



GSNCA Bronze Award Toolkit

When Girl Scout Juniors team up to make a difference in their community, they learn important leadership skills, discover new passions, and what how seemingly small actions make a big difference. It all adds up to the Girl Scout Bronze Award – the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve.

As troops or girls team up to plan and complete their Bronze Award Take Action project, they will develop more confidence, meet new people, and have the kind of fun that happens when they work with other Girl Scouts to make a difference in the world.

The Bronze Award Take Action project defines an issue in the community and takes a look at the root of the problem in order to find long-term solutions.

This Toolkit is a collection of resources designed to help Troop Leaders and adult volunteers understand the Bronze Award requirements and GSNCA specific policies, and support Girl Scout Juniors as they work to achieve and celebrate the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

Resources Included:

What is a Take Action Project?

Learn the difference between community service and Take Action projects.

Girl Scout Highest Awards at a Glance

Learn the basic requirements and differences between the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award.

Girl Scout Highest Awards Progression Examples

Review examples of how projects might address a similar issue at each award level.

Bronze Award Approval Checklist for Troop Leaders

Check off all the boxes to make sure you and your girls have met all of the requirements for the Bronze Award.

Bronze Award Hours Log for Girls

Print a copy for girls and put them in charge of tracking their project time.

Highest Awards Take Action Project Ideas

Need some inspiration? Check out this list of possible issues to address.

Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Frequently Asked Questions

Find quick answers to common questions about the highest awards.

Bronze Award Ceremony Planning Guide

Your resource for planning a meaningful Bronze Award ceremony to honor Bronze Award Girl Scouts, including planning tips, ceremony examples and a planning worksheet.

Additional Resources:

[Bronze Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Juniors](#)

[Bronze Award Guidelines for Adults](#)

[GSNCA Money Earning Guidelines and Application Forms](#)

[Guidelines for Projects Benefiting GSNCA](#)

[Bronze Award Final Report Form](#)

Troop Leaders – Don't forget to complete the required Bronze Award Training! It is available in your gsLearn account.



What are Take Action Projects?

A Take Action project is a chance for girls to partner with others in the community to solve a problem. They learn about getting to the root causes of issues, mobilizing and engaging community members and volunteers, and striving to create lasting change in their world.

The process for a Take Action project starts with an issue the Girl Scout cares about. This is a different approach from other community service projects. Rather than starting with the *what* they want to do, girls start with an *issue* they want to address. Once they have some issues in mind that matter to them, they look around their community to see how those issues impact others in their area. Once they observe what is happening, they will identify the “why” something is happening (the root cause). Their Take Action project will focus on creating a solution for that “why”. The project plan comes after the issue’s root cause is identified.

The Difference Between Community Service and Take Action

Take Action projects are different from community service projects. Understanding and addressing the root cause of a problem is a key component of a Take Action project.

Community Service Comes from the heart.	Take Action Comes from the heart but uses the head to develop long-lasting impact.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service is a passive role where you help out with something that is already in place • Major decisions have been made and you are following someone else’s directions • Addresses symptoms of a problem without looking at the underlying causes • Collecting and donating items – a one-time fix for a problem • Beautification/renovation without an educational or awareness raising component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls create a project plan based on their observations of a local issue • Addresses the root cause of the issue to make a long-lasting impact • Puts girls in an active role of decision making • Girls develop leadership skills by exploring their community, brainstorming, planning, organizing, and putting their plan in motion

What’s this about girl-led?

To successfully lead girls through the earning the highest awards, you might have to set aside what you know about “doing it right”. To put it simply, the Take Action process builds girls into thoughtful leaders. Take Action enables each girl to speak her mind, forge healthy relationships, and develop career readiness skills (such as time management, cooperative decision-making, and problem solving). That means the girls have to be the ones taking the lead. And that means sometimes things will be messy and mistakes will be made. Girls need supportive adult volunteers to guide them through the process without giving them the answers. Watching girls regroup after a misstep is one of the most powerful ways to see their leadership expand!



girl scouts of north-central alabama

Girl Scout Highest Awards at a Glance

At each Girl Scout level, girls learn more about how to Take Action and participate in more challenging and complex projects. As with all Girl Scout activities, progression is built into each award level - what is considered sustainable for a Gold Award project is more rigorous than what is appropriate for a Bronze Award. This chart is a brief overview of the requirements for each award and the differences between them. Please check the specific guidelines for the award you're working on for comprehensive information and award requirements.

