



The Girl Scout Gold Award®

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, comparable to the Boy Scouts of America's Eagle Scout. Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world. Each year, the Gold Award is presented to girls in grades 9-12 who have planned and executed significant

Take Action projects in response to pressing community needs. A young woman who has earned the Gold Award has become a community leader. Her accomplishments reflect outstanding leadership and citizenship skills. Girls who pursue their Gold Award aspire to transform an idea and vision for change into an actionable plan with measurable, sustainable and far-reaching results.

The Gold Award is awarded to fewer than 6% of Girl Scouts annually. Each Gold Award Girl Scout spends 1 – 2 years on her project. Approximately one million Girl Scouts have earned the Gold Award or its equivalent since 1916.

In 2016, we are celebrating 100 years of the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Golden Eaglet, the highest award in Girl Scouting from 1916 to 1939, marked the beginning of a long tradition of recognizing the extraordinary efforts of extraordinary girls. From 1940 to 1963, the Curved Bar Award was the highest honor in Girl Scouting. From 1963 to 1980, the highest award was called First Class. And since 1980, the Gold Award has inspired girls to find the greatness inside themselves and share their ideas and passions with their communities.



The seven steps to earning the Gold Award:

1. Identify an issue: Use your values and skills to choose a community issue that you care about.
2. Investigate: Research everything you can about an issue.
3. Get help and build your team: Form a team to support your efforts and help you Take Action.
4. Create a plan: Identify the root cause of an issue, and then create a plan to tackle it.
5. Present your plan and gather feedback: Submit your Project Proposal to your Girl Scout council for approval.
6. Take Action: Lead your team and carry out your plan.
7. Educate and inspire: Tell your story and share your results.

Did you know?

A Girl Scout who earns a Gold Award:

- Expands her resume and distinguishes herself among other college applicants
- Enters the U.S. Armed Forces one rank higher (similar to Eagle Scouts)
- May apply for scholarships that universities and colleges offer to Gold Award earners
- Demonstrates leadership by tackling a community issue, locally or globally