

The Girl Scout Gold Award

*“The Mark of the
Truly Remarkable”*



What is the Girl Scout Gold Award?

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest recognition earned by Senior or Ambassador Girl Scouts.

Gold Award Girl Scouts collaborate with community members to take action and find a sustainable solution to a commonly identified problem, all while building their own life skills.



A few things about the Gold Award?



- Each year the Gold Award is completed by approximately 6% of Girl Scouts around the world. In USAGSO, that's approx. 4% out of an average 400 eligible members complete the Gold Award.
- The Gold Award is an amazing opportunity to use the skills you have gained as a Girl Scout; it is only a small part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.
- The Gold Award is completed when a community need is identified, and the Girl Scout is both passionate about the topic and connecting with her community.

Before you Begin, the Prerequisites

The Gold Award, like the Silver and Bronze Award, has prerequisites that must be completed before you may begin your remarkable journey. There are two options.

Option 1

Complete the Silver
Award

Complete 1
Senior/Ambassador
Journey

Option 2

Complete 2
Senior/Ambassador
Journey



Head to <https://www.usagso.org/> and use the resources provide to get started.



Getting Started, You and Your Community

Your Gold Award comes from the place where your interests and your community's needs meet.

Interests

Journaling
Mind Maps
Collage/Vision Board
Have a Chat

Needs

Take a walk
Read Local
Have a Chat
w/professionals
w/community members



Getting Started, Identifying your Issue



The issue you address should be one you have identified **WITH** not **FOR** your community. Speaking with community members, potential partners and local professionals is an important to project success and proposal approval.

Here are a few things to remember for the when writing your proposal:

Cite at least 3 reliable sources (ex: scholarly journal, trusted news source, community member)

Give you target audience and local professional a voice

Back up your statements with facts

INCLUDE A CONFIRMATION LETTER FROM YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNER



Getting Started, Building your Team



Your Project Advisor

- An adult knowledgeable about your topic and community
- Cannot be a parent/family members discouraged
- Able to offer time and guidance
- Does not need knowledge of the Girl Scout Gold Award
- Does not need to be a registered volunteer

Your Team

- Includes members of your community and target audience
- List EVERYONE sister scouts, family members, schoolmates, etc
- Teams should start with 4-5 people & will grow
- Provide skill, knowledge & labor
- Some will meet with you often, others will play a specific role



Getting Started, Service VS Take Action



Community Service

Important acts of kindness providing assistance to a person or group in the moment.

Short-term, one and done

FOR the community

Joining an existing effort

Part of an existing team

Goals set by others & you follow instructions

Take Action

Working to understand the root cause of a problem so that you can develop a sustainable solution.

Long-term, sustainable

WITH the community

Creating a unique initiative

Creating & leading your own team

Goals set by you & leading a team to achieve them



Preparing your Proposal

As you are doing your investigation and interviews to identify your issue, you should keep track of your work in an online or paper document

- Contacts – name, org, etc
- Time logged
- Important reliable/relevant sources
- Possible advisors, partners, team members
- Questions for the Gold Award committee or a Gold Award mentor
- This journal will help you write your proposal and can be maintained during your project.
- Note: there are many helpful prompts on the GoGold system, not everything you write will appear on your proposal



