



The Girl Scout Silver Award (Revised for the 2004-2005 Girl Scout Year)

The Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award for Girl Scouts ages 11-14, focuses on leadership, career exploration, personal growth and community action.

The steps for the Silver Award are changing!

During the transition Girl Scout year (2004-2005) you can use the current steps outlined in the *Cadette Girl Scout Handbook* or the new steps in the Girl Scout Silver Award *Go For It!* STUDIO 2B insert.

The Silver Award consists of a series of steps. You may not begin the project step until you have completed the initial steps (prerequisites).

Following are some basic guidelines for your Girl Scout Silver Award Project:

- This is your chance to do something totally different from anything you have ever done before – something very important and powerful. It's time for you to use your voice and make your mark in the community.
- This project represents your community action plan for helping others. Figure out what the community problem is and what you want to do about it. The project can be done in or outside of Girl Scouting and must reflect some aspect of community service. If the project is done within Girl Scouting, you must reach out to the community in some way. Be prepared to explain how you went beyond Girl Scouting.
- You may enlist other people to help you, or work through organizations to put your project in place, but it is your vision and leadership that should make it happen.
- **If you choose to engage in a group project, each team member must adopt equal amounts of responsibility. Each member should have a distinct role in the completion of the overall group project and everyone must be given an opportunity to learn and grow by acquiring the skills needed to accomplish the project goals. It is strongly recommended that no more than three girls work together on a project.**
- Create a realistic budget that does not rely on raising large sums of money. You cannot collect money for other organizations. You can ask for goods and services from family and friends but not from businesses and corporations. ***Any fund raising or solicitation of materials needs to be approved by the Council.***
- Your project should exceed the minimum time requirements. Keep a detailed log of your hours to share with your project advisor and include with your Final Report. This time includes planning, making contacts, training others and actually implementing the project. Keep in mind: when working on a group project each individual must submit a time log showing her individual strengths and separate responsibilities.
- If you plan for your project to be ongoing, such as a suicide hotline for teens or an interpretive nature trail, plan ***how it can be sustained or maintained.***
- Always check ***Safety-Wise*** when planning your project. If you are proposing to address “sensitive issues,” as defined in *Safety-Wise*, you will need to follow GSUSA and Council guidelines for Girl Scout involvement and have Council permission before beginning the project. You should work with the Council on any project that will impact Girl Scouting or Girl Scout property.

It is best to run your project idea by your advisor first. While some ideas may seem appropriate “on paper,” when you begin to assess the actual time commitment or long-term ramifications, you may realize that your proposal needs to be more fully researched and planned – or revised.

From Good to Great: Successful Girl Scout Silver Award Projects

It is important to differentiate between a community service project and a Girl Scout Silver Award project. The latter should involve planning and individual opportunities for leadership and decision-making. When working on a group project, each girl needs to play an individual role. Here are several activities that began as good service projects, but with careful coaching, developed into great Girl Scout Silver Award projects.

Good Service Project →	GREAT Girl Scout Silver Award Project!
Volunteering for many hours at a park site picking up litter.	Working with the park ranger to establish an ongoing “Junior Ranger” Program for neighborhood children during the summer and on weekends.
Conducting children’s story hours at the local library.	Creating an after school reading program for a homeless shelter after meeting with the children and establishing needs; includes building bookshelves and selecting books from donations.
Sewing pillows for very ill children in a hospital.	Assessing needs for the children’s hospital with administration and children. Teaching younger girls to sew “keeper pillows” and special head covers for ill children in several hospitals.
Planting flowers with a group in a park during a community service day.	Organizing a community cleanup and beautification day and BBQ that becomes an annual event involving businesses and families. Planting window boxes, painting porches and cleaning up vacant lots are some of the completed tasks.

When the Project Is Done:

After your project is finished, complete the Silver Award Final Report Form in detail and keep a copy for yourself and your Leader (Advisor). Be sure to include your time log, pictures, flyers, articles, etc. that explain your project. Send the completed form to the Gold and Silver Awards Committee at Girl Scout Council of Greater New York, Program Department, 43 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4283. Allow 4-6 weeks for review and notification from the Committee.

TIPS TO AVOID COMMON MISTAKES!

- ◆ Make sure that the initial steps have been completed prior to beginning work on the project. Please check your dates.
- ◆ Make sure that all applicable areas of the Silver Award Final Report Form have been signed.
- ◆ Keep in mind when working on a group project that your log should be written in your own words and show your individual responsibilities (i.e. some of the time on your log should be work done alone on your part of the project and some of the time should be work done as part of the group).
- ◆ *Please remember that the Committee must rely on the information, time log, photos and other documentation you submit to understand the purpose of your project and the amount of work you put into it. Make sure your Final Report and supporting documentation are clear and provide enough information so that someone who was not involved with your project can understand exactly what you did, how you spent your time and who benefited from your work.*





Girl Scout Council of Greater New York
 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4283
 (212) 645-4000 ext. 215 Fax (212) 645-4599

**2004–2005
 Girl Scout Silver Award
 Final Report Form**

**Suggested filing date for
 2004 G.S. Year: 4/4/05***

APPROVED:

Date: _____ By _____

RETURNED FOR REVISION:

Date: _____ By _____

* A report form may be sent at anytime during the year after you have completed the requirements. The suggested filing date should be adhered to if you wish to receive your Silver Award before your May/June Court of Awards. You will receive notification within 4 to 6 weeks of receipt of your form. Otherwise, it is due by September 30th of the same membership year you complete 9th grade (for example, if you complete 9th grade in June 2005 it would be due by September 30, 2005).

