

GOLD AWARD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We strongly encourage and expect girls to contact us directly about any questions they have regarding the Gold Award process or about their specific project. A big part of the Gold Award leadership experience is developing leadership and communication skills and advocating on one's own behalf.

Who should I contact about the Gold Award at Girl Scouts of Connecticut?

All questions about the Gold Award should to be directed to gold@gsofct.org or you can call the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Council toll free at 1-800-922-2770 and ask to be connected with Virginia Worchel at extension 3723. Once a girl has attended a Gold Proposal Workshop she will have the contact information for her Gold Award Committee Area Chair person who can also answer any Gold questions she may have.

What is the Girl Scout Gold Award?

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award that a Girl Scout can earn. A Gold Award recipient's accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship that set her apart as a community leader. Earning Gold sets the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship.

How do girls know when a Journey is "completed"?

A leadership journey is complete when a girl has earned the Journey award, which includes creating and implementing a Take Action Project. Completing 1 Journey and earning the Silver Award **or** completing 2 Journeys are the prerequisites to the Gold Award. These must be journeys appropriate to their Senior or Ambassador grade level.

What is the difference between a community service project and a Take Action Project?

A community service project gives a temporary solution to the immediate need of a community (i.e. a food or clothing drive). While these projects address a need it is only for a short period of time, and effects few people.

A Take Action Project targets the cause of an issue. Girls identify and understand the root cause of the issue they are addressing. A Take Action Project must be sustainable and have an impact that is measurable. ***A Gold Award Project is a Take Action Project***
(GSUSA calls it GAT Action Project)

Sustainable- reaches many people for a long period of time. May change the way they act or think

Measurable-create and implement a concrete way of measuring the project. Try to get more than numbers of people. How did it change or help people?

Can I do my Gold Award project with my Girl Scout friends?

The Gold Award project is a solo project. It must be designed, project managed, and be accountable to one individual girl. Leadership is key for the Gold Award project. While Gold is an individual project, the girl builds and leads a support team to make the project come to life. The Gold Award Project is meant to be done on an individual basis encouraging all girls to think deeply, explore opportunities, and challenge one's self.

Where can I find the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Proposal Paperwork?

The GSOFCT Gold Award paperwork can be found on our website:

http://www.gsofct.org/pdf/membership/formLibrary/Gold_Guide-Girls_11-12-10.pdf

The proposal submission pages are pages 28-36. If you would like to type your proposal, you can receive the proposal paperwork in a write-able Word document by e-mailing gold@gsofct.org

What is a Letter of Endorsement*?

A letter of endorsement is a letter of agreement written to a girl from their project's recipient. The letter of endorsement must be on the company's/organization's letterhead. It should state the girl's name, the project idea, and how the project is helping the community. This letter is to show the Gold Award Committee that the organization or company supports the girl's efforts.

There is a sample letter in the Girl's Gold Proposal Workbook (on page 37). This is a letter sample for girls to use when requesting a letter of endorsement from the organization or company they hope to work with during their Gold Award Project

*A letter of endorsement is mandatory. A Gold Award Proposal will not be forwarded on to the Gold Award committee for review unless a signed letter of endorsement (on letterhead) is attached.

How much time does it take to review my Gold Award Proposal?

It takes 6-8 weeks from the date of submission. Please plan for the 6-8 week review time in your project timeline.

Why can't a parent or Troop Advisor be a Girl Scout Gold Award Community/Technical Advisor?

Girls are encouraged to connect with their community and expand their network when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. This means working with a project advisor who is not a troop advisor or a parent.

What if a girl's project is not completed by the council reception time?

The annual Girl Scouts of Connecticut reception is the first Sunday of June. If a girl's project is not yet complete or her paperwork is not received by the April 1st deadline, she will be

invited to next year's reception. Additionally, every girl who receives Gold should be honored at the local pinning ceremony that she, her troop, her parents, and/or Service Unit organizes on her behalf. This local ceremony can take place anytime after a girl completes her final interview with the Gold Award Committee.

What is the Gold Award Proposal Workshop*? Who should attend? Is it mandatory?

Gold Award Proposal workshops are run by the Gold Award Committee. The committee is volunteers dedicated to helping girls state-wide achieve Gold while maintaining the standards and expectation that come with such a prestigious award. Since the committee members are volunteers, dates of the workshops are created months in advance-with the consideration of many schedules. Having the committee run these workshops is beneficial for all the girls, giving them the chance to meet members of the committee. Girls get the chance to chat one-on-one with committee members to help define their issue and hone their project idea to meet the Gold Award standards. **Attendance of the Gold Award Proposal workshop is mandatory for the girls** because it helps them understand the standards of Gold, become familiar with the process and paperwork, and as mentioned above, the chance to approach committee members about project ideas before their paperwork is completed and submitted for critique. Adults can also attend this workshop.

*Starting in January 2012 GSOFACT will also be offering a Gold Award Webinar. A girl who intends to earn Gold must attend an in-person workshop OR the webinar.

What is the Journey to Gold Workshop-Who attends?

This workshop is for adults who are supporting girls in their road to Gold using "the new Leadership Journey way". Topics covered include: important dates and definitions, working with the