	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Girl Scout Level Requirement	Registered Juniors in 4 th or 5 th grade	Registered Cadettes in 6 th , 7 th , or 8 th grade	Registered Seniors or Ambassadors in 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , or 12 th grade
Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a Junior Journey* Troop Leader must complete Bronze Award Training on gsLearn Girls must review Bronze Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Juniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a Cadette Journey* Troop Leader must complete Silver Award Training on gsLearn Girls must review Silver Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Cadettes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earned the Silver Award as a Cadette and complete 1 Senior or Ambassador Journey* -OR- Complete 2 Senior/Ambassador Journeys* Girl must complete GSNCA Gold Award training (check events calendar for dates)
Overview	<p>*Completing a Journey includes completing the Take Action Project (TAP) - the Journey TAP CANNOT be used as award TAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group project (can be worked on as a troop) Use Bronze Award Guidelines to develop a 20-hour project All girls have a leadership role within the project and focus on teamwork and group decision-making to create positive change in the community Troop Leader guides girls through process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group (no more than 4 girls per group) or Solo project Use Silver Award Guidelines to develop a 50-hour project Girls take the lead on all aspects of the project - Troop Leader/volunteers provide support as asked by girls through process Project advisor with expertise in issue girls choose is suggested, but not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual project with Girl Scout taking the lead as project manager Use GSNCA's Your Guide to Going Gold to develop an 80-hour project Must use Go Gold to track and submit project information Project Advisor is required and supports girl through process of developing and implementing project plan (Project Advisor CAN NOT be a Troop Leader or parent) Girl must make Project Proposal Presentation to GSNCA Gold Award Committee for approval before work can begin

Sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls develop an understanding of sustainability, and after project is completed, discuss ways they could make their solutions lasting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls demonstrate an understanding of sustainability in the project plan and implementation Girls demonstrate an attempt to connect with community partners or other volunteers to establish partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project plan must include a specific plan to sustain the project beyond the Girl Scout's initial involvement Sustainability plan includes partnerships with other volunteers or community organizations Final Report shows specific evidence and includes detailed plan of how the project will be sustained
Measurable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls begin conversations about goals and goal setting when planning for their project and develop an understanding of measurability by talking with each other about aspects of the project that can be counted or tracked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls establish clear goals for their project and establish at least one way to measure and report success of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project proposal includes specific goals and methods of measurement to demonstrate the effectiveness of the project Measurements include both qualitative and quantitative data Final report includes specific measurements used and data recorded to show success of project
Global Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls develop an understanding of the larger community by discussing how the issue they address might impact others in different areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls connect with new community members, learn how others have solved similar problems and determine if the ideas of others can help them with their project plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls demonstrate national and/or global links to their selected issue. They learn from others, including subject matter experts and community organizations, and develop a plan to share the results of their project beyond the local community
Project Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained Troop/Adult Volunteer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained Troop/Adult Volunteer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSNCA Gold Award Committee
Final Report Submission to GSNCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed by Troop Leader at https://gsnca.formstack.com/bronze_award_report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed by Troop Leader at https://gsnca.formstack.com/silver_award_report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed by Girl Scout in Go Gold Girl is required to make Final Presentation to GSNCA Gold Award Committee
Project Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project must be completed and final report submitted to GSNCA by September 30th following graduation from 5th grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project must be completed and final report submitted to GSNCA by September 30th following graduation from 8th grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project must be completed and final report submitted in Go Gold by September 30th following graduation from 12th grade or their 18th birthday (whichever date is later)
Celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Troop or Service Unit planned Award Ceremony Congratulatory letter from GSNCA and announcement in The Globe newsletter Possible shout out on GSNCA social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Troop or Service Unit planned Award Ceremony Congratulatory letter from GSNCA and announcement in The Globe newsletter Possible shout out on GSNCA social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSNCA Gold Award Ceremony held in the spring or individual girl-planned ceremony Press release made by GSNCA Congratulatory letter from GSNCA and announcement in The Globe newsletter Possible shout out on GSNCA social media

Girl Scout Highest Awards Progression Examples

At each Girl Scout level, girls learn more about how to Take Action and participate in more challenging and complex projects. This chart provides brief examples of how an issue might be addressed at each award level.

