



# The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Project Advisors

## *What is the Gold Award?*

The Gold Award is the highest award that a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout (grades 9–12) can earn. To become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a girl identifies an issue that's important to her, then develops and carries out an innovative and sustainable solution with measurable impact. Each solution/project must link to a national and/or global issue.

## *What types of projects are Gold Award-eligible?*

A Gold Award project must reflect the following: the Girl Scout has identified the root cause of a community issue she's passionate about, the action she takes must address a real need and have long-term benefits, she must show leadership by guiding a team of volunteers, and the project must be sustainable and measurable with a national and/or global link.

## *How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?*

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from the Girl Scout. The timeline is designed by the Girl Scout and enhanced with your input.

## *Who can be a project advisor?*

A project advisor is an adult who chooses to be on a Girl Scout's Gold Award team and is an expert on the issue the girl's project addresses. Parents, caregivers, or troop leaders of girls pursuing their Gold Award cannot be advisors. Adult siblings and family members like aunts and uncles can sometimes be advisors if they are

experts on the issue the Girl Scout is exploring. However, we encourage Girl Scouts to branch outside of their families when possible.

## *What is the role of a project advisor?*

A project advisor offers a Girl Scout guidance and expertise as needed, during the planning and execution of the girl's Gold Award project. Note that it's important that the project and its core ideas be the Girl Scout's own.

## *How can I support a Girl Scout as she completes her Gold Award project?*

Although the project advisor role is flexible, here are some ways you can show your support:

- Recognize that the girl's project is as unique as she is, so don't compare her—or her project—to other girls and their Gold Awards.
- Let her interview you to help her better understand the issue she's addressing.
- Refer her to colleagues or acquaintances of yours for interviews or advice.
- As she researches and plans her project, refer her to relevant books, web resources, and/or organizations.
- Offer to act as a sounding board for any questions that may come up over the course of her project.
- Help her brainstorm the metrics most useful in ensuring her project has a measurable impact.
- Offer to review her proposal or final report before it's submitted.