



Silver Torch Award

If you're ready to be a great teammate, this award is for you! As part of a team in your school, place of worship, or community organization, you'll find out what motivates people and inspires positive change. The leadership skills you develop now will help you make a difference wherever you go—from sports teams to service projects to anything else that matters to you.

Steps

1. Explore your strengths
2. Set a group goal
3. Support your team
4. Look ahead together
5. Make your mark

Purpose

When I've earned this award, I'll know how to lead by being a great teammate.

Getting Started

This award is earned while you're part of a team, and that team can take many forms. Whether you're on a Girl Scout advisory board, a student council, or a bowling team, your group experience counts!

Use this guide to help you as you go. The activity ideas are suggestions—you can create your own, too. After each step, use the Silver Torch Plan to capture your thoughts. Reflect on your experience in any way you'd like: write, sketch, take photos or videos, or talk it through with someone you trust.



Explore leadership and take the first big step toward the Silver Award. This award stands strong on its own—and it's a prerequisite for Silver!



Meeting tools and additional resources for leaders can be found within the Volunteer Toolkit on mygs.org.

Step 1: Explore your strengths

Set a personal leadership goal.

Leading is about discovering what works best for you and your team. Before you start:

- 1. Reflect on what made you want to join this team.** What difference do you hope to make? Consider how you want to grow as a leader and what kind of teamwork you're already good at—maybe you're the friend who gets people talking, the one who comes up with creative ideas, or the person others trust to figure things out.
- 2. Set a personal goal.** You might focus on drawing out quiet team members, helping to run smoother meetings, or keeping your group motivated. This personal leadership goal is about YOU and how you want to lead. Once you've set your goal, make your plan for accomplishing it. Use the Silver Torch Plan to divide your personal goal into smaller steps. Later, you'll work with your group to set goals for what you'll accomplish together.



How Do You Like to Lead?

What makes a leader? Leaders might be good at:

- Breaking tricky tasks into simple steps
- Making sure everyone understands they're valued in the group
- Coming up with creative fixes to challenges
- Staying calm when plans need to change
- Finding ways for quiet people to share their thoughts
- Other talents I've noticed:

Circle the talents you feel apply to you, adding any ideas of your own. These are your natural leadership strengths!
What new leadership skills would you like to develop?

Silver Torch Plan

My role is: _____ at _____
Your position *Group/Organization*

Step 1: Explore your strengths

Set a personal leadership goal.

Reflect on what made you want to join this team.

Set a personal goal
for yourself.

What can you do to reach your goal?



Step 2: Set a group goal

Prepare to bring your team's goals to life.

By creating a clear plan, you can transform any goal from an idea into reality—and help your whole team know where they're headed. Talk to your team and come up with a group goal—and a plan to reach it. Here's how:

- 1. Get the scoop.** Start by gathering information and getting organized. Collect everything you know about the group or organization, their goal(s), and your role in the group. Write down any questions you have and try to find answers. Don't be afraid to ask!
- 2. Understand your group's goal.** Think about what you want to achieve together and how you'll make it happen. If your group doesn't have a defined goal, use the WOOP method (see box) to set one.
- 3. Create your game plan.** Now that you have your group's goal, create a plan to accomplish it. Collaborate with your team to map it out on your Silver Torch Plan. What needs to happen at each meeting? How will you track progress? Include must-do tasks like sending meeting reminders, preparing agendas, and checking progress.

Turn Goals into Action with WOOP

WOOP helps make your goal real. Here's how it works.

- 1. Want:** Pick something exciting you can achieve during your time together.
- 2. Outcome:** Picture what success looks like.
- 3. Obstacles:** Name your two biggest challenges.
- 4. Plan:** List specific things you can do to tackle each challenge.

See WOOP in action:

1. Want

As treasurer of her school's student government, Amari wants her team to fundraise for an all-school, end-of-semester pizza party.

2. Outcome

The group needs to raise \$2,150.

3. Obstacles

- If the student government doesn't get approval from their administrators, they can't fundraise.
- If the group can't get many people to donate, there may not be enough food.

4. Plan

Brainstorm some benefits of having a pizza party, then share them with the administrators. Once the pizza party is approved, the team will tell friends, ask teachers to share, and make loudspeaker announcements.

Silver Torch Plan

Step 2: Set a group goal

Prepare to bring your team's goals to life.

Want: Pick something exciting your team can achieve.

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Outcome: Picture what success looks like.

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Obstacles: Name your two biggest challenges.

1.
2.