Issue	Community Service	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Animal Care	A group of Girl Scouts collect pet food for a local animal shelter. They create treat bags for each dog or cat adopted from the shelter.	A troop of Junior Girl Scouts create "New Pet Kits" for families adopting animals from the local shelter. The kits include basic pet care information, a grooming brush, a sample of dog or cat food, and a treat for the animal being adopted. The kits are donated to the local shelter for them to distribute.	Suzie and Jane, Girl Scout Cadettes, work with an after school club at their local elementary school to create "New Pet Kits" for families adopting animals from the local shelter. The girls lead the students in creating over 100 kits. They then work with the animal shelter to host a pet education class that addresses basic pet care, the dos and don'ts of owning an animal and how to tell if it's the right time for a family to adopt a pet. The shelter will continue to host the pet education class once or twice a year.	Mary identifies a need for a pet food pantry in her community to support families experiencing financial hardship. She works with the local food pantry, who has agreed to host the pet food pantry. She runs a collection drive to stock the pantry with food for common household pets. She identifies a secure space in the pantry to store the food, creates a policy for distribution, and educates her community on how to make continual donations. She also works with the local animal shelter to develop methods for educating pantry recipients on basic pet care, the importance of spaying and neutering clinics, how to address animal behavioral problems and other activities that prevent animals from ending up in the shelter.
Food Insecurity	An individual Girl Scout or troop collects canned and boxed food for a local food pantry.	A troop of Junior Girl Scouts talks with a local food pantry Manager who mentions that the storage space needs to be cleaned and reorganized. The girls volunteer to clean the space and reorganize the food in a way that the pantry volunteers have identified as the most accessible. They also make a video encouraging more people to donate to the pantry.	Suzie, Jane, Tammy, and Taylor have expressed an interest in healthy eating at their troop meeting. They form a group for their Silver Award project and meet with local food pantry volunteers. The girls talk about their interest in healthy eating and the volunteers mention they don't have resources around healthy eating available at the pantry. The girls run a healthy food drive for the pantry, box up	Mary is very active and feels it is important for all people to have access to information about healthy eating. She works with her local soup kitchen and food pantry to set up several cooking workshops for their clients to teach them about healthy cooking. Mary partners with her school's community service club and a local dietician to help run the workshops and continue running them in the future. Each workshop features a different healthy recipe that calls for

	<p>A troop of Girl Scouts volunteers at the town Earth Day recycling event. They create posters for the event and help out on the day of.</p>	<p>After volunteering at an Earth Day event, a Junior Girl Scout troop noticed there are no recycling bins at their town park. The girls, along with their leader, speak to town officials and ask if they can put out two recycling bins in the park. They then purchase and paint the bins (according to town regulations), set them up in the park, and make sure they are added to the town's recycling pick up system.</p>	<p>the items, and leave a healthy recipe card in each box, so that recipients have a healthy meal to make after they've visited the pantry. They also leave a stack of healthy recipe cards and digital copies of their recipes with the pantry for future distribution.</p>	<p>ingredients often found in the food pantry. Information about healthy eating and exercise is distributed to the attendees at each workshop and left at the pantry for others to pick up.</p>
<p>Recycling</p>	<p>A group of Girl Scouts volunteers at the town Earth Day recycling event. They create posters for the event and help out on the day of.</p>	<p>After volunteering at an Earth Day event, a Junior Girl Scout troop noticed there are no recycling bins at their town park. The girls, along with their leader, speak to town officials and ask if they can put out two recycling bins in the park. They then purchase and paint the bins (according to town regulations), set them up in the park, and make sure they are added to the town's recycling pick up system.</p>	<p>Suzie enlists a group of her peers to set up "Recycling Week" at their school. She challenges all the students to throw away only one bag of trash per grade that week. Suzie and her team educate students on what can and cannot be recycled and set up composting bins in the cafeteria for students to use instead of throwing away their food waste. She also works with the school principal and an interested teacher to make "Recycling Week" an annual event.</p>	<p>Mary is interested in protecting the environment and "going green". She observes that town residents are not recycling much and waste could be reduced. She decides to hold an annual "Go Green" fair. She recruits local experts to present at the fair and address different topics such as composting, green cleaning products for the home, and repurposing everyday items. In addition, Mary works with the town to try and declare an annual, town-wide Go Green Day to raise awareness.</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>A group of Girl Scouts helps clean up an art classroom at their school.</p>	<p>A troop of Junior Girl Scouts notices that the art classroom is low on supplies and a bit of a mess. They decide to inventory the art supplies available and determine things that need to be replaced, then hold an art supply donation drive. Once they've collected the supplies, they work with the art teacher to clean and organize the art class while putting away the new supplies. They make posters encouraging people to continue supporting visual arts in the school.</p>	<p>Suzie, Jane and Taylor have always enjoyed art classes at their school. They read a report about another school in their community that does not have access to year-round art classes. They decide to work with the school's after-school program to offer an art club for 6 weeks. They hold an art supply drive, then come up with ideas for different art projects they could teach the kids in the club using the supplies available. As they lead the club, they write short descriptions and make a list of materials needed for each project that others could use to lead similar projects for more students in the future.</p>	<p>Mary is interested in visual arts and knows that access to art education can have a positive impact on learning outcomes in other subjects. She knows some schools in her area do not have funding to provide art classes year round. With the support of the school and local artists, Mary recruits volunteers to lead a monthly art club during the after-school program. The local PTA agreed to support the project and continue coordinating volunteers and supply drives for the program in the future. Once the club is established, Mary contacts local media to promote the importance of art education and lobbies her local school board and community to include funding for a year-round visual arts program for all schools in her area.</p>



Bronze Award Approval Checklist for Leaders

Troop #: _____ Project Name: _____

Names of Girl Scouts Completing Award: _____

Completed the following:

Yes No

- Completed one Journey – including completion of Take Action Project
 - Agent of Change
 - Get Moving
 - aMuse
 - Outdoor Think Like ...
 - an Engineer
 - a Programmer
 - a Citizen Scientist
- Leader completed Bronze Award Training in gsLearn
- Reviewed award requirements listed in the Bronze Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Juniors with girls
- Hour logs meet the 20-hour minimum per girl
- Girls identified root cause of issue
- Project addresses identified root cause – It is not a collection/donation only project
- Girls set project goals and developed a timeline for action
- Girls helped develop a budget and plan for funding the project
- Leader applied for/received GSNCA approval for any additional money earning activities planned
- Project had a positive impact on the community
- Each girl had a leadership role in the project
- Troop discussed sustainability and brainstormed ways they could make the project last beyond their involvement
- Bronze Award project accomplishments shared with the community
- Completed the project before September 30th after 5th grade graduation
- Final report submitted to GSNCA (https://gsnca.formstack.com/forms/bronze_award_report)
- Planned Bronze Award Ceremony with girls to celebrate achievement

Project Approval Date: _____ **Date Final Report Submitted to GSNCA:** _____



Bronze Award Hour Log

Girl Scout's Name: _____

Troop #: _____

Project Name: _____

You can use this time log to keep track of the time you spend working on your Take Action project. The minimum is 20 hours for each girl. Hours spent brainstorming, planning or working together count for each girl participating, but each girl needs to make note of her unique leadership roles.

Date	Activity	Time Spent	Total Hours
Subtotal:			

Bronze Award Hour Log *continued*

**Subtotal from
page 1:**

Date	Activity	Time Spent	Total Hours
Total:			

Highest Awards Take Action Project Ideas

Community Development

- Civic/Public Infrastructure
- Homeless Assistance
- Transportation
- Community Clean-up
- Social Services
- Volunteer Capacity/Management
- Historic Preservation
- Animal Care Services
- Independent Living Assistance
- Other Community Development (specify)

Economic Development

- Financial Literacy
- Workforce Development
- Financial Asset Development
- Technology Access
- Other Economic Development

Disaster Recovery and Relief

- Disaster Mitigation
- Disaster Recovery
- Other Disaster
- Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Relief

Education

- Adult Literacy
- Computer Literacy
- Special Education Programs
- After School Programs
- Classroom Education
- Job Preparedness
- Other Education (specify)

Environment and Energy

- Clean Air
- Environmental Protection
- Clean Water
- Environmental Restoration
- Weatherization
- Energy Conservation
- Indoor Environment
- Environment Awareness
- Other Environment (specify)

Health & Wellness/Nutrition

- Disabilities Services
- HIV/AIDS Prevention
- Nutrition Education
- Food Distribution/Collection
- Health & Wellness Education
- Substance Abuse Prevention/Rehabilitation
- Food Production
- Maternal/Child Health Services
- Aid to Seniors/Elders
- Health Services Delivery
- Mental Health Services
- Other Health/Nutrition (specify)

Public Safety

- Accident Prevention
- Crisis Intervention
- Victim/Witness Services
- Community Policing
- Fire Prevention
- Public Safety Education
- Conflict Resolution/Mediation
- Legal Assistance
- Crime Awareness/Prevention
- Offender/Ex-Offender Services/Rehabilitation
- Children and Youth Safety
- Other Public Safety (specify)

Youth Development

- Children and Youth Safety
- Juvenile Justice Services
- Bullying Prevention
- Delinquency Prevention
- Teen Pregnancy/Parenting Services
- Other Youth Development (specify)
- Gang Prevention/Rehabilitation
- Youth Leadership Development

Veterans Assistance

- Housing Assistance
- Military Family Assistance
- Veteran Employment Services
- Outreach and Counseling
- Veteran Disabilities/Rehabilitation Assistance
- Other Veterans (specify)

Bronze, Silver and Gold Award FAQs

Bronze. Silver. Gold. These represent the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn. All three awards give girls the chance to do big things while working on issues that are important to them. As she works to address her issue's root cause, she'll inspire others as she changes her corner of the world—and maybe even beyond. The possibilities are endless. These awards give girls the opportunity to reach their full potential as leaders and become agents of positive change.

The process of earning these awards may seem a bit confusing at first, but GSNCA believes every girl has the potential to earn them and is here to support her every step of the way. Find quick answers to common questions about the highest awards in Girl Scouting below, or reach out to your Troop Leader or council staff for more information.

Who can earn the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards?

Girl Scout Juniors in 4th or 5th grade are eligible to earn the Bronze Award.

Girl Scout Cadettes in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade are eligible to earn the Silver Award.

Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade are eligible to earn the Gold Award.

Can a girl earn the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award even if she hasn't been in Girl Scouts very long?

Yes! She just needs to be a registered Girl Scout in the correct level to begin working on each award.

Why are journeys prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

The journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action project.

How do girls know when a journey is "completed?"

A journey is completed when a girl has earned the journey awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

What makes the awards guidelines different from the journeys?

In contrast to journey Take Action projects, which give girls themes on which to base their journey Take Action project, the Girl Scout Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. Girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action project based on their interests and passions.

