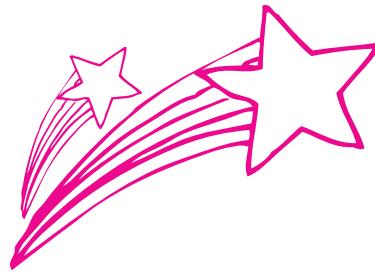




Girl Scouts Global Action Award

for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors



You probably already know that there are Girl Scouts all over the United States. But did you know that your sisterhood stretches around the world, too? Girl Scouts of the USA is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS for short), which includes 10 million girls in 146 countries. And all of those girls in all of those countries are working to make the world a better place—just like you are!

Each year, Girl Scouts of all levels can earn a Global Action Award. This award connects the WAGGGS sisterhood by helping girls work together to make a difference on a topic that affects girls and women all over the world. It's an official national award, so you can wear it on the front of your vest or sash, just like a badge.

The theme for this year's Global Action Award is "Increasing Girls' Access to Education." In many parts of the world, it is hard for girls to go to school and finish their education. A few reasons for this are:

Distance: Sometimes the closest school is far away and families feel it isn't safe for girls to travel to school by themselves.

Poverty: If a family is poor, they may decide they need their daughters to stay home and help with household chores while the parents are out working.

Culture: In some parts of the world, girls are married when they are very young. After getting married, girls are expected to leave school and stay home to care for their husbands and children.

Global Action Award Activities

Here are some activities that you can do to earn your Global Action Award. You only need to do one activity to earn the award, but don't let that stop you—you can do as many of them as you like!

1. Talk to the girls in your troop about how each one of you gets to school. Maybe some girls walk with a parent or older sibling, and some ride the bus. Or maybe some girls are home-schooled and don't need to travel at all! Can you think of ideas for ways to help get girls to school safely in places that don't have school buses?

The Peace Corps

The Peace Corps is a group of volunteers that travel to other countries to help people. They tackle many global issues. One of those issues is helping more girls have the opportunity to attend school.

To learn more about the Peace Corps and connect with Peace Corps volunteers who are working on girls' education projects around the world, visit www.peacecorps.gov/wws/classroom.



2. Draw a picture or take photos of your school and classroom. Which parts do you like best? With an adult's help, look online for pictures of schools in other countries. How are the schools different from yours? What are some things that your school has that others might not have?
3. Interview a woman in your life—it could be your mom, another relative, or a family friend—about what it was like to be a girl in school when she was young. Were girls treated differently than boys? Were they encouraged to move on to study the same kinds of subjects? Were they encouraged to pursue the same kinds of careers? Does she think things have changed since then? If so, how? Are there other things that you think still need to change?
4. Show your appreciation for your school with a special project. What does your school need the most? You might help clean up the playground with your Girl Scout friends, plant trees, or organize a book or school supply drive. If you're not sure what to do, talk to your teacher or principal and see what she thinks is most needed.
5. Did you know that girls face challenges related to education in many countries around the world, including the United States? Read a book that focuses on girls' education in the United States, and talk about it with your Girl Scout friends. You might look at *Also Known As Harper* by Ann Haywood Leal, or choose a book of your own.
6. What if, as girls, you were not allowed to go to school? What would your life be like now? What would you do with your time? What might your life be like in the future? Share your thoughts with the girls in your troop.
7. Interview a teacher or school principal about why it's important for all children, including girls, to go to school. Think of ways to share what you learn with other Girl Scouts, family members, or friends. You might make a poster or booklet, or put on a skit.
8. Research the issue of girls' access to education around the world. You could go online with an adult's help to read more about the topic—check out the two boxes on this page for some website options—or take out books from the library. Two suggested books are *Gift Days* by Kari-Lynn Winters and *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai. You could also ask your Girl Scout leader about having an expert come and talk to your troop. The Peace Corps has volunteers who share their experiences with troops, groups, and classes. See the box on this page to find out more. Talk about what you learn with your Girl Scout friends.

