

Gold FAQs (<http://www.girlscoutshh.org/faqs/gold-award-faqs/>)

1. How do I get my project approved?

Complete the project proposal online. There is a link on the council website and you should submit it directly online. If you need to submit additional information, you can do so to goldaward@girlscoutshh.org or to Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, 3 Neptune Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. You will then be invited to the next Gold Committee Meeting at the location you indicated on your proposal.

2. What is the difference between the "project proposal" and the "application"?

Nothing. These words are used interchangeably throughout the workbook. When you follow the link to the form on our website, you will see it listed as a project proposal.

3. When is the next Gold Committee Meeting?

Unless holidays or weather interferes, the meetings are as follows:

- Kingston the 1st Thursday of the month.
- Middletown the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- Pleasantville on the third Monday of the month.
- New City the last Monday of the month.
- Poughkeepsie the last Wednesday of the month.

4. What should I expect at the Gold Committee Meeting?

The initial interview generally takes 15-20 minutes and is your opportunity to share everything you hope to accomplish with your project. Please be prepared to explain the sustainability and global aspect of your project, as well as how you plan to obtain your 80 hours. The exit interview generally takes 10-15 minutes and is your opportunity to showcase your project. Be prepared to talk about your successes, what didn't go so well, what you learned, and what you would have changed if you could start over.

5. What should I bring to the Gold Committee Meeting?

Always bring a copy of your signed paperwork. A full Girl Scout uniform is always appropriate – if this is not possible, please dress professionally and wear your sash or vest. If it is your final interview, you will need to bring your binder with time log, budget sheet, photos, and any other documentation you created or gathered along the way (newspaper articles, letters, etc.)

6. What's the difference between a mentor and an advisor?

A Gold Mentor is someone who has been trained by council. They will be at the Gold Committee meeting and it is their job to look over your project and make sure it meets all of the requirements and follows guidelines. They are the your go-to person when you have questions about what GSHH approves, if you need to make a change to your project, or if you need Girl Scout information. A Gold Advisor is someone who is working with you on the physical project. For example, if you are working in a school it may be a teacher or guidance counselor, and if you are working for a non-profit organization it may be the owner or another volunteer. This person acts as your adult contact to make sure you are on-track with what needs to be done. They can help with scheduling, promotion, and answering project-based questions such as "what kind of paint would you like me to use?" and "can I book a classroom for an after-school program?"

7. How do I get a mentor?

When you come for your initial interview, you will be assigned one before you leave the building. You will need to exchange contact information at that time.

8. Where do I send my completed paperwork?

Online: Just hit submit at the end of the proposal and it will come to us

By e-mail: goldaward@girlscoutshh.org

By mail: GSHH // 3 Neptune Drive // Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 // Attn: Michele Diamanti.

9. Did you get my paperwork?

When paperwork is received and processed, you will receive an e-mail at the address provided on the report. If you have not received an e-mail within two weeks of submitting, you can follow up. If paperwork is handed in, or mailed, to an office other than Poughkeepsie, please allow an extra two weeks for the paperwork to get to Poughkeepsie.

10. How many girls can work on one project?

Only one.

11. What counts as hours?

Any time when you are working on your project, you can count it as hours. Brainstorming, finding an advisor, and speaking with your mentor all count as hours. Up to 25% of your hours can come from fundraising. At least 20% of your hours should come from leadership (working in-person with others). Helping another girl in your troop with project does not count as hours.

12. What are the deadlines?

The project must be completed - including having the paperwork finished signed and turned into council, by September 30th after you graduate. If you wish to attend the yearly March Gold Ceremony, final paperwork must be in by January 1st of that year. There is no deadline for project proposals.

13. When will I receive my certificate and pin?

You will receive your pin at the yearly March Ceremony. If you are unable to attend this Ceremony, you will be able to pick up your pin and certificate from any of the five regional offices after the date of the Ceremony. ***Pins will not be given out prior to the Ceremony*** which means you could wait up to 14 months to receive your award. If you need proof that you've earned the Gold for college, scholarship, or military applications, please contact us and we're happy to write you a personalized letter.

14. How do I know if I've completed the pre-requisites?

The prerequisite for the Gold is to complete two Senior or Ambassador level Journeys if you have not done your Silver Award. If you have completed a Silver Award, then you will only need to complete one Journey. The choices are *Sow What?*, *GirlTopia* and *Mission Sisterhood* for Seniors, and *Your Voice*; *Your World, Bliss!*, and *Justice* for Ambassadors. The Journey is complete when you have completed each of the individual awards and done a Take Action project.

15. Is it mandatory to attend a Going for the Gold training?

No, the training is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended. Girls tend to make a lot less mistakes and have a much easier time with their project when they attend training.

16. Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) from Cadettes to Seniors?

Yes. Girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer after they complete the pre-requisites.

17. What does it mean by "Take Action" project?

A take action project in Girl Scouting offers a unique and sustainable solution to a community issue or problem while addressing the root cause of the issue (i.e. an on-going intergenerational program at a nursing home, a sustainable community garden, or a lasting tutoring program).

18. What does it mean by "global" aspect?

All Girls must take the project outside of the community their project originated in. Community, in this instance, is not confined to geographic constraints, but rather the community of people involved (think church communities, service communities, athletic communities, etc.). The goal is for the idea / purpose of the project to be spread to different individuals than those you initially reached with your project. For example, if the project is done within an elementary school, the global aspect would be bringing awareness and passing the idea on to either a middle school or another elementary school.

19. Can I do my project for the Girl Scouts?

The Gold Award Project must be outside of the Girl Scout community. A portion of the project may occur within, or include, Girl Scouts, but it cannot solely benefit Girl Scouting.

20. Project Titles – A Reminder:

Please do not forget to title your project and make this clearly known on your application and final report.

21. Your Name – A Reminder:

Please do not forget to put your name at the top of your paperwork.