What are the suggested hours for earning each of the awards?

Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. The time it takes to earn the awards will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours to use as a guide is:

The Bronze Award -- suggested minimum 20 hours

The Silver Award -- suggested minimum 50 hours

The Gold Award -- suggested minimum 80 hours

Can a troop work on an Award together?

Each award level brings a new progression of leadership development and each award level has different group guidelines. At the Bronze level girls must work together in a team setting as a troop or group. Juliette Girl Scouts should gather a team of friends or volunteers to help – maybe some friends will want to join Girl Scouts and earn the award as well! When girls work on their Silver Award they have the option to work individually or in a small group setting (no more than 4 girls). The Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting and girls must earn the Gold Award as an individual.

Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge from one Girl Scout level to the next?

Yes. Girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer but must complete the prerequisites before starting on the award Take Action project.

How can we make sure that Girl Scout awards represent quality projects?

The best way to make sure a girl is working at the best of her ability is to ensure that both she and her Troop Leader, adult volunteer or project advisor receive orientation about the award and understand the difference between community service and a Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Take Action project. Troop Leaders are required to complete Bronze or Silver Award Training before they can approve Bronze and/or Silver Awards. Girls should fully review the guide specific to the award they are working toward before starting their project. It's the responsibility of the Troop Leader/group volunteer, council staff member, or Gold Award committee to work with the girl to ensure she meets the quality requirements of the award.

It is important to note that Take Action and community service are different—and both are essential to Girl Scouting. When a girl performs community service, she responds to an immediate need in a one-off, “doing for” capacity; with Take Action/service learning, she explores the root causes of a community need and addresses one in a sustainable way.

What is a Root Cause?

A Root Cause is the “**why**” of every issue. It is what lies beneath the surface of a problem. Determining the root cause of an issue takes in-depth observation, questioning, and awareness. This is a key component of any Take Action project.

What does it mean to have a sustainable project?

A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girl’s involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl’s involvement.

Is sustainability differentiated at each Girl Scout level?

The guidelines give girls tools to examine the underlying root cause of issues, develop a sustainable project plan and measure the impact of their project on their community, the target audience and themselves. There is progression. While Girl Scout Juniors working on their Girl Scout Bronze Award will reflect on how the project could be kept going, Girl Scout Cadettes plan for sustainability. Seniors and Ambassadors work to ensure the sustainability of their project in order to meet the Gold Award standards of excellence.

While Juniors explore an issue that affects their Girl Scout community, Cadettes create a community map of their neighborhood or school. Meanwhile Seniors and Ambassadors earning the Gold Award assess an issue and its effect more broadly by interviewing community leaders, research using a variety of sources and investigate other community’s solutions to a similar problem.

How does a girl measure project impact?

Girls identify their project goals for their community, target audience and themselves by developing success indicators using a matrix provided in the guidelines.

Who can be a Girl Scout Gold Award 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 serve as the project advisor. 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.

Do Bronze, Silver or Gold Award projects cost money?

Most, but not all, award projects cost at least a small amount of money to carry out. Once girls have an idea, they should create a project budget that accounts for all potential costs associated with the plan. Once they have their budget, they should consider possible ways to fund the project.

If money is needed, how can girls earn money to pay for highest award projects?

The easiest way for girls to earn money to support higher awards projects is to participate in the Fall Product and Cookie Programs. If the girls have participated in these programs but still need additional funding, they may plan additional money earning activities in accordance with [GSNCA's Money Earning Activity Guidelines](#).

Do we need approval for troop or individual money-earning activities from council? Are there any limitations on how girls can earn additional funds to support their project?

YES! Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama must follow specific guidelines for money earning activities to maintain our legal non-profit status. All additional money earning activities **MUST** be approved by council before they can begin. Troop Leaders and girls are responsible for reviewing these guidelines fully and receiving required approvals in advance of any money earning activities.

A few important notes about money earning activities:

- Girls **MUST** participate in the Cookie Program before any additional money earning activities will be approved. Participation in Fall Product Program is **HIGHLY** encouraged.
- Additional money earning activities **MAY NOT** be held during Fall Product or Cookie Program dates.
- Girl Scouts **CANNOT** raise money for other organizations.
- Use of crowdfunding applications (ex. GoFundMe) is **NOT ALLOWED**.

Can a girl or her family make personal contributions for their higher award project?

Yes, but it should not be a hardship for the family. Girls should be encouraged to work on a budget for their project and come up with ways to fund it first.

What is the approval process for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards?

The Bronze and Silver Awards are approved by trained Troop Leaders. The Gold Award is approved by the GSNCA Gold Award Committee. Girl Scouts working toward their Gold Award must present a project proposal to the committee for approval before work begins, as well as submit a Final Report and presentation to the committee for final approval.

What paperwork is required for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards and who should submit it?