Please type or print in black ink. Make a copy for your advisor and yourself.

PART I: PERSONAL DATA

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Apt. #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail address: _____

Age: _____ DOB: _____ Grade: _____ Troop/Group #: _____ Cadette G.S. since mo/yr: _____ / _____

Name of Project Advisor: _____ Advisor's Phone #: () _____

Advisor's Address: _____ Apt. #: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of Leader: _____ Leader's Phone # (Day): () _____

Leader's Phone # (Eve): () _____ Leader's Address: _____

Apt. #: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Leader's E-mail address: _____

Title of Project: _____

Start Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

Is this a joint project? If yes, please list the Girl Scout(s) that completed the project with you:

During the transition Girl Scout year (2004-2005) you can use the current steps outlined in the Cadette Girl Scout Handbook (complete Part IIa below) or the new steps in the Girl Scout Silver Award Go For It! STUDIO 2B insert (complete Part IIb below). You should complete Part IIa OR Part IIb below, not both.

PART IIa (HANDBOOK): REQUIREMENTS 1-4: Must be completed before any work is begun on the Silver Award Project.

1. Interest Projects Earned	How Do Interest Projects Relate to Your Silver Award Project?	Date Completed	Leader/Advisor Signature

2. Career Exploration	Date Completed	Leader/Advisor Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> From Dreams to Reality Patch or		
<input type="checkbox"/> Five career activities, in any Interest Project(s) not already earned		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

3. Leadership	Date Completed	Leader/Advisor Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Interest Project or		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cadette Girl Scout Leadership Award (List Activities)		
1.		
2.		

4. Cadette Girl Scout Challenge	Date Completed	Leader/Advisor Signature
(Describe the activities you completed for each section.)		
Section 1:		
Section 2:		
Section 3:		
Section 4:		
Section 5:		

PART IIb (STUDIO 2B): STEPS 2-4: Must be completed before any work is begun on the Silver Award Project.

STEP 2: GIRL SCOUT SILVER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Activities	Date Completed	Advisor Signature
1. Earn It:		
IP:		
IP:		
IP:		
2. Believe It: STUDIO 2B Focus Book: <i>Uniquely Me! The Real Deal</i>		
3. Lead It: (15 hours) Describe:		

STEP 3: GIRL SCOUT SILVER CAREER AWARD

	Date Completed	Advisor Signature
What's out there?		
Who's out there?		
Your Own Business Interest Project Award		

STEP 4: GIRL SCOUT SILVER 4BS CHALLENGE AWARD

Activity	Date Completed	Advisor Signature
1. Become:		
2. Belong: STUDIO 2B Focus Book: <i>Looking In, Reaching Out</i>		
3. Believe Issue: How did you use your voice?		
4. Build: Describe your solution:		

**PART III MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL GIRL SCOUTS WORKING ON THEIR SILVER AWARDS
– BOTH VERSIONS (THE HANDBOOK AND STUDIO 2B)!**

PART III: GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD PROJECT (Use separate paper to answer the following.)

- Describe the issue your project addressed (such as a problem or need in your community), what you achieved and who benefited. Explain in detail what you did for your project.
- Explain how your project reached an audience/made an impact in your community beyond Girl Scouting.
- Discuss your reasons for selecting this project.
- Outline your strengths, talents and skills you put into action.
- Describe the steps involved for putting your plan into action, including facilities and/or equipment needed.
- Explain how you evaluated the effectiveness/success of your project. List specific ways you evaluated your work. (For example: surveys, evaluation forms, number of participants, etc.)
- List the consultants and resources you used.
- Describe the overall project expenses and how you met these costs.

PART IV: ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Attach your time log listing the date, description and amount of time spent on the project.
- Attach any documentation, copies of correspondence and pictures that can illustrate your project, if applicable.
- Please answer the following questions:

a. Were all of the initial steps completed prior to <u>beginning</u> work on the project?	___ Yes	___ No
b. Does your project go beyond Girl Scouting in some way?	___ Yes	___ No
c. Is your project in keeping with the standards of <i>Safety-Wise</i> , GSUSA and the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York?	___ Yes	___ No
d. If this is a group project, is your log written in your own words and does it explain your individual and separate responsibilities (i.e. some of the time on your log should be work done alone on your part of the project and some of the time should be work done as part of the group)?	___ Yes	___ No

(You must be able to answer “yes” to all of these questions prior to submitting this report.)

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Leader/Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____