Plan: List specific things you can do to tackle each obstacle.

Date	Activity	How to Prepare	Results and Actions Needed
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Step 3: Support your team

Discover what brings out the best in your group.

The strongest teams are made up of people who know how to work together. A good teammate not only shares ideas but also helps others feel confident to speak up. Now that you have your goals:

- 1. Create your teamwork toolbox.** Together with your team, develop “team care” strategies to help your group run smoothly. Think of ways you’ll agree to listen and communicate with respect, honor commitments, and—just as importantly—how you’ll make the experience meaningful and fun for everyone.
- 2. Prepare and participate.** Use your Silver Torch Plan to prepare for each meeting. At each meeting, join in and help the group work together. Make sure to listen, share your ideas, help others, and ask for support.
- 3. Reflect.** After each session, reflect on the experience. What went well? What was challenging? Can you think of other ways to support the team?



Silver Torch Plan

Step 3: Support your team

Discover what brings out the best in your group.

My teamwork toolbox

What gets people talking:

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What helps with disagreements:

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What keeps people excited:

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After each meeting, note:

What worked?

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What was tricky?

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Ideas for next time:

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Step 4: Look ahead together

Build on what's working and try new challenges.

Strong leaders know when to stick with what works and when to shake things up. Halfway through your timeline, check your goal progress and share your thoughts with the group. What is their experience? Where do you agree and disagree about how it's going? Their fresh ideas might help you bring new energy to meetings, find ways past obstacles, or give everyone more chances to lead.

Choose one of these activity ideas, or come up with your own.

- **Visualize your progress.** Create a colored chart or map that shows where your team is now. Draw, design, or create it digitally—whatever works for you.
 - **Green:** What's growing strong? (Your wins and what's working.)
 - **Yellow:** What's ready to bloom? (New ideas to try.)
 - **Red:** What needs attention?



- **Check in with a mentor or peer.** Midway through your term, schedule a conversation to reflect on your experience, including areas for improvement and ideas for supporting the group. You might talk with a teacher, friend, coach, or Girl Scout troop leader. Share your suggestions with the team and get their feedback. At the end of the term, reconnect with the person to talk through what worked well and what you'd do differently next time.



Silver Torch Plan

Step 4: Look ahead together

Build on what's working and try new challenges.



Halfway through
your time with the team,
reflect on...

- **The experience:** How are you feeling?
- **Team progress:** What has your team accomplished so far? What's still challenging?
- **Next steps:** What changes would make the biggest difference? Where could you use help?

New ideas to try:

Step 5: Make your mark

Create a lasting impact.

True leadership isn't just about right now—it's about setting things up to flow smoothly long after you're done. Now it's time to prepare you and the team for success after you move on.

At the end of the term, season, or school year, look back at your Silver Torch Plan. Did you reach your personal and group goals? If yes, how? If not (or not quite), what would you do differently next time? Then find a way to prepare for the future.

Choose one of these activity ideas, or come up with your own.

- **Share what works.** Help the next team succeed by creating a short video or guide. Include anything that worked well for your group, tips for common challenges, and any ideas or suggestions you have for the future.
- **Plan your next move.** Pick your next leadership goal: Do you want to expand your current role? Start a new project? Take on a new leadership position? Choose one goal and list three specific steps to make it happen.

Reflect and Grow

Throughout your time as a leader, you've brought people together, worked through different viewpoints, and made positive changes happen. Take a moment to think about your experience.

- **What worked:** What were your proudest moments as a leader and as a teammate? When did your team really click?
- **What challenged you:** How did you handle tough moments? What did you figure out when things didn't go as planned?
- **What's different:** How has your idea of being a leader changed? What do you see differently about working with a team?
- **What's next:** How will you use your leadership skills in new ways? What kind of leader do you want to become?



Keep Going!

Now that you've earned this award, you can:

- Keep practicing leadership with other [Leadership Awards](#)
- Become a [Silver Award Girl Scout](#)

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Silver Torch Plan

Step 5: Make your mark

Create a lasting impact.

Did you reach your goals? If yes, how? If no (or not quite), why not?

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What would you do differently next time?

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Share what works.

List tips for the next team, such as what worked well for your group and any ideas you have for the future.

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Plan your next move.

Choose your next leadership goal:

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First steps:

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Reflect & Grow

Take a moment to think about your experience and reflect on...



What worked?

Grid of dots for writing.



What challenged you?

Grid of dots for writing.



What's different?



Grid of dots for writing.

What's next?



Grid of dots for writing.