All highest award paperwork is now completed digitally – no paper copies of documents will be accepted.

Bronze Award Final Report should be completed and submitted by trained Troop Leader at https://gsnca.formstack.com/forms/bronze_award_report

Silver Award Final Report should be completed and submitted by trained Troop Leader at https://gsnca.formstack.com/forms/silver_award_report

Gold Award Final Report is completed and submitted by Girl Scout in [Go Gold](#).

Can Take Action Projects for the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards focus on Girl Scouting or benefit Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama?

Yes, Take Action projects for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards may benefit the Girl Scout community. However, there is a specific award progression that should be honored: Take Action projects for the Bronze Award may focus on service in support of the Girl Scout Movement, and Take Action projects for the Silver and Gold Awards are expected to reach into the community to “make the world a better place.” At the Silver and Gold Award levels, a girl should first consider issues she’s passionate about in her community, school, and world that she would like to address. Then, she should investigate her issue to uncover its root cause, connect with the community to begin developing a solution, and enlist her team. As she develops her project plan, she will determine her target audience. It’s at this step that she might decide Girl Scouts is the best audience or beneficiary.

Overall, our award progression offers younger girls the opportunity to develop their planning and leadership skills within the comfort and familiarity of Girl Scouting or another local community. As they mature, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors are ready to move beyond the Girl Scout family to share their leadership skills—and impact—with the wider community. It is in fully exploring their communities that older girls exemplify the Girl Scout mission.

GSNCA has specific guidelines and an approval process for these, and projects must be approved by council before any work can begin. For full details, review the [Guidelines for Projects Benefiting Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama](#).

If a girl starts working on her Take Action project and moves; can she still earn her award?

Councils and Overseas Committees are encouraged to be flexible to work and serve the girls’ best interests. If a girl moves, she should work with her new council and/or Overseas Committee to complete the project.

Who are the adult guides for – council staff, parents, or volunteers?

Any adult is welcome to use the adult guides. The guides were designed for volunteers working directly with girls on achieving their awards.

Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

No. The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are done to the best of a girl’s ability. There is no need to have special requirements for girls with disabilities — encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the girl individually.

What is the deadline for completing a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award?

Girl Scout Juniors have until September 30th following graduation from 5th grade to complete their Bronze Award.

Girl Scout Cadettes have until September 30th following graduation from 8th grade to complete their Silver Award.

Girl Scout Ambassadors have until September 30th following graduation from 12th grade or their 18th birthday (whichever give them more time) to complete their Gold Award.

How are the girls celebrated for achieving the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award?

As Troop Leader approved awards, Bronze and Silver Award ceremonies are planned at the Troop or Service Unit (SU) level. Pins, certificates, or other award recognitions are available for purchase by Troop Leaders for girls at the GSNCA retail shops AFTER award Final Reports are submitted to GSNCA. Girls who have earned the Bronze or Silver Awards will receive a congratulatory letter from GSNCA, be announced in The Globe newsletter, and may be featured in a shout out on GSNCA social media.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are celebrated at the GSNCA Gold Award ceremony in the spring*. Pins and other recognitions are provided by GSNCA. Gold Award Girl Scouts may choose to accept their award at a privately planned ceremony at another time of their choosing, but must coordinate in advance with council staff to receive pins in time. GSNCA will make a local press release for Gold Award Girl Scouts when their Final Report is approved by the Gold Award Committee. They will also receive a congratulatory letter from GSNCA (which can be used as verification of award for college applications), be announced in The Globe newsletter, and may be featured in a shout out on GSNCA social media.

*Final Reports for Gold Award Girl Scouts must be submitted for approval by March 1st to be included in that year's Gold Award Ceremony. Final Reports submitted after that deadline will be invited to the following year's Gold Award Ceremony.

How do I know my girl has completed all the requirements for her award?

Girls and Troop Leaders/adult volunteers should review each award's guidelines to ensure each step required has been completed. Troop Leaders/adult volunteers and girls are encouraged to use the Approval Checklists to make sure all requirements are met for Bronze and Silver Awards.

For the Gold Award, girls must complete and submit each step in Go Gold before they can continue to the next required step. This feature ensures all requirements for the Gold Award are met as she works through the process.

Who can I contact if I still have questions after reviewing the award guidelines?

Contact customercare@girlscoutsnca.org with "Highest Awards" in the subject line, or Becky Williamson at bwilliamson@girlscoutsnca.org.



Bronze Award Ceremony Planning Guide

The Bronze Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can earn and should be celebrated in a special way. As a Troop Leader approved award, this ceremony is planned and held at the troop or Service Unit level.

There are many ways to celebrate Girl Scout achievements, and the options for a meaningful celebration are almost endless, but it is important to give special attention to the achievement of the Bronze Award and the girl(s) who have earned it. This guide is intended to help you plan a meaningful celebration with your Bronze Award Girl Scout(s). While badge presentations may be more relaxed affairs, we highly recommend a more formal setting for the Bronze Award presentation.

