



The Girl Scout Gold Award



Guidelines for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council

Since 1916, Girl Scout's highest award has stood for excellence and leadership for girls everywhere. Soon, you will be joining the ranks of generations of young women who have made a difference in their communities and beyond.

As a Girl Scout, you are part of the sisterhood of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, a global movement comprised of more than ten million girls worldwide who are using their talents to positively impact their communities. With your talent and passion, you, too, can make changes in your community that can reach people around the world.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award that Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can earn. Fulfilling the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award starts with completing two Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador journeys or having earned the Silver Award and completing one Senior or Ambassador journey. Each journey you complete gives you the skills you need to plan and implement your Take Action project.

After you have fulfilled the journey(s) requirement, **80 hours** is the suggested minimum hours for the steps: identifying an issue, investigating it thoroughly, getting help and building a team, creating a plan, presenting your plan, gathering feedback, taking action, and educating and inspiring others. The suggested minimum hours are not a rule; they are a guide for you to plan your time in achieving your goal.

Table of Contents

Standards of Excellence	4
Gold Award Seven Steps	4
Step 1: Choose an Issue	5
Decision-Making Tips	6
Interview Tips.	8
Making Your Pitch.	10
Step 2: Investigate	11
Mind-Mapping Tool	13
Step 3: Get Help	14
Teaming Tips	15
Project Advisor Tips	16
Step 4: Create a Plan	17
Project Planner	18
Impact Planning Chart	20
Planning and Budgeting Tips.	22
Sustainability Tips	23
Step 5: Present Your Plan and Get Feedback.	25
Project Planning Checklist	27
Girl Scout Gold Award Application	28
Step 6: Take Action.	31
Step 7: Educate and Inspire	33
Sharing Tips	35
Reflection Tool	36
Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report	38

Standards of Excellence

When you decide to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, you are on your honor to uphold the Standards of Excellence. These standards set a high benchmark for everything you do and invite you to think deeply, explore opportunities, and challenge yourself. Following the Standards of Excellence challenges you to develop yourself as a leader, achieve the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes and make a mark on your community that creates a lasting impact on the lives of others.

Girl Scout Gold Award Seven Steps

1. **Choose an issue:** Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about.
2. **Investigate:** Research everything you can about the issue.
3. **Get help:** Invite others to support and take action with you.
4. **Create a plan:** Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.
5. **Present your plan and get feedback:** Sum up your project plan for your Girl Scout council.
6. **Take action:** Take the lead to carry out your plan.
7. **Educate and inspire:** Share what you have experienced with others.

Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit

Stay organized and keep track of your ideas, contact information, appointments, and plans with the Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit. This toolkit includes a standards of excellence tracking sheet, tips, planning guides, and advice to help with each step of your Take Action project. Use these tools as you need them—and don't forget that your journey(s) include tools and ideas, too!

STEP 1: Choose an Issue

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
I. Choose an issue: Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. • Demonstrate civic responsibility.

- I. **Choose an issue:** Use your values and skills to choose a community issue that you care about. Check out the Decision-Making Tips in your toolkit. If you have more than one issue that you are passionate about, interview others to help you decide. Practice making your pitch and see how it feels. You can also make a 15-second video, write a bumper-sticker slogan, or come up with another fun way to sum up why this issue is important to you.

Tools:

- Decision-Making Tips
- Interview Tips
- Making-Your-Pitch Tips

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
I. Choose an issue:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. • Demonstrate civic responsibility.

Decision-Making Tips

You are about to make a big decision that will have a significant impact on your life and may even change it forever. Take some time to reflect and get inspired. Start with yourself.

- What inspires you? Is it something in your school, community, country, or the world?
- What motivates you into action? Is it people, events, activities, places?
- What skills, talents, and strengths do you have to offer?
- How do you want to make a difference? As an advocate for justice? A promoter of environmental awareness? As a trainer, mentor, or coach? As an artist, actor, or musician? As an organizer of petitions or campaigns? As an entrepreneur? Can you think of another role?

- What motivates, inspires, and interests others? Can you build a team to support your idea?
- What would benefit the community both immediately and long-term?
- Check back through your Girl Scout leadership journey(s). What interested you that you might be able to translate into an award project?

