



## GSNCA Silver Award Toolkit

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When Girl Scout Cadettes focus on an issue they care about, learn the facts, and take action to make a difference, they gain the confidence and skills that will catapult them to lifelong success. It all adds up to the Girl Scout Silver Award – the highest honor a Cadette can achieve.

Becoming a Silver Award Girl Scout gives girls the chance to show they are leaders who are organized, determined, and dedicated to improving their community. The Silver Award Take Action project begins with defining a community “issue” girls want to improve. Once they define the issue, they start looking for the reason why the issue is happening – they may find more than one! These reasons “why” are the root causes of the issue. Once they identify the root causes, they will pick one to address and develop a Take Action project to make a lasting change in their world.

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

### **Silver 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 Silver Award.

### **Silver Award Checklist and Hours Log for Girls**

Print a copy for girls and put them in charge of meeting award requirements and 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.

### **Silver Award Ceremony Planning Guide**

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

## **Additional Resources:**

[Silver Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Cadettes](#)

[Silver Award Guidelines for Adults](#)

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

[Guidelines for Projects Benefiting GSNCA](#)

[Silver Award Final Report Form](#)

**Troop Leaders – Don't forget to complete the required Silver 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"> <li>• Service is a passive role where you help out with something that is already in place</li> <li>• Major decisions have been made and you are following someone else’s directions</li> <li>• Addresses symptoms of a problem without looking at the underlying causes</li> <li>• Collecting and donating items – a one-time fix for a problem</li> <li>• Beautification/renovation without an educational or awareness raising component</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls create a project plan based on their observations of a local issue</li> <li>• Addresses the root cause of the issue to make a long-lasting impact</li> <li>• Puts girls in an active role of decision making</li> <li>• Girls develop leadership skills by exploring their community, brainstorming, planning, organizing, and putting their plan in motion</li> </ul>

## 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.

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

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

# 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
<b>Animal Care</b>	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.
<b>Food Insecurity</b>	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



			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.	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.
<b>Recycling</b>	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.	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.	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.	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.
<b>Education</b>	A group of Girl Scouts helps clean up an organize the art classroom at their school.	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.	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.	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.



## Silver Award Approval Checklist for Leaders

Troop #: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed the following:

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ Completed one Cadette Journey – including completion of Take Action Project
  - ☐ aMaze ☐ Breathe ☐ MEdia ☐ Outdoor
  - Think Like ... ☐ an Engineer ☐ a Programmer ☐ a Citizen Scientist
- ☐ ☐ Leader completed Silver Award Training in gsLearn
- ☐ ☐ Reviewed award requirements listed in the Silver Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Cadettes with girls

Team: ☐ Decided to go Solo ☐ Team of 2 ☐ Team of 3 ☐ Team of 4

Girl Scout Names:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ ☐ Hour Logs meet the 50-hour minimum per girl
- ☐ ☐ Girls identified and defined root cause of issue
- ☐ ☐ Project addresses identified root cause – It is not a collection/donation only project
- ☐ ☐ Girls identified community, national or global organizations working on similar issues and included what they learned in their project planning
- ☐ ☐ Girls set project goals and developed a timeline for action
- ☐ ☐ Girls developed 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 (girls met their goals)
- ☐ ☐ Each girl had a leadership role in the project
- ☐ ☐ Girls planned for project sustainability (the project lasts beyond their initial involvement)
- ☐ ☐ Silver Award project accomplishments shared with the community
- ☐ ☐ Completed the project before September 30<sup>th</sup> after 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation
- ☐ ☐ Final report submitted to GSNCA ([https://gsnca.formstack.com/forms/silver\\_award\\_report](https://gsnca.formstack.com/forms/silver_award_report))
- ☐ ☐ Planned Silver Award Ceremony with girls to celebrate their achievement

**Project Approval Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Final Report Submitted to GSNCA:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Silver Award Checklist for Girls

Girl Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop #: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed the following:

- ☐ Cadette Journey – including the Take Action Project
  - ☐ aMaze   ☐ Breathe   ☐ MEdia   ☐ Outdoor
  - Think Like ...   ☐ an Engineer   ☐ a Programmer   ☐ a Citizen Scientist
- ☐ Reviewed Silver Award requirements listed in the Silver Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Cadettes with Troop Leader or adult volunteer
- ☐ Built my Team:
  - ☐ Decided to go Solo   ☐ Team of 2   ☐ Team of 3   ☐ Team of 4