Why hold a Bronze Award ceremony?

Ceremonies connect girls and adults to Girl Scout traditions and help celebrate the special sisterhood Girl Scouts share and the special accomplishments of each girl. As the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve, the Bronze Award should be held apart from other awards to emphasize the achievement.

What honors will be presented at the ceremony?

We recommend celebrating Bronze Award Girl Scouts in a way that sets the accomplishment apart from other earned badges. This can mean presenting the award during a special pinning ceremony just for Bronze Awards or including the Bronze Award pinning in a special time during a Court of Awards ceremony.

When should we hold our ceremony?

Awards ceremonies should be planned and held after the awards have been earned, but the exact timing is up to Girl Scouts and their Leaders. Do your girls prefer to receive their pins as soon as they earn them so they can display their achievement for the rest of the year? Or do they prefer to wait and have one big celebration at the end of the year? Consider what you know about your girls. For some, it is wise to make awards presentations while they are still engaged and excited about the project to emphasize the special achievement. If your girls prefer to wait, perhaps you can have a mini-celebration for completing the project while they wait for the formal ceremony – perhaps a special trip to a favorite snack shop or celebratory game night or campfire program...

Who should be invited?

This depends on the place, space and type of ceremony planned. Some troops may prefer to hold private ceremonies without inviting any guests. It is a good idea to ask girls who they would like to include.



Should there be a Special Guest list?

This also depends on the Girl Scouts' preference. Is there anyone girls would like to specially thank for supporting their project? It might be a good idea to invite them to your celebration. Other special guests to consider include family members, members of the community, beneficiaries of the Take Action project, a representative from their meeting space host organization, Service Unit leadership, staff from Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama, etc. The invitation list should be appropriate for the space and ceremony type planned in accordance with the girls' preference. Be sure to give invited guests plenty of time to plan/prepare for the ceremony if you would like them to attend.

Where should we hold our ceremony?

The ceremony can be held inside or outside, in the regular meeting space or at a special site chosen by Troop Leaders and girls. Consider any decorations or special needs you might have for the ceremony when choosing a location.

What does a formal ceremony look like?

Awards ceremonies typically follow a set pattern but can always be adjusted to include the girls' ideas and any elements they value. Elements of a Bronze Award ceremony could include:

Welcome

Opening – flag ceremony, Girl Scout Promise and Law, song or activity

Brief Talk – Discuss Girl Scout traditions or discuss awards to be presented and their significance

Award Presentation

Songs (optional)

Closing – Something appropriate for the occasion; can be as simple as final congratulations and Girl Scout Handshake, or a closing circle including all attendees.

What should we wear?

As a formal Girl Scout ceremony, Girl Scout Juniors and Leaders are encouraged to wear the troop's agreed upon uniform, including the vest or sash with the Girl Scout membership tab and pins. Make a plan and clearly let girls know what they need in advance of the ceremony so they have time to prepare.

Where can order pins and any other recognitions we want to present?

Bronze Award pins are not available for purchase online - they must be ordered through or picked up from the Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama retail shops. Like other troop level awards, the cost of Bronze Award pins and recognitions are



covered by the troop. Bronze Award pins can only be purchased by Troop Leaders, and pins can only be purchased for girls specifically listed on the Final Report submitted to GSNCA when the project is completed. Certificates and additional award related gifts may also be available for purchase in the shops and online. To order recognitions, call 1-800-734-4541 or contact us by email at retail1@girlscoutsna.org.

Who should present the Bronze Award?

As a Troop Leader approved award, the Bronze Award is usually presented by the Troop Leader or Co-Leader. If girls would like to include a parent or family member in the ceremony, the Leaders could lead the ceremony, but invite a special guest to actually place the pin on the Girl Scout vest.

Should we have refreshments at our ceremony?

This is completely optional but may add a fun element to your celebration.

Can we include unique elements to our ceremony?

Of course! As with everything in Girl Scouts, this ceremony should incorporate elements that are meaningful to the girls. If your girls love a particular camp property and campfires, think of ways you can include these elements in the celebration. The most important part of the Bronze Award ceremony is to celebrate the achievement in a way that is meaningful to the girls who have earned it!

Where can we get more ideas for planning our ceremony?

The Girl Scout Junior Handbook includes basic information for planning Girl Scout ceremonies. Be sure to ask your Girl Scouts about any ideas they might have. Fellow Troop Leaders in your Service Unit and online sites like Pinterest are also great places to look for ceremony ideas. Some sample ceremonies and a planning worksheet are included in the following pages. Feel free to customize them to meet the needs of your girls.



Sample Bronze Award Ceremony (by Valerie Haines)

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest award for Junior Girl Scouts. This sample ceremony gives each girl the opportunity to describe her project and to identify what she learned in the process.