Need some inspiration? Search through these sites to see what others are doing to address issues in their community.

- United We Serve: www.serve.gov
- Global Citizens Corps: www.globalcitizencorps.org
- Global Youth Action Network: www.youthlink.org
- Global Youth Service Day: <http://gysd.org/share>
- Learn and Serve America: www.learnandserve.gov
- Prudential: www.spirit.prudential.com
- Taking IT Global: www.tigweb.org
- United Nations Millennium Development Goals: www.un.org/millenniumgoals
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts: www.waggs.org
- Youth Venture: www.genv.net

Interview Tips

Find out what you need to prepare and conduct an interview.

A. **Making arrangements:** Deciding who you would like to interview, contacting the person, and setting up a date and time.

B. **Preparation:** Gathering research and background information to help you formulate questions to ask the interview subject(s). Use these sample interview questions to get you started, and then add some of your own. If you need help choosing an issue, you'll want to ask the following types of questions:

- What are the biggest challenges/problems that you have faced or are facing?
- What do you think is the root cause of these issues?
- What will it take to address these issues?
- Are there any resources available to do that?
- What do you consider to be the strengths of the community?

If, on the other hand, you've already chosen an issue, move ahead to the interview.

C. **Conducting the interview:** Bring a notebook to take notes. Here are some tips:

- Find a quiet place where you'll have each others' full attention, and agree to turn off your cell phones.
- Start by thanking the interviewee for her/his time, and then briefly describe your project.
- Keep questions simple and related to the issue at hand. Do your research. Preparation is key!

- Ask the person you interview if she or he would like to hear more about your project as it develops.
- Send a thank-you note to everyone you interview within a week of the interview. Mention the possibility of a follow-up interview.

D. Reviewing information and setting up a possible follow up interview: Your interview is over. Now what? You have to sift through to find the information that's relevant to what you are working on. If there are some gaps that you need to fill, contact your interview subject(s) to get more information and to find out whether or not you have your facts correct. Remember to check and recheck your facts!

STEP 2: Investigate

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p>2. Investigate: research everything you can about the issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source’s reliability and accuracy. • Demonstrate courage as you investigate your issue, knowing that what you learn may challenge your own and others’ beliefs. • Identify national and/or global links to your community issue.

2. **Investigate:** Use your sleuthing skills to learn everything you can about the issue you’ve identified. Zoom in on your issue to identify a specific aspect of it that you would like to address, because focused effort has more impact than a big idea that’s scattered.

- **Log on:** Check news sites and the sites of organizations related to your issue. Explore how the media in other countries cover your issue. Note: Before doing your online research, take the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge at www.girlscouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp.
- **Go to the library:** Find books that offer in-depth analysis about your issue, read your local newspaper, and look for magazine articles that offer different perspectives on your issue.
- **Interview people:** Talk to your friends, neighbors, teachers, business owners, and others who can offer information or insights about the issue you’ve chosen.
- **Knowing the various causes of a problem enables you to figure out unique ways to solve it.** Use the Mind-Mapping Tool in your toolkit to create a diagram that tracks a problem and its possible causes.

Tool:

- o Mind-Mapping Tool

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

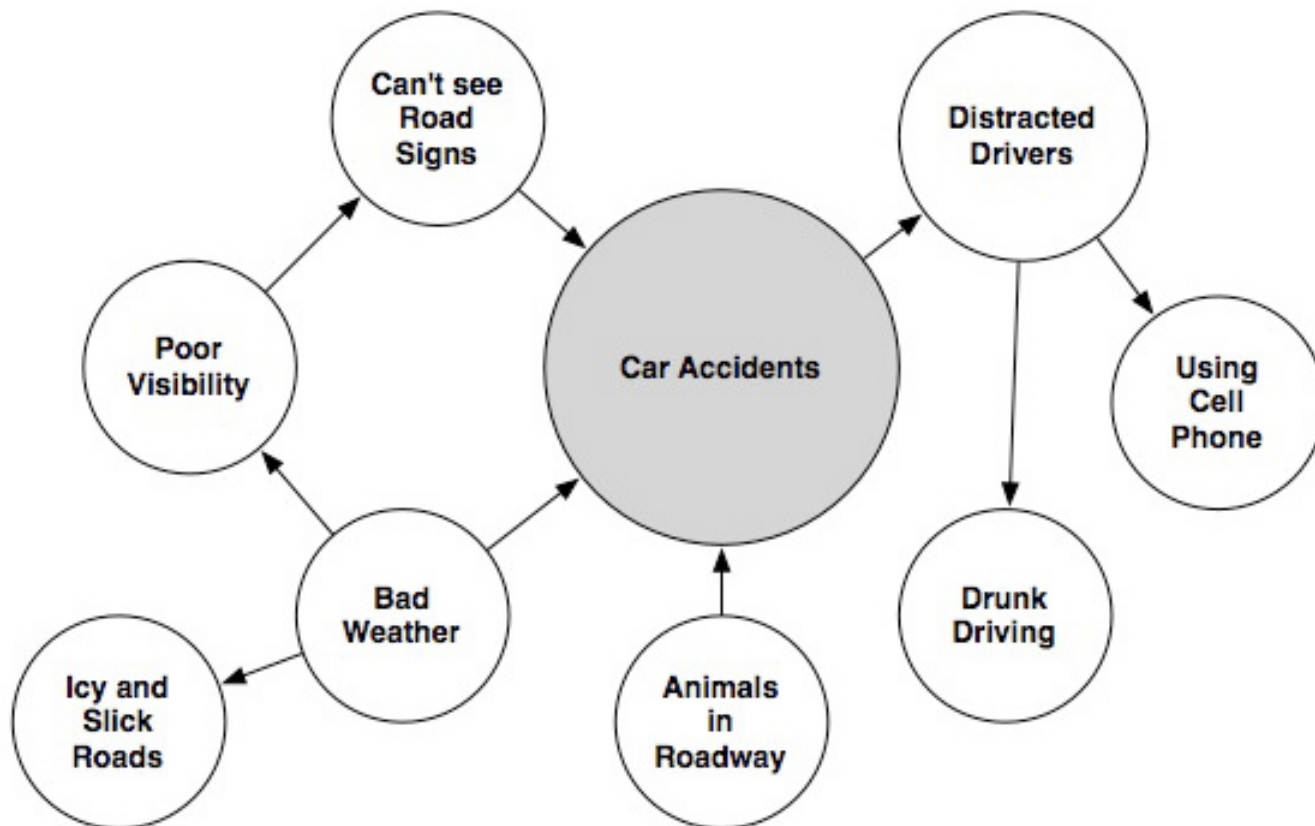
Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
2. Investigate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source's reliability and accuracy. • Demonstrate courage as you investigate our issue, knowing that what you learn may challenge your own and others' beliefs. • Identify national and/or global links to your community issue.

Mind-Mapping Tool

Create your own mind-mapping diagram like the one shown here, using one of the issues facing your community. Follow these instructions.

- Write the community issue in the middle of the paper or any where that works for you.
- Think about what some of the causes of this issue could be. In this example, one of the main causes of car accidents is bad weather. Notice how many different causes connect from bad weather.
- Now, try connecting the different causes you come up with to each other and to the main issue. How do the causes connect to each other?
- Do you see a pattern?

This activity will help you come up with different ways to approach a problem, as well as different ways you might go about addressing it.



STEP 3: Get Help

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p>3. Get help: Invite others to support and take action with you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of others. • Respect different points of view and ways of working. • Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special skills to your Take Action project.

3. **Get help:** Invite other people to join your team to support your efforts and help you take action. Consider reaching out to classmates, teachers, friends, and experts from organizations and businesses. Networking with people can make you a more effective leader. Also, the more people you have behind you, the more likely you will positively influence your community. You are the leader of your team—plan your project, motivate your team, learn from others.

Choose a project advisor, a person with expertise in the topic of your Gold Award project. An advisor can help you identify resources, provide insights, solve problems, and provide additional background information on your chosen issue.

