Gold Award FAQ

Find the Gold Award Guidelines and other resources on our Council website: https://www.getyourgirlpower.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/highest-awards/gold-award.html

How do I submit my proposal?

Girl Scouts should utilize GoGold Online to submit their Gold Award Proposal. GoGold Online is a GSUSA designed platform that walks Scouts through all seven steps of the Gold Award—from idea to proposal, to taking action and final report—online. Girl Scouts will need to create an GoGold Online account with their own email addresses.

What makes a proposal complete?

A complete Gold Award Proposal will include verification of completion of required perquisites by a Troop Leader and confirmation of a Project Advisor's participation. It should also include a completed copy of the Gold Award Supplemental Proposal Forms uploaded as an additional document within GoGold. These forms include the Gold Award Proposal Checklist, the Parent/Guardian information sheet and the Project Advisor Profile. Proposals will not be able to proceed in the proposal review process without meeting these requirements.

How many hours need to be included in the hours log of the proposal?

80 hours is the minimum amount of time for completing the entirety of the Gold Award Project. The hours log should be used to plan out all of the time required to complete the entire project. Hours should be included in 2 - 3-hour increments. Please note that GoGold Online suggests 5-hour increments, however GSCI has instituted a requirement for smaller hour increments.

Why can't a parent be a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisior?

Girl Scouts are encouraged to go outside of their comfort zone and connect with their community when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. This means working with a project advisor who is not their parent.

Can a parent/Troop Leader communicate with Council Staff for me?

The Gold Award is your project, not you guardians or Troop Leaders'. Practice your leadership skills by making contact with Staff yourself.

What can I do prior to Proposal Approval?

Girl Scouts should spend no more than 20% (16 hours out of 80) of their total project time working on their proposal prior to Highest Award Committee approval. This includes some research, contacting possible community partners, investigating potential venues, finding prospective volunteers, and ultimately completing your project proposal.

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How are proposals reviewed?

Upon completion of step 5 in GoGold and the submission for your supplemental proposal forms, the proposal will go to the Highest Awards Committe. This committee is made up of staff and volunteers who will review your proposal. The committee meets bi-weekly so you will recieve a Decision Letter within 3 weeks of your submission date at the lastest. You may not begin work on your project until you have been approved by the Highest Awards Committee.

Is approval by the Highest Awards Committee required? Yes, starting

October 1st of the 2026 Girl Scout Year (October 2025- September 2026).

When will Girl Scouts receive Decision Letters?

You will receive a notification of the committee's decision within 3 weeks of your proposal submission date.

What does a Decision Letter say?

A Decision Letter conveys the Highest Award Committee's decision on the status of a Girl Scout's proposal. There are 4 categories of Committe decisions:

- Approved - Girl Scout can officially begin their project.
- Conditionally Approved - Girl Scout will work with a mentor to address minimal concerns and the mentor will approve the project to begin.
- Request for Revisions - Project is missing key elements that make it a Gold Award but it is not a Reimagine It Project.
- Does Not Meet Standard - Project is classified as a Reimagine It Project.

What is a Reimagine It Project?

Reimagine It projects do not meet the requirements of a Gold Award Take Action Project. Such projects include:

- Pre-packaged projects because a pre-packaged project is ready-made and demands only that you implement someone else's project (i.e. a blood drive or annual clean-up)
- Collection projects because collecting items for an organization does not elicit the creativity or leadership required by the Gold Award (i.e. building a free little library)
- Fundraising projects because Girl Scouts, whether youth or adults, are not allowed to raise money for other organizations.
- Group Projects because the Gold Award is earned by an individual Girl Scout, who may lead a team of volunteers but ultimately is the one calling the shots.

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How can I revise my proposal?

Revisions can be made with GoGold online. Please make your revisions in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS or bolded text so that your mentor can clearly identify your hard work.

When can I start my Gold Award Project?

You may begin the Take Action part of your project (Girl Scout Gold Award Step Six) once you receive approval from a member of the Highest Award committee.

How do I submit my Gold Award Final Report?

The Final report is completed through GoGold Online and is comprised of the information entered in Step 6 & 7. Similar to the proposal, the Final Report requires the project advisor to complete online verification to confirm that the project has been completed.

What is the deadline for a Girl Scout to earn the Gold Award?

You have until September 30th of the year you graduate High School to complete your Gold Award. If you have skipped grades in school and you turn 18 after September 30th of your graduation year, you have until your 18th birthday.

How can a Girl Scout be recognized by GSCI?

You must submit your Gold Award Project by March 1st of your Senior year of High School to be included in that year's Council Award ceremony and to be eligible for the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois' Gold Award Scholarship. Those who submit their projects by the March 1st deadline will also be promoted by our marketing team on our social media over the summer.

How can you apply for the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois Gold Award Scholarship?

High School Seniors who have earned their Gold Award are eligible for educational scholarships awarded by Girl Scouts of Central Illinois. Applications are due by 5 PM on March 1st and can be found on the Council's website.

Who can I contact for technical difficulties?

If you are having issues with your GoGold Online account please send an email to tkaufmann@girlscouts-gsci.org to see if Council Staff can resolve the issue or connect you with the GSUSA GoGold Online Support Team.

Gold Award Tips

DO THIS	NOT THIS
Pull a team of volunteers together and put your leadership skills to work.	Do it all yourself with just a few or no volunteers.
Choose a project advisor who is an expert on your issue and willing to be involved.	Choose a parent or troop leader as an advisor.
Plan ahead and anticipate obstacles.	Wing it without a plan.
Break up your work into small, manageable bundles and assign each bundle a timeline.	Procrastinate or try to do it all at once.
Update your project advisor and council contact and ask questions when needed.	Keep project progress, obstacles, and details to yourself until you submit your final report.
Document everything as it occurs so that the information you collect is accurate and honest.	Make up a timeline after you've finished the project or put together several small projects.
Measure your project's outcome—you can always look to your council contact for guidance on collecting data, conducting surveys, and doing pre- and post evaluations.	Complete your project with no real way to measure the impact you've made.
Make sure your project includes the five Gold Award elements.	Submit your project proposal without addressing root cause or including a national and/or global link, sustainability, measurability, or leadership
Include detailed goals in your project proposal that show your anticipated impact.	Skip goal setting.
Do research to make sure any organizations you plan to work with want to sustain your project.	Assume that organizations need your help or help an organization with a project they are already planning on doing for the community.
Create a dynamic project with measurable impact on a community.	Create a static website as the focus of your project or hold a one-day workshop.
Be original—this is your chance to shine!	Copy exactly what others have done.