Supplies: Three tall white or green candles. These candles are surrounded by one candle for each girl receiving her Girl Scout Bronze Award. The tall candles should be lit before the ceremony begins. Candles can be arranged in a candle log on a table at the head of a horseshoe formation.

Procedure: This ceremony can begin with a flag ceremony, the pledge of allegiance, the Girl Scout Promise, and a song.

Sample Script:

Bronze Award Ceremony Leader: Today we are honoring _____ (names of girls to receive award) for earning the highest award in Junior Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Each of these girls has achieved the high ideals and goals expressed by Juliette Gordon Low, who founded the Girl Scout movement in 1912.

Speaker #2: The three tall candles symbolize the threefold purpose of Girl Scouting as expressed in our Promise.

Speaker #3: "On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country..."

Speaker #4: "...To help people at all times..."

Speaker #5: "...And to live by the Girl Scout Law."

Leader: _____ (names of girls) have served their country, community, and God with their hard work and skills. Each will speak about her Girl Scout Bronze Award project and receive her award. (Call the first girl by name.)

Award Recipient #1: (Stepping forward) My Girl Scout Bronze Award project was _____. I learned _____. (She walks to the leader who gives her the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Then she goes to the table, picks up a candle, lights it from one of the tall candles, and puts it back down.)

Leader: _____ (Calls the next girl by name).

Award Recipient #2: (Stepping forward) My Girl Scout Bronze Award project was _____. I learned _____. (She walks to the leader who gives her the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Then she goes to the table, picks up a candle, lights it from one of the tall candles, and puts it back down. This continues until each girl has spoken, received her award, and lit her candle.)

Leader: An award is a symbol of achievement. It means that you have learned something and provided service to others. With each new award, a Girl Scout takes on new responsibilities. More is expected at home, in Girl Scouting, and in your community. Strive always to be worthy of the symbols you wear and wear them with pride. Best wishes to each of you!

Closing: Retire colors, sing a song of your choice, form a friendship circle.



Sample Court of Awards Ceremony with Bronze Award

Display girls' projects from the year around the room for parents and friends to admire. Have each girl's badges or patches in an envelope or pinned to a ribbon with the names of the badges/patches and the girl's name written on it. Open the Court of Awards with a flag ceremony. Have the troop standing in a horseshoe facing the audience of parents and friends.

Leader: Welcome to our Court of Awards ceremony. The girls have been working on several badges and awards this year. Each girl needs inspiration and guidance in pursuing these new endeavors. Many times, it is the everyday encouragement and help from you that your daughter relies on. We, the leaders, realize this time and effort you have given, and we thank you. Ceremonies are necessary to American life. They are assorted in size, appearance and meaning, but they go together to satisfy a fundamental human desire for recognition. Each badge or award has several requirements. Your daughter has accomplished some of these requirements by herself, some of the requirements have involved working with other girls on a common project. All activities have helped the girls learn new skills or develop new interests. It is with pride that we present these awards today and recognize these girls for their hard work. I present the following awards to _____. (name badges and awards) (Repeat for each girl.)

At this time we have a special honor to present to (list names of Girl Scouts who have earned Bronze Award). Girls, please step forward.

The Bronze Award is the highest honor Girl Scout Juniors can earn. To earn this award, these girls have completed a special Take Action project that has made a significant positive impact on their community. They looked around the community and found an issue that mattered to them, then came up with a plan to help solve it– not just for now, but for the future as well. In earning this award, these girls have shown real leadership and the skills they have gained and strengthened are setting them up for success today and into the future.

(Describe specific project girls completed and time dedicated to completing project.)

(Present pins to girls one by one. Highlight one specific way each girl showed leadership during the project as pins are presented or ask girls to say one or two sentences about her role in the project.)

Congratulations girls!

Parents and friends, I encourage you to take time after the ceremony to look around at the exhibit of projects and talk to the girls about all they have achieved this year. They have worked very hard, as I'm sure you can see. We want to thank you for supporting your Girl Scout throughout this process. These girls could not have completed all this work without your help and encouragement. At this time we invite you all to join us in a friendship circle for the closing song.

All: Join in friendship circle and sing, "Taps."



Ceremony Planning Worksheet

Name of Ceremony: _____

Purpose or Theme: _____

Date/Time of Ceremony: _____

Place of Ceremony: _____

Length: _____

Who will attend? _____

How will the ceremony begin? _____

What songs, poems, quotations will be included? _____

What activities will be included in the main part of the ceremony? _____

Will people speak? _____

Will recognitions or other awards be given? _____

What will be purchased and who will bring the recognitions to the ceremony? _____

How will the ceremony end? _____

Who will do each part? _____

Who will record the ceremony for your troop's archives or records? _____



What decorations or props are needed? _____

Who will bring the items? _____

Do we want to have a printed program? Who will make it? _____

What refreshments will be served? _____

Who will bring them? _____

What is the ceremony budget? _____

Who will pay for it? _____

Do we need to rehearse for the ceremony? If so, when? _____

Additional Notes:
