



Volunteer's Guide to the Senior/Ambassador Take Action Award and Global Action Award*

Find tips and ideas to help guide Girl Scouts through this award program.

A great way to practice leadership—plus, it opens the path to earn the Gold Award

Facilitator Overview: This guide will help you support a group of Senior and/or Ambassador Girl Scouts in earning the Take Action and Global Action awards. The steps are the same for both programs, but these awards are earned individually; Girl Scouts must go through the process twice to earn both awards. Take Action projects address issues in your local community, while Global Action projects connect to communities around the world. Girl Scouts have the option of linking their Global Action projects to one or more of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Take Action and Global Action awards are meant to help Girl Scouts plan projects that have lasting benefits for their communities, in a way that feels fun and manageable. Consider sticking to timelines of a month or less (although this is at every group's discretion). Help Girl Scouts set a specific, achievable goal for their project—that way, it will be clear when the award process ends and it's time to celebrate!

Throughout the award process, keep in mind that it's critical to involve a community in any efforts designed to help it. Prompt Girl Scouts to consider their audience and how to engage it in their efforts. Sustainable change requires community commitment!

The **Take Action and Global Action Plan** contains useful guidance for completing the awards. Familiarize yourself with this resource before starting the award. Have Girl Scouts review the plan for useful prompts prior to each step and fill it out afterward to track their efforts.

Remember that your role in this award is to support Girl Scouts, not to evaluate them. Your job is to create a space that allows Girl Scouts to share with confidence. **ALL action plans are valid, no matter how small, if they feel right to the group.**

Step 1: Identify a community issue • 30–40 minutes

Ask: What types of projects create lasting change?

Share: You could address a community need today—for example, by donating food to a food bank. You could

address a community need today—for example, by donating winter coats. Or you could address the same need in a way that helps both today AND tomorrow—for example, by setting up a coat donation program. Let's find out how to make lasting change.

Guide: Start by guiding Girl Scouts in brainstorming ways to help a community and identifying which of these actions are “today only” and which ones will create lasting change.

To Do (and how leaders might help):

1. **Choose a badge as your starting point.** Have Girl Scouts choose a badge that interests them as a group. Try to help them reach a consensus, but if they can't, keep it fair—majority rules!
2. **Brainstorm community issues.** Help Girl Scouts brainstorm the list, prompting them as needed.
3. **Pick a community issue.** Guide Girl Scouts in choosing an issue to address.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out Step 1 of the **Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to Step 2.

Step 2: Explore the issue's root causes • 30–40 minutes

Ask: What's the real reason for the issue?

Share: Many issues have underlying causes, just like a tree has roots you can't see. That's why we call them “root” causes—they're the reasons behind an issue.

Guide: In this step, Girl Scouts will research the root cause(s) of the community issue they chose. Have them review the guidance for the Community Issue Map they'll be creating to lay the groundwork for their thinking.

To Do (and how leaders might help):

1. **With your group, decide if you'll earn the Take Action or Global Action award.** Have Girl Scouts consider whether they want to address their issue from a local or global perspective.
2. **Dig into the details.** Suggest resources to help Girl Scouts research the issue, considering both its

*Detailed choice activities, meeting tools, and additional resources and materials can be found within the Volunteer Toolkit on my.girlscouts.org.

root causes and their community impact.

3. **Map the community issue.** Have Girl Scouts fill out the Community Issue Map in the **Take Action and Global Action Plan**. Help if needed, but encourage Girl Scouts to create a Community Issue Map.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out the rest of Step 2 of the **Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to Step 3.

Step 3: Brainstorm solutions

• 30–40 minutes

Ask: How do you feel inspired to help?

Share: Now that you've identified a community issue and mapped its impact and root causes, you're ready to brainstorm sustainable solutions.

Guide: Lay the groundwork for this step by guiding a discussion of the three ways to create a sustainable project laid out in the award overview. Have Girl Scouts consider which method might work best for their issue.

To Do (and how leaders might help):

1. **Build on what works.** Have Girl Scouts research existing solutions to similar issues. It's okay if they want to recreate or revise a successful program—an idea doesn't have to be original to be effective!
2. **Add your talents and interests.** Help Girl Scouts brainstorm their talents and interests and how they might contribute to a solution.
3. **Choose one project idea.** Guide Girl Scouts in choosing a project while keeping the desired timeline and available resources in mind.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out Step 3 of the **Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to Step 4.

Step 4: Make a plan

• 30–40 minutes

Ask: What is your project's key goal, how will you accomplish it, and how will you measure success? How can you make sure it will be sustainable?

Share: Strong projects require careful planning. It's like a puzzle—you need all the pieces to see the full picture.

Guide: As Girl Scouts complete the planning process, continue to have them take the lead, but keep a watchful eye to make sure the group is setting itself up for success.

To Do (and how you might help):

1. **Choose a goal.** Have Girl Scouts work together to identify a specific, measurable goal that defines success for their project. Remind them that the goal should meet one of the three sustainability criteria discussed in Step 3.

2. **Create your plan.** Girl Scouts may vary in their planning experience and abilities. Help with practical aspects of the process as needed, but encourage the group to take as much initiative as possible.
3. **Share your plan.** Have the group share their plan with you or another trusted adult. Help them to think through their ideas and figure out what supplies they need and how to get them. Also help them to identify and connect with people who can help.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out Step 4 of the **Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to Step 5.

Step 5: Take Action and celebrate!

• time varies

Ask: You've thought, planned, and prepped. Are you ready to act?

Share: You've done a lot of great work to get to this point. You're ready to make the world a better place—and that's a big part of what being a Girl Scout is all about!

Guide: Your job at this point is to let Girl Scouts take the lead, supervising to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible. Troubleshoot as needed. Encourage Girl Scouts to handle unexpected issues themselves if they can, but be prepared to step in if not.

To Do (and how leaders might help):

1. **Launch your project.** Supervise the project, helping with practical matters and logistics if needed. Enlist volunteers, if needed, for trips out of the meeting space.
2. **Evaluate your project.** Lead a discussion about the project and its results. Did Girl Scouts reach their goal? How did they measure it? How did the project make sustainable change?
3. **Celebrate!** Praise Girl Scouts for a job well done. Suggest that they share the story of their project to inspire others to make a difference.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ensure Girl Scouts have filled out Step 5 of the **Take Action and Global Action Plan** before moving on to the award overview process. They earn the Take Action or Global Action award after completing the overview process.

Award overview: Reflect and grow

• 20–30 minutes

After all steps are complete, guide Girl Scouts to think about their Take Action or Global Action experience as a whole and ask themselves how they've contributed to sustainable change. Use the questions from the award guide to facilitate your conversation.

TM ® & © 2025 Girl Scouts of the United States of America. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical methods, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, now known or hereinafter invented, without the prior written permission of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA), except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permissions requests, write to GSUSA at the address below or visit the www.girlscouts.org website to access permission request forms.

First published in 2025 by Girl Scouts of the United States of America, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798, www.girlscouts.org