Team Member(s) Names:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Completed each step in the Silver Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Cadettes
- ☐ Hour logs meet the 50-hour per girl minimum (Hour Log attached)
- ☐ Identified and defined root cause of issue
- ☐ Project addresses identified root cause – It is not a collection/donation only project
- ☐ Identified community, national or global organizations working on similar issues and included what I learned in project planning
- ☐ Set project goals, developed a timeline for action and assigned roles if working in a group
- ☐ Developed a budget and plan for funding the project
- ☐ Project had a positive impact on the community (Goals were achieved)
- ☐ I had a leadership role in the project
- ☐ Project included plan for sustainability (the project lasts beyond my/our initial involvement)
- ☐ Reflected on what I/we accomplished and shared my/our success with others
- ☐ Completed the project before September 30<sup>th</sup> after my 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation
- ☐ Let my Troop Leader or adult volunteer know when my project was completed
- ☐ Planned Silver Award Ceremony with my team/Troop Leader to celebrate achievement

**Date My Leader Approved My Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date My Leader Submitted Final Report to GSNCA:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Silver 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 50 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:			

Silver Award Hour Log *continued*

**Subtotal from  
page 1:**

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Need more space? Print additional copies of this form as needed.

# 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)

## **Silver Award Ceremony Planning Guide**

The Silver Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette 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 Silver Award and the girl(s) who have earned it. This guide is intended to help you plan a meaningful celebration with your Silver Award Girl Scout(s). While badge presentations may be more relaxed affairs, we highly recommend a more formal setting for the Silver Award presentation.

### **Why hold a Silver 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 Cadette can achieve, the Silver Award should be held apart from other awards to emphasize the achievement.

### **What honors will be presented at the ceremony?**

We recommend celebrating Silver Award Girl Scouts in a way that sets the accomplishment apart from other earned badges. This can mean presenting it during a special pinning ceremony just for Silver Awards or including the Silver 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 Silver 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 Cadettes 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 we order pins and any other recognitions we want to present?**

Silver 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 Silver Award pins and recognitions are





covered by the troop. Silver 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 [retail@girlscoutsnca.org](mailto:retail@girlscoutsnca.org).

### **Who should present the Silver Award?**

As a Troop Leader approved award, the Silver Award is usually presented by the Troop Leader or Co-Leader. If girls prefer 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 Silver 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 Cadette 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 Silver Award Ceremony** (adapted from Valerie Haines)

The Girl Scout Silver 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 Silver 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:**

Ceremony Leader: Today we are honoring \_\_\_\_\_ (names of girls to receive award) for earning the highest award in Cadette Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Silver 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 Silver Award project and receive her award. (Call the first girl by name.)

Award Recipient #1: (Stepping forward) My Girl Scout Silver Award project was \_\_\_\_\_. I learned \_\_\_\_\_. (She walks to the leader who gives her the Girl Scout Silver 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 Silver Award project was \_\_\_\_\_. I learned \_\_\_\_\_. (She walks to the leader who gives her the Girl Scout Silver 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 Silver 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 some of our Girl Scout Cadettes.

The Silver Award is the highest honor Girl Scout Cadettes 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. These girls identified an issue in the community that they care deeply about, then worked either individually or as a small group to come up with a plan to help solve it– not just for now, but for the future as well. Each of these girls dedicated about 50 hours of work to completing this project. By earning this award, these world changers have shown real leadership, and the skills they have gained and strengthened will serve them now as well as continue to help them make the world a better place in the future.

(Call forward the first individual or small group of Silver Award Girl Scouts. Invite girls to describe their specific project. Present pins to girls one by one. Highlight one specific way each girl showed leadership during the project as pins are presented.)

(Call forward the second individual or small group of Silver Award Girl Scouts. Invite girls to describe their specific project. Repeat until every individual or small group of Silver Award Girl Scouts is honored.)

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? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who will bring the items? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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What refreshments will be served? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who will bring them? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the ceremony budget? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who will pay for it? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Additional Notes:

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## **Silver Award Ceremony Planning Guide**

The Silver Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette 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 Silver Award and the girl(s) who have earned it. This guide is intended to help you plan a meaningful celebration with your Silver Award Girl Scout(s). While badge presentations may be more relaxed affairs, we highly recommend a more formal setting for the Silver Award presentation.

### **Why hold a Silver 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 Cadette can achieve, the Silver Award should be held apart from other awards to emphasize the achievement.

### **What honors will be presented at the ceremony?**

We recommend celebrating Silver Award Girl Scouts in a way that sets the accomplishment apart from other earned badges. This can mean presenting it during a special pinning ceremony just for Silver Awards or including the Silver 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 Silver 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 Cadettes 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 we order pins and any other recognitions we want to present?**

Silver 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 Silver Award pins and recognitions are



covered by the troop. Silver 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 [retail@girlscoutsnca.org](mailto:retail@girlscoutsnca.org).

### **Who should present the Silver Award?**

As a Troop Leader approved award, the Silver Award is usually presented by the Troop Leader or Co-Leader. If girls prefer 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 Silver Award ceremony is to celebrate the achievement in a way that is meaningful to the girls who have earned it!

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