The Proposal

Issue Statement

Root Cause

“I will address”
Statement



The Proposal, Your Issue

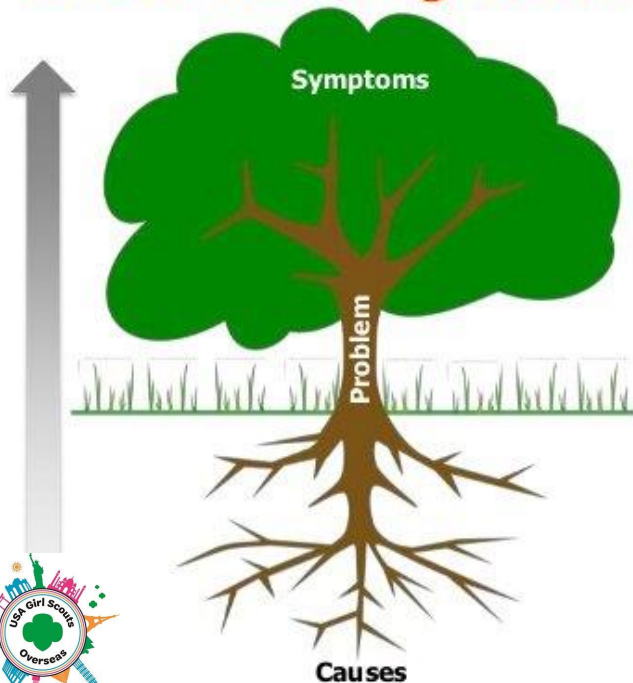


- 2-4 Paragraphs
- Describe your community
- Clearly state the issue
- 3 or more reliable citations
 - Interviews
 - Surveys
 - Scholarly Journals
 - Trusted News Sources
- Give your target audience a voice



The Proposal, The Root Cause

Understanding Root Causes



Symptoms

- Result or outcome of the problem
- What you see as a problem (*Obvious*)
Achy, weak, tired

The Problem

- Gap from goal or standard
Fever

Causes

- "The Roots" – system below the surface, bringing about the problem (*Not Obvious*)
Infection

- ◆ The issue you address may have more than one root cause, you only have to address 1 root cause, but you can acknowledge more
- ◆ What are the challenges for your target audience
- ◆ Describe your community
- ◆ Include citation
- ◆ Give your community a voice
- ◆ Plant the seeds of what you will address in your project



The Proposal, Target Audience

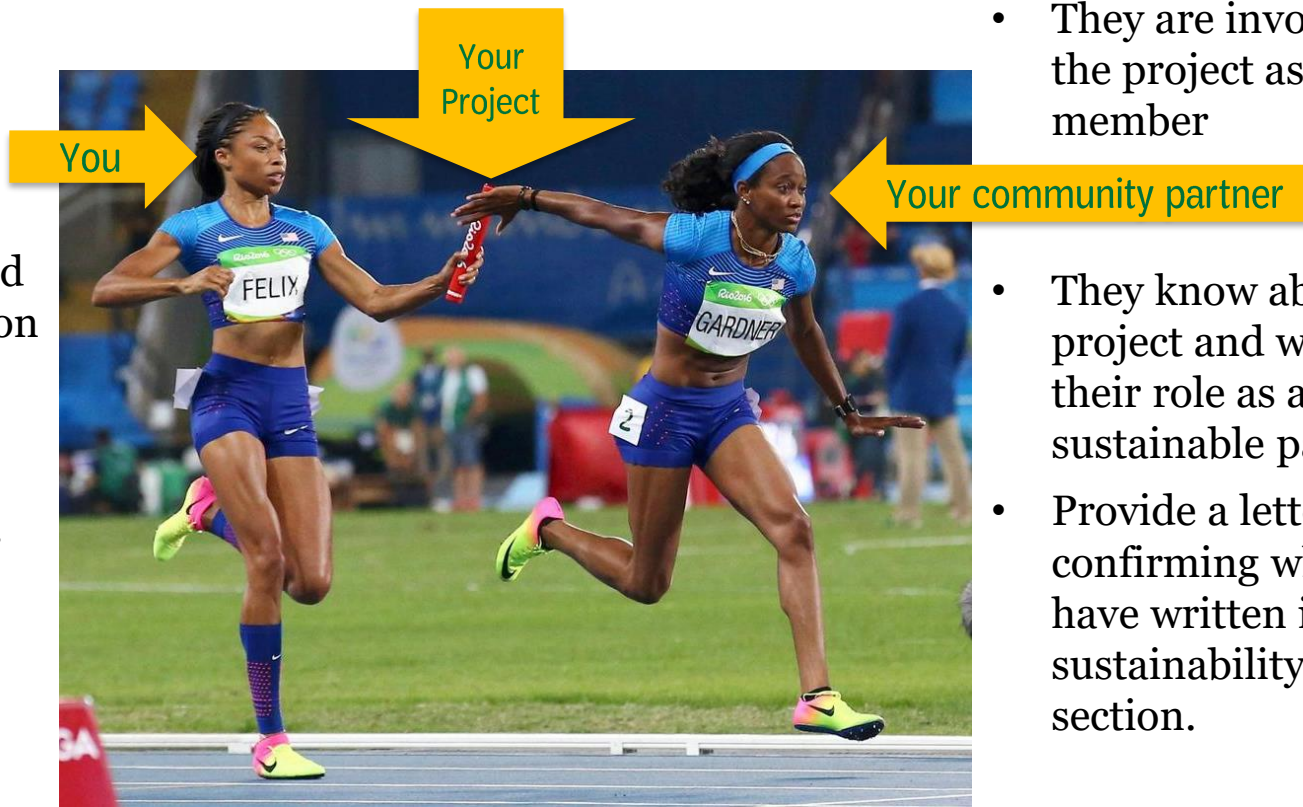
Your Target Audience

- ◆ Age range
- ◆ Gender
- ◆ Affiliation
- ◆ Population size (25 to 50 or more)
- ◆ Remember to include people from your target audience on your team



The Proposal, Sustainability

- Implement your project
- Lead and engage your team
- Create materials and framework to pass on to your community partner
- Explain what the community partner will do for project sustainability



- They are involved in the project as a team member
- They know about the project and what their role as a sustainable partner
- Provide a letter confirming what you have written in the sustainability section.



The Proposal, Goals

- ◆ At least 3 SMART goals
 - ◆ Personal
 - ◆ Project
 - ◆ People
- ◆ Each goal needs its own deadline
- ◆ Using bullets to separate each goal is helpful
- ◆ Your goals will be used when reviewing your final report



The Proposal, Goals

S

Specific: What do you want to accomplish?

M

Measurable: How will you measure success?

A

Achievable: Make sure your goal is not too far to reach, but far enough to be challenging.

R

Relevant: Link the goal to an issue in your project.

T

Timely: Goal will be reached by some date.



The Proposal, Timeline

- ◆ Gold Award Blueprint
- ◆ > 80 hours: Planning, Collaboration, Action, Service & Leadership
 - ◆ < 20 hours can come before the project is approved by the committee
 - ◆ > 55 of implementation, engagement, reflection, and transition
 - ◆ < 5 hours for reflecting and writing up final report
- ◆ Raising money for organizations is prohibited
- ◆ Time spent money earning for your Gold Award does not count towards the 80 hours
- ◆ Time blocks should be less than 5 hours
- ◆ Team members' time do not count towards the 80 hours



The Proposal, Timeline

Important Dates to consider when writing your timeline:

- The 15th of every month is the deadline to submit your proposal for review at the end of that month.
- Committee meetings happen on the last Wednesday of every month EXCEPT December. There is no committee meeting in December.
- Feedback on your submission is given the 1st week of the following month.
- September 15th is the last date for graduating seniors to turn in their final report and receive the Gold Award.
- Second year Ambassadors are required to submit the first draft of their proposal no later than March 15th. Although we encourage Gold Award projects start in your sophomore (or equivalent) year in school.



The Work

- ❖ Get involved and engaged with your target audience.
- ❖ Your proposal is the blueprint for your project you should stick to what has been approved.
- ❖ While executing your plan unexpected challenges may come up, you must be flexible and innovative to stick to your goals.
- ❖ Should you need to make significant change to your plan or goals you must gain committee approval.



The Final Report

Hitting submit on your final report is going to be a great feeling, but before you do, please keep the following in mind:

- The outcome of each of your goals should be clearly described.
- Include unexpected learning events
- Use this opportunity to reflect on the experience.
- Provide quantitative and qualitative data
- Balance your budget, the money you raise should match the money you spend exactly.
- Get a second pair of eyes



Questions?



Important Contacts:

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