



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

The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, focuses on leadership, career exploration, personal growth and community action.

The steps to the Gold Award are changing!

During the transition Girl Scout year (2004-2005) you can use either the current steps outlined in *A Resource Book for Senior Girl Scouts* (your Senior handbook) **or** the new steps explained in the Girl Scout Gold Award *Go For It!* STUDIO 2B insert. The Project Proposal Form attached to this information lists the current steps as outlined in *A Resource Book for Senior Girl Scouts*. **If you are using the new Girl Scout Gold Award *Go For It!* STUDIO 2B insert, please contact the Council for the appropriate Project Proposal Form.**

The Gold Award consists of the series of steps outlined below. You may not implement the project part of the Gold Award (step 5) until your project plan has been approved by the Gold and Silver Awards Committee. When you are ready to begin the Gold Award process, you must:

1. Decide on a Gold Award Project with your project advisor. The project **MUST** be a community action project that is implemented to address a need or problem in your community completely outside of Girl Scouting. You must reach an audience/make an impact outside of Girl Scouting.
2. Complete the attached Gold Award Project Proposal Form and mail it to the Council. The deadline is October 12, 2004 if you wish to complete your project in time to participate in the **Spring 2005 Gold Award Ceremony**. Please note that you can submit applications anytime during the year if you do not wish to participate in the Spring 2005 Ceremony. After you have completed your proposal, proofread it carefully for spelling and grammatical errors before you submit it!
3. After the Project Proposal is received and reviewed by the Council, you will be called to schedule a coaching session with the Committee.
4. Arrive at the coaching session ready to discuss your proposal with the Committee. They may suggest adjustments to your plan based on their experience with other projects. The Council may advise you that your proposal does not meet the established standards. For example, it may be in violation of *Safety-Wise* or it may be in conflict with Girl Scout program standards. The time requirements or substance of the project may not be in keeping with the minimum time requirement or the individual commitment required. The Committee will work with you to adjust your plan to meet the requirements.
5. **After the Committee has approved your proposal**, implement your Gold Award Project.

6. When you have completed your project, submit a final report to the Committee with a time log, pictures and other supporting documentation (i.e. flyers, letters, handouts) showing the work you did and the time you spent on your project. A Final Report Form will be provided by the Committee and must be included with your final report. If you plan to participate in the Council's Gold Award Ceremony, the report is due by **March 15, 2005**. Otherwise, it is due by September 30th of the same membership year you complete 12th grade (for example, if you graduate in June 2005 it would be due by September 30, 2005).

We understand that unexpected circumstances may arise that may delay the completion of your project. If any problems arise, please submit a statement updating us on what occurred and how it will affect your project. The Committee's goal is to help you successfully complete your project and earn your Gold Award.

Here are some basic guidelines for your Girl Scout Gold Award Project:

- It is best to run your 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.
- 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 member of your team must adopt equal amounts of responsibility. Each group member should have a distinct role in the completion of the overall 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.**
- If you plan for your project to be ongoing, such as a suicide hotline for teens or an interpretive nature trail, plan and explain **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.
- 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 Form. The time log includes planning, making contacts, training others and 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.
- **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. The Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting, so take this opportunity to showcase exactly what you did to earn it!**

- Gold Award Projects are never “rejected,” but if the Committee has questions about your project when reviewing your Final Report, they may ask you to clarify or submit additional information before your project receives final approval.

When the Paperwork Is Done:

Our Council holds a special Gold Award Ceremony. It will be a time of honoring your accomplishments and thanking the individuals who helped you along the way. This year’s ceremony will be held in *May or June 2005*. The Girl Scout Council will provide details and other information at a special Gold Award Orientation Meeting on **January 27, 2005**. You will be officially invited to this meeting when your Project Proposal is approved.

When you receive your Girl Scout Gold Award, you will become the newest member of a prestigious group of women who, throughout the history of Girl Scouting, have received the highest recognition in the organization. Moreover, you will be eligible for certain scholarships available only to Gold Award recipients. The scholarships list can be found on the GSUSA website at: www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/scholarships.

TIPS TO AVOID COMMON MISTAKES!

- ◆ You may not begin your project until it has been approved.
- ◆ Make sure all requirements have been completed before you submit the application. Please check your dates.
- ◆ Make sure all applicable areas of your forms have been signed.
- ◆ Keep in mind when working on a group project that each individual must put in the minimum time requirement. Your applications must explain your individual strengths and separate responsibilities.
- ◆ We understand that unexpected circumstances arise that may impact your original project application. Please keep us informed of events that occur and submit a statement about how they will impact your final report.
- ◆ Remember to include the following in your Final Report:
 - Final Report Form
 - Time Log
 - Pictures
 - Samples of printed materials (flyers, articles, research, etc.)
 - Letter(s) of appreciation





Girl Scout Council of Greater New York
 43 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4283
 (212) 645-4500 ext. 215 Fax (212) 645-4599

**2004-2005 GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD
 PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM
 Deadline: October 12, 2004***

Coaching Date: _____
APPROVED:
Date: _____ By: _____
RETURNED FOR REVISION:
Date: _____ By: _____

***Deadline: for girls wishing to participate in the Spring Ceremony; all others may submit an application at any time during the year.**

Please type or print in black ink. Make a copy for your advisor and yourself. Do not begin your project until you have received Council approval.

PART I: PERSONAL DATA

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Apt. #: _____

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

Age: _____ DOB: _____ Grade: _____ Troop/Group #: _____ Senior 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: _____

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PART II: REQUIREMENTS 1-4 (Must be completed prior to beginning your Project Plan)

1. Interest Projects Earned	How Do Interest Projects Relate to Your Gold Award Project?	Date Completed	Leader/Advisor Signature
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

2. Career Exploration Pin: Option Completed	Date Completed	Leader/Advisor Signature

3. Senior G.S. Leadership Award Activities (List)	Date Completed	Leader/Advisor Signature

4. Senior G.S. Challenge (List Specific Activity)	Date Completed	Leader/Advisor Signature
(Describe activities completed for each section.)		
Section 1:		
Section 2:		
Section 3:		
Section 4:		
Section 5:		

PART III: GOLD AWARD PROJECT PLAN (Use separate paper to answer the following.)

- A. Describe the need or problem in your community that your project will address, what you hope to achieve and who will benefit. Explain exactly what you want to do for your project and how you will reach an audience/make an impact completely outside of Girl Scouting.
- B. Discuss your reasons for selecting this project.
- C. Outline your strengths, talents, and skills that will be put into action.
- D. Is this a joint project? If yes, please list the Girl Scout(s) that will complete the project with you. (It is strongly recommended that no more than three girls work together on a project.) What will be your specific responsibility when completing this project?
- E. Describe the steps you will take to put your plan into action. Include information about facilities and/or equipment you will need.
- F. Explain how you will evaluate the effectiveness/success of your project. List specific ways you will evaluate your work. (For example: surveys, evaluation forms, number of participants, etc.)
- G. List the names of advisors and resources you plan to use.
- H. Estimate the overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs.

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Leader/Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail to: Girl Scout Council of Greater New York, 43 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4283 ATTN: Gold and Silver Awards Committee