don'ts

### DO:

- Start early! Make sure you have plenty of time to complete all the requirements.
- Plan accordingly. Take into consideration all possible factors that may affect your project. Things to think about: weather, supplies, official approval, and target audience.
- Get a signed photo release for anyone who may be photographed and/or recorded during your Girl Scout Gold Award project.
- Have an adult do the “ask” when soliciting donations. Make sure you are still involved! You can explain the Girl Scout Gold Award process and your project to any potential donors.
- Get permission from the Girl Scout Center before conducting any money-earning activities.
- Make sure you are following all Girl Scout safety standards. Girl Scouts of the USA publishes a safety book called *Safety-Wise*. Ask your troop/group leader if you can borrow their copy of *Safety-Wise*. If you are a Juliette, contact the Girl Scout Center to ask about using *Safety-Wise*.
- Work with your adult advisor throughout the Girl Scout Gold Award process.
- **HAVE FUN!**

### DON'T:

- Raise money for other organizations.
- Participate directly or indirectly in any political campaigns.
- Use any copyrighted or trademarked materials without specific permission from the copyright or trademark holder.
- Use personal identifiers, such as your name, address, phone number or e-mail address on Internet Web sites.
- Use art materials whose ingredients are not known—very old or unlabeled materials may be toxic.
- Forget to stay in touch with your adult advisor.
- Forget to have fun!

# M\*O\*N\*E\*Y and Your Leadership Project

(adapted from "Go for It" STUDIO 2B Girl Scout Gold Award insert)

One of the challenges facing every girl "going for the Gold" is financial. Often, when the planning gets serious, adjustments have to be made in the doing. On the one hand you are asked to meet a need in your community; on the other hand, you have some major constraints outlined in *Safety-Wise* and by your council. So what's a girl to do?

OK. The reality first. Then some possible ways to approach it. Think of those who have gone before you. They figured it out, and so can you! Then clear the adjustments you have made in your plan with your Girl Scout council.

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 on how to allocate the funds, which can be used for group or individual projects.

If you are an individually registered member, 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 will be a group decision. We suggest you first check with your council about the options open. 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.



## Hot Group Money-Earning Ideas

Reminder: All Girl Scout activities should meet **Safety-Wise** and council guidelines—and be approved by your council.

1. Sell Girl Scout cookies. (Think big—arrange for booths at sports events or college dorms or sell cases of cookies to businesses for special treats for their staff. You end up helping your council as well as your group.)
2. Provide childcare at special events during the holiday season or community events. (Be sure to have an adult trained in first aid present.)
3. Recycle aluminum cans. (How about a community can-a-thon? Involve small businesses as well as families.)
4. Put on a gigantic garage sale. Don't forget to make refreshments to sell!
5. Offer clown activities and face painting at family events or malls.
6. Wrap gift packages at holiday fairs.
7. Apply for a community improvement grant. (Check with the mayor's or governor's office and your council. Arrange for an adult to be the signer. The money may need to go through your council or service unit, as well.)
8. Recruit "shareholders" for your group's budget. Figure out the total budget and prepare an "ask" for sponsors who support your year's activities. (As shareholders, they deserve an annual report.)
9. Provide classroom or home birthday parties on order (cupcakes and games for the busy mom).

### Do *Not* Engage In The Following Kinds Of Activities:

1. **Money-earning projects where you are performing an activity that someone normally gets paid to do** in other words, taking jobs away from people, such as store workers, maintenance staff, or service providers. (**However**, if certain activities—for example, cleaning a stadium after a game or gift wrapping at a store—have previously been defined clearly as opportunities for nonprofits to earn money, you can undertake these activities **with council approval**.)

2. **“Cheap labor” projects disguised as money-earning projects.** At first it may sound like a great idea, but you are actually being taken advantage of and taking away the job of someone who should be paid more money than you are being offered. That’s why there are child labor and minimum wage laws!
3. **Money earning projects where Girl Scouts of the USA might be perceived as endorsing a product or political viewpoint or cause.** This includes getting paid to pass out flyers for political candidates or freebees at a business opening. When in doubt, check with your council.
4. **Money earning projects where the money goes to individuals rather than to your group as a group donation.** You cannot be employed *as a Girl Scout* to earn money.
5. **Selling anything on the Internet as a Girl Scout.** Safety and council boundaries are of primary concern here.

## Some Frequently Asked Questions on Money

Q: Can I use my own money on the Girl Scout Gold Award Project?

A: Yes. If you want to use your own money, you can. You may receive help from your family, too. 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.

When designing your project, it’s important to think creatively about how you can make a difference with little or no money. Then talk to your council and advisor about ideas for financing the project or arranging for the donation of materials and services.

Some individual activities with great potential:

1. Pet walking and pet care
2. Babysitting
3. Lawn mowing, leaf raking
4. Plant sitting
5. Recycling
6. Tutoring younger kids
7. Providing respite care for family caregivers
8. Refereeing sports games
9. Party giving (clowning, magic shows, game leading)
10. Making or repairing jewelry
11. Creating hand-made greeting cards
12. Providing a calligraphy service for addresses on special invitations

Q: Can I ask friends and neighbors for help?

A: You shouldn't ask for donations of money, but you can ask for donations of time and stuff, such as clothing for a clothing drive or that pile of bricks left over from your neighbor's backyard project. **However, if the neighbor wants to claim the donation as a tax deduction, he or she will need to make the donation to the council for IRS purposes and get a receipt signed by a council staff person.**

Q: What if what I want to do costs too much?

A: It's better to succeed with a smaller project that is within your budget than to be unable to complete a larger project because it exceeds your budget. Be realistic about what you can and can't do. Work with your adult advisor to develop a reasonable budget for your project. If your resources are not sufficient for you to realistically accomplish your goal, then you need to rethink the project. Planning is the key to a good Girl Scout Gold Award Project. You should be prepared with a budget for your project before you meet with your council Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee. Think it through and do your homework! Your council has the right to put a cap on spending, as well as to request that large donations go through the council office. Work with them. See your **"Go for It!" Girl Scout Gold Award** insert for more on creating a realistic budget.

Q: Is it all right to seek help from other organizations when doing my Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: Yes, with some qualifications. Many service organizations have budgets for community projects. You can use their interests (e.g., Lions Club International may focus on vision care, while Soroptimists may have a committee on literacy) as leverage to support your project and get volunteers to help you. Do some research on local service organizations. Even some businesses give workers time for community service hours and projects. However, remember the rule about having the adult doing the "ask" for actual money and gifts-in-kind, and clearing your joint approach with your local council. (Your council may be asking the same group for major donation and you don't want to interfere with the council's "ask.") Don't let the organization's agenda drive your vision for your project.

Q: I know you can't raise money as a Girl Scout for other organizations, but can I do it on my own?

A: As an individual, you can volunteer for other organizations, but you should not identify work that you do to raise funds for another organization as part of your time going toward the Girl Scout Gold Award. Additionally, you may not present yourself as a Girl Scout to the public in this process since you are a volunteer for another organization. For example: If your local Red Cross needs money to purchase training dummies, you may participate under their supervision as an individual volunteer to raise funds, but you cannot count that service as part of your time toward any Girl Scout award or service hours. However, you can

plan a Girl Scout Gold Award project using the equipment that was purchased as part of your efforts as a volunteer for that organization.

Q: Can we charge for a Girl Scout event to earn money?

A: If it is a service project, a fee can be collected to cover the cost of materials. The project ceases to be a service project if you are charging a fee for the event above cost, in which case the hours cannot go toward service hours in any award. If you are doing an event as a Girl Scout (e.g., a Badge Workshop, Bike Rodeo, etc.) and are planning to charge a fee **above** the cost of materials, you **must first** clear this with your Girl Scout council. Provision should be made for scholarships for troop/groups or individual girls who cannot afford fees to your event and you must be clear in your advertisements and materials that this is a money-earning event for your troop/group. If your actual project is an event for the public, you can charge a fee to cover the cost of materials.



## From Good to Great: Successful Girl Scout Gold Award Projects

A Girl Scout Gold Award project is different from a good community service project. It should involve girl planning, leadership and decision making and should focus on addressing a real need in your community. When working as a group, each girl needs to play an individual role. Here are several examples of good service projects that have expanded into great Girl Scout Gold Award projects.

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



**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois  
Girl Scout Gold Award  
Project Proposal**

Please fill the form out completely. Type or print clearly. Make a copy for your Girl Scout Gold Award advisor and for yourself. Submit the original to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois 4–6 weeks prior to starting your project. Do not begin the project until you have received council approval.

Submit this form to: **Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois  
Elgin Service Center  
12N124 Coombs Road  
Elgin, IL 60124**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop/Group number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

The best way to reach me is by (circle one): phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 1: Get Ready**

Girl Scout Gold Award advisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project advisor's phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Project advisor's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach a copy of the timeline developed by you and your advisor.**

**STEP 2: Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award**

	<b>Date completed</b>	<b>GS Gold Award advisor's signature</b>
<b>Earn It:</b>		
IP: _____	_____	_____
IP: _____	_____	_____
IP: _____	_____	_____
<b>Believe It:</b>		
STUDIO 2B Focus Book: _____	_____	_____

**STEP 2: Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award**

Describe your 30-hour leadership activity:  
Attach additional sheets if needed.

**Date completed**

\_\_\_\_\_

**GS Gold Award advisor's signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 3: Girl Scout Gold Career Award**

Describe your 40-hour career related activity:  
Attach additional sheets if needed.

**Date completed**

\_\_\_\_\_

**GS Gold Award advisor's signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 4: Girl Scout Gold 4Bs Award**

Become  
Belong  
Believe  
Build

**Date completed**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**GS Gold Award advisor's signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The next step is the Girl Scout Gold Award project. Please complete the outline on the following pages and obtain approval from your Girl Scout Gold Award advisor and your project advisor. When you have done so, please call the Elgin Service Center at 847-741-5521 or email [pschnecke@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:pschnecke@girlscoutsni.org) to schedule a meeting to obtain final approval.

**Please do not begin your project until you have received final approval!**

**STEP 5: Girl Scout Gold Award**

Title of project: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed start date: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the following in essay format. Give as much detail as possible. Attach additional sheets if needed.**

A. Describe the issue your project will address, what you hope to achieve, and who will benefit.

B. Discuss the reasons for selecting this project.

C. Outline your strengths talents, and skills that will be put into action.

D. Describe the steps involved for putting your plan into action, including facilities and/or equipment needed.

E. Indicate methods and/or tools you will use to evaluate the effectiveness of your project.

F. List the names of advisors and resources you plan to use.

G. Estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs (attach a copy of the budget sheet from your record book).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Girl Scout Gold Award applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Girl Scout Gold Award advisor's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project advisor's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

.....  
**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council representative's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Girl Scout Gold Award Committee chair signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date







**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois  
Girl Scout Gold Award  
Final Report**

Please fill this form out completely. Type or print clearly. Before submitting this form, make a copy for yourself.

Submit the original form to : **Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois  
Girl Scout Gold Award  
12N124 Coombs Road  
Elgin, IL 60124**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop/Group number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

The best way to reach me is by (circle one) : phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in school: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award advisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project advisor's phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Project advisor's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of project: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 6: Tracking Project Hours**

Date started (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_ Date completed (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_

All project hours (including hours spent on the Girl Scout Gold 4Bs Challenge) must be documented. Please attach the Girl Scout Gold Award project activity log or other documentation.

**STEP 7: Reflection and Evaluation**

**Complete the following in essay format. Give as much detail as possible. Attach additional sheets if needed.**

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

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 your project?

\_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award advisor's signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Project advisor's signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

.....

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Council representative's signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award Committee chair's signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

## Photo Release for Non Registered Minors and Adults

### Release for Minors

I, being the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby consent that her/his name, image, and likeness, as shown in videotapes, motion picture film, and/or electronic images for which she/he is posed, and/or audio recordings made of her/his voice may be used by Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, its assigns or successors, in whatever way they desire, including television; furthermore, I hereby consent that such photographs, films, recordings, electronic images, plates, tapes, and software from which they are made shall be its sole property, and it shall have the right to sell, duplicate, reproduce and make other uses of such photographs, films, recordings, electronic images, plates, tapes, and software as it may desire, free and clear of any claim whatever on my part.

Name of Minor (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Release for Adults

I, being of legal age, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby consent that my name, image, and likeness, as shown in videotapes, motion picture film, and/or electronic images in which I appear, and or audio recordings made of my voice may be used by Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, its assigns or successors, in whatever way they desire, including television; furthermore, I hereby consent that such photographs, films, recordings, electronic images, plates, tapes, and software from which they are made shall be its sole property, and it shall have the right to sell, duplicate, reproduce and make other uses of such photographs, films, recordings, electronic images, plates, tapes, and software as it may desire, free and clear of any claim whatever on my part.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_