Tools:

- Teaming Tips
- Project Advisor Tips

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
<p>3. Get Help</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of others. • Respect different points of view and ways of working. • Build a team and recruit a project advisor who will bring special skills to your Take Action project.

Teaming Tips

Think about the people who might be able to help you put your project into action. Choose people who will stick it out until the project is complete. You don't have to limit your team to people your age or just Girl Scouts.

Working in a group will help you make a bigger impact and cover more ground than you would on your own. It might be challenging at times, but remember to always be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, and responsible for what you say and do. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you build your team:

- Promote a sense of trust and belonging
- Share ownership
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Communicate regularly and openly
- Respect diversity
- Have fun and be creative
- Be open to new ideas and different ways of working
- Keep learning and growing

Project Advisor Tips

Here you'll find tips for selecting and working with your project advisor.

- **Reach out:** You've figured out the issue you're going to address with your project. Now it's time to find an expert to help along the way and give you advice and suggestions. Ask your troop/group volunteer or your council for suggestions. Then, select a few people who are related to your issue area with whom you'd like to work.
- **Safety first:** Before you meet with new people, talk to your troop/group volunteer for some safety tips and do's and don'ts. Make sure your family knows who you're talking to and meeting with.
- **Ask:** Start with your first choice, and if she or he can't help, go to your next choice. (Hint: There may be many others who are willing to help!) Approach the people you selected one at a time. Introduce yourself by sending a brief letter or e-mail, explaining what you're working on and the advice you would like. Give some background. Give an estimate, asking about time commitments and which way would be best to communicate.
- **Say thanks:** When an individual accepts, send her or him a thank-you note, along with a brief description of your project and a list of areas where you think you'll need the most help.
- **Think ahead when asking for help:** Before you compose an e-mail or call your project advisor, think about how you can simplify a problem you're having, so that she or he can offer quick suggestions.
- **Share your progress:** Make sure to tell your project advisor (in a quick e-mail or phone call) about your progress and how her or his help is making your project better, easier, and so on.
- **Celebrate together:** After your project is completed, invite her or him to your Gold Award ceremony and/or your own celebration. Don't forget to send a thank-you note!

STEP 4: Create a Plan

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p>4. Create a plan: Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the planning of your Take Action project. • Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.

4. **Create a plan:** Going for the Girl Scout Gold Award requires you to address the root cause of an issue and, thus, make a lasting impact in your community - take a look at the Sustainability Tips in your toolkit for ideas. Create a plan that outlines the best use of your time and talent, your resources, and your team’s talents, making the most with what you have—that’s your challenge!

Tools:

- Project Planner
- Impact Planning Chart
- Planning and Budgeting Tips
- Sustainability Tips

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
<p>4. Create a plan.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the planning of your Take Action project. • Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.

Project Planner

A Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project addresses the root cause of an issue, produces impact that is measurable and sustainable, and is a local project that links to a national and/or global issue. Here are a few tips to help you lay out your project plan:

- Set project goals:

What is your project? _____

Why does it matter? _____

Who will it help? _____

The difference I intend to make in the world is _____

- Steps to meet the goals: List step-by-step what it will take to reach your goal. Be as specific as possible so that you can put together a timeline and draw on your team to help you reach your goals.
- Develop a timeline: This will help you determine how much time should be allotted to each part of your project.
- Think about money-earning: Brainstorm ways to finance your project, if needed, speak with your Girl Scout troop/group volunteer to make sure that your ideas are in line with the Girl Scout policies. Check with your council.

Remember, you can make an impact without spending money by influencing policy and so on.

- Establish a global link: Consider how to connect your project to an issue that affects people in other parts of the country or the world.

Use the following questions to help you determine what you need and what you need to do.

- What is the goal that you would you like to achieve with your project?
- How do you plan to achieve this project goal?
- What are the foreseeable obstacles?
- Aside from your team, troop/group volunteer, and project advisor, do you need any one else to help with your project?
- What supplies will you need?
- If necessary, how will you earn money or fundraise?
- How will you measure your success as you go?
- How will your project create lasting change?

Impact Planning Chart

Using the Impact Planning Chart to describe the impact you hope your project will have on your community, your target audience, and you.

Impact On ...	Goals	Potential Impact
Community	What community issue to do you plan to address?	What examples of the project impact might you see in the future?
Target Audience (workshop participants, other youth, community members, and so on)	What skills, knowledge, or attitudes will your target audience gain?	How will you know that the target audience gained skills or knowledge?

Impact Planning Chart *(continued)*

The following is a list of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes.* Which do you think you will develop through this project?

Discover:

- I will develop a stronger sense of self.
- I will develop positive values.
- I will gain practical life skills.
- I will seek challenges in the world.
- I will develop critical thinking.

Connect:

- I will develop healthy relationships.
- I will promote cooperation and team building.
- I will resolve conflicts.
- I will advance diversity in a multicultural world.
- I will feel more connected to my community, locally and globally.

Take Action:

- I will identify community issues.
- I will be a resourceful problem solver.
- I will advocate for myself and other, locally and globally.
- I will educate and inspire others to act.
- I will feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

*Want more information on the girl Scout Leadership outcomes?

Visit www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/outcomes/transforming_leadership.asp

Planning and Budgeting Tips

It's budget time! Start by figuring out what you need and where you can get it for little or no cost, if possible. If it's not possible, think about how much it is going to cost and how you can cover those expenses. Many projects are possible when you concentrate on the issue at hand. Use your influence and leadership skills to come up with ways that you can make a difference that might not include earning money.

List the Steps to Achieve Your Goal	What Resources and Materials Will You Need?	Where Can You Get the Resources and Materials?	How Much Will They Cost?	How Do You Plan to Cover These Costs?

Does your plan sound doable? If not, take a step back and refocus. Try to find a different angle to pursue. Work with your troop/group volunteer, project advisor, and Take Action team to find solutions to problems and obstacles that come up along the way.

Sustainability Tips

Girl Scout Gold Award projects are not “one shot”—they create lasting change. You can ensure a lasting project by setting clear timelines, collaborating with community organizations, building alliances with adults and mentors, and keeping good records. Sustainability often involves influencing others to pitch in. Here are some examples of sustainable projects.

Example #1

Community issue: Food waste from school lunches poses a danger to the environment.

Root cause: No community composting or recycling program.

Take action: Create a food-waste composting program for the school.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Work with school officials to find biodegradable plates and cups to use in the cafeteria.
- Work with town/state food waste officials to ensure the system is in place.
- Implement a plan in your school to separate their cafeteria waste into composting, recycling, and trash bins. (Farmers can use the compost to fertilize crops, improve the quality of the soil, decrease soil runoff, and so on.)
- Get a commitment from school administrators to carry on when your project is complete.

Making your project bigger (national and/or global link): Recruit students at schools in the area to develop the program for their schools and/or contact local and state officials about adopting the program.

Global link: Find out how people in other parts of the world deal with food waste in schools. What kinds of programs do they have in place? How can you learn from this?

Sustainability Tips *(continued)*

Example #2

Community issue: Teen suicide.

Root cause: Lack of awareness and prevention.

Take action: Establish an awareness and prevention program.

Making the solution sustainable:

- Produce a short video that can be used in other communities with an online brochure outlining the steps to an awareness and prevention program.
- Share the video and online brochure with schools and community organizations.

Making your project bigger (national and/or global link): Share the program with local youth groups, health/human services agencies, community centers, church/synagogue/mosque community centers, or school district.

Project Planning Checklist

The answers to all of the questions below must be yes before you submit your plan for council approval.

- Will your project demonstrate your leadership skills?
- Have you set your project goal and identified what you would like to learn?
- Have you chosen your Take Action team? Have you discussed the project with them?
- Have you created a budget for the project?
- Have you created a plan to raise funds, if necessary?
- Have you made a timeline for your project?
- Does your project address a need in the local community and have you found national and/or global links?
- Can your project be sustainable?
- Does your project challenge your abilities and your interests?

Once you answer yes to all the items on this checklist, you're ready to submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal.

STEP 5: Present Your Plan and Get Feedback

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p>5. Present your plan and get feedback: Sum up your project plan for your Girl Scout council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive, and clear. • Describe your plan including the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes you want to achieve and the impact you plan to make on yourself and the community. • Articulate your issue clearly and explain why it matters to you. • Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine your project.

5. **Present your plan and get feedback:** Fill out the Project Planning Checklist in your toolkit to organize your thoughts and make sure you have everything you need before you hand in your Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Gold Award Application for approval. Include what you've learned, why your project idea matters, with whom you're teaming, and your plan for making your project sustainable.

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council Gold Award Review Committee approval is required before you can continue working on your project. Once your project is approved, take a look at your Project Planner from step 4. Do you have everything you need?

Tools:

- Project Planning Checklist
- Girl Scout Gold Award Application

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
<p>5. Present your plan and get feedback.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive, and clear. • Describe your plan including the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes you want to achieve and the impact you plan to make on yourself and the community. • Articulate your issue clearly and explain why it matters to you. • Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine your project.

Project Planning Checklist

Use the following checklist to ensure that you have everything ready to turn in your Gold Award Application.

- Part I - Personal Data - All lines are completed

- Part II - Pre-Requisites - You have completed all of the pre-requisites and the information is filled in.

- Part III - Take Action Team - Names of individuals and organizations you will be working with.

- Part IV - Take Action Project Detail Essay
 - Does it describe your issue?
 - Have you identified a root cause that you will be addressing?
 - What is your global link?
 - Does it outline your strengths, talents and skills?
 - Does it describe what leadership steps you will be taking to put your plan into action?
 - Have you included what your expenses will be?
 - Does it describe how your project will be sustained?
 - Does it describe how you are going to tell others?

- Part V - Estimated Take Action Project Time Log
 - Estimated Time Log Filled out
 - Does your Time Log add up to 80 hours or more?

- Part VI - Signatures - Everyone has signed

- Part VII - Project Submission Process - All materials are included and you have mailed it to the correct address



Note: If the majority of the work will be done during the 2012 membership year (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 30, 2012) the new requirements should be used. Prior to beginning a project, you will need to research details and find resources for completing the application. You should not make any specific arrangements or collect supplies until you have received notification that your project has been approved. Don't make any arrangements that could create a problem if your project is not approved!

Part I: Personal Data

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Age _____ Grade _____ Graduation Date (month/year) _____ E-Mail Address _____
 Name of School _____ Troop/Group # _____
 Service Unit _____ School District _____
 Troop/Group Advisor _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Project Advisor _____ Organization _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____
 Gold Award Workshop Attended? Yes No If yes, date of workshop _____ Proposed Title _____
 Proposed Start Date _____ Proposed Completion Date _____

All group projects must present during the Gold Award Review Committee meeting and schedule an appointment with Alexis Howze, Program Manager by the 15th of each month 614-487-8101 or 800-621-7042

Part II: Pre-Requisites

Two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or One Journey and the Girl Scout Silver Award.

(Senior-Girl topia/It's Your World-Change It! or Sow What?/It's Your Planet-Love It! or *Mission Sisterhood/It's Your Story-Tell It.

Ambassador-Your Voice/Your World/Its's Your World Change It! or Justice/It's Your Planet-Love It! or *Bliss: Live It/Give It/It's Your Story Tell It.)
 *Released December 2010

Senior/Ambassador Journey Books	Date Completed	Troop/Group Advisor's Signature
1.		
2.		

Girl Scout Silver Award Completion Date _____ Council where you earned the Award _____

Complete Part II before starting Part III & Part IV

Part III: Take Action Team

List the names of individuals and organizations that you plan to work with on your Take Action project. This is a preliminary list that may grow through the course of your project.

Team Members	Affiliation	Role

Part IV: Take Action Project Detail Essay

Attach a Detailed Project Essay that includes a paragraph of each point outlined below. You may include any additional information that will help the committee understand your project. Be sure each sheet of paper submitted includes your name.

- A. Describe the issue your project will address and who is your target audience. Remember your 15-second pitch.
- B. Discuss your reasons for selecting this project.
- C. Outline the strengths, talents, and skills that you plan to put into action. What skills do you hope to develop?
- D. Describe the steps involved in putting your plan into action, including resources, facilities, equipment, and approvals needed. (Attach a detailed project plan - Hint: Use the Project Planner in the Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit)
- E. Enter the names of people or organizations you plan to inform and involve.
- F. Estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs.
- G. What methods or tools will you use to evaluate the impact of your project?
- H. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?
- I. Describe how you plan to tell others about your project, the project's impact, and what you have learned? (Web site, blog, presentations, posters, videos, articles, etc.)



Part V: Estimated Take Action Project Time Log

Use the time log attached to the application to detail the general steps you will follow to do your project and approximately how long you expect each step to take. Please ensure that your Gold Award Take Action Project involves a minimum of 80 hours of your personal time. *If not using the Gold Award Time Log on application; be sure to use the same format for any time log that is attached.

Part VI. Signatures

Senior/Ambassador Girl Scout Signature _____ **Date** _____

Project Advisor's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Part VII. Project Submission Process

Submit Gold Award paperwork by **Friday @ 4:30pm prior to the 4th Monday of each month.**

Mail paperwork to: Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council, Inc.
Attn: Gold Award Review Committee
1700 WaterMark Dr.; Columbus, Ohio 43215

Gold Award Candidate notified regarding decision of committee by 4th Friday.

For Committee Use Only

Date Submitted _____ Date Reviewed _____

Would this make a good PR Project? Yes No

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

STEP 6: Take Action

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p>6. Take action: Take the lead to carry out your plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so that your solution has measurable and sustainable impact. • Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for your Take Action project. • Challenge yourself to try different ways to solve problems. • Use resources wisely. • Speak out and act on behalf of yourself and others.

6. **Take action:** Lead your team, carry out your plan. Use the tools you have developed in the previous steps and remember to check your journey(s) for tips. If you hit a speed bump along the way, learn from it and find ways to adjust your plan.

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
<p>6. Take Action.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so that your solution has measurable and sustainable impact. • Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for your Take Action project. • Challenge yourself to try different ways to solve problems. • Use resources wisely. • Speak out and act on behalf of yourself and others.

STEP 7: Educate and Inspire

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p>7. Educate and inspire: Share what you have experienced with others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on what you have learned when you present your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to your council. • Summarize the effectiveness of your project and the impact it has had on you and your community. • Share the project beyond your local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities.

7. **Educate and inspire:** Tell your story and share your results. You can inspire someone who has never before considered taking action to do something! Use the Reflection Tool in your toolkit to identify how this experience has affected you and how your views may have changed. Finally, complete your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, which is a comprehensive account of what you've done, with whom you've connected, the lasting impact you've made, and what this experience has meant to you.

Tools:

- Sharing Tips
- Reflection Tool
- Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report

Congratulations! Celebrate! Be sure to thank your project advisor, your team, and all the other people who helped you along the way.

Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

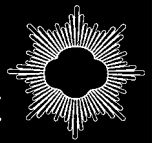
Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
<p>7. Education and inspire.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on what you have learned when you present your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to your council. • Summarize the effectiveness of your project and the impact it has had on you and your community. • Share the project beyond your local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities.

Sharing Tips

It's time to tell others about what you did, what you have learned, and the impact you hope your project will have on its intended audience. Your story may inspire others to take action to do something to make their community better!

Here are a few suggestions for how you can demonstrate your project achievements and share what you learned:

- Create a Web site or blog or join a social networking site (Facebook, MySpace, and so on) to post updates and details about your project and its impact on the national and/or global community.
- Log on to some Web sites where you can share your story:
 - World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts: www.wagggg.org/en/projects
 - Taking IT Global: www.tigweb.org
 - Global Youth Service Day: www.globalyouthserviceday.org
- Create a campaign that showcases your cause. Make buttons, posters, and flyers to let people know about your cause.
- Present what you have learned and what your project will do for the community at a workshop for community members.
- Make a video about the effects of your project. Post it online. Invite friends, community leaders, and people from organizations who are tackling the same or a similar issue to take a look at it.
- Write an article for your local newspaper or create a newsletter about your project.



Note: If the majority of the work will be done during the 2012 membership year (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 30, 2012) the new requirements should be used. All final reports must be submitted to the Council office by March 15 in order to participate in the Gold Award Ceremony for that year.

Part I: Personal Data

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Age _____ Grade _____ Graduation Date (month/year) _____ E-Mail Address _____
 Name of School _____ Troop/Group # _____
 Service Unit _____ School District _____
 Troop/Group Advisor _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Project Advisor _____ Organization _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____
 Take Action Project Title _____ Start Date _____ Completion Date _____
 What Female leader inspires you? (Please include first and last name)
 National _____ Regional _____ Local _____

Part II: Take Action Summary

Briefly summarize your project

Part III: Take Action Team

Your Team: List the names of individuals and organizations that worked with you on your Take Action Project. Team can be listed on separate page if the list does not fit into the space provided.

Team Members	Affiliation	Role

Part IV: Project Detail Documentation

Attach documentation about your project that includes the following:

Gold Award Project Time Log, Detailed Take Action Project Description, Impact Chart (**Required**)

Supporting Documentation and Project Photo Journal (**Strongly Recommended**)

1. Gold Award Project Time Log

Use the time log attached to detail the general steps you followed to complete your project. Please ensure that your Gold Award Project involves a minimum of 80 hours of your personal time. *If not using the Gold Award Time Log on application; be sure to use the same format for any time log that is attached.

2. Detailed Take Action Project Description

Attach a Detailed Project Plan that includes a paragraph of each point outlined below. You may include any additional information that will help the committee understand your project. Be sure each sheet of paper submitted includes your name

- A. Describe the issue your project addressed, what impact you had hoped to make, and who benefited.
- B. What was the root cause of the issue? How did you address it?
- C. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?
- D. Explain the national and/or global link to your project.
- E. Describe any obstacles you encountered and what you did to overcome them.
- F. Describe what steps you took to inspire others through sharing your project. (Web site, blog, presentations, posters, videos, articles, and so on).
- G. Describe what you learned from this project including leadership skills you developed. What did you learn about yourself as a result of this project?
- H. What was the most successful aspect of your project?
- I. What aspects of your project would you change or do differently if you could start over?

3. Impact Chart

Using the Impact Chart, describe the impact signs your project has had and will have on your community and your target audience.

(Feel free to attach additional sheets)

Impact On . . .	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact	Possible Future Impact
Community	What community issue was addressed?	What are concrete examples that you made a difference?	What examples of the project impact might you see in future?

Impact On . . .	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact
You	<p>Which of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes* listed do you think you were able to develop through this project?</p> <p>Discover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I developed a stronger sense of self. • I developed positive values. • I gained practical life skills. • I sought challenges in the world. • I developed critical thinking. <p>Connect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I developed healthy relationships. • I promoted cooperation and team building. • I resolved conflicts. • I advanced diversity in a multicultural world. • I felt more connected to my community, locally and globally. <p>Take Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will identify community issues. • I will be a resourceful problem solver. • I will advocate for myself and others, locally and globally. • I will educate and inspire others to act. • I will feel empowered to make a difference in the world. <p>*Want more information on the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes? Visit www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/outcomes/transforming_leadership.asp.</p>	<p>Within each leadership key (Discover, Connect and Take Action) list one or two examples of your growth as a leader.</p>

Possible Future Impact

How do you think your leadership skills will grow in the future because of this project?

4. Supporting Documentation

- Any supporting documentation including signed letter(s) and/or evaluation from one or more members of the community group(s) that benefited from your project.

5. Project Photo Journal

- Documentation of your project and/or example of something produced as a result of your project.

Part V. Signatures

Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador Signature _____

Project Advisor's Signature _____

Part VI. Project Submission Process

- Submit Gold Award paperwork **by Friday @ 4:30pm prior to the 4th Monday of each month.**
Final Reports must be received by March 15 in order to participate in Gold Award Ceremony for that year.
- Mail paperwork to:** Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council, Inc., Attn: Gold Award Review Committee;
1700 WaterMark Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43215
- Gold Award Candidate notified regarding decision of committee by 4th Friday.

For Committee Use Only

Date Submitted _____ Date Reviewed _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

Approved Yes No Comments _____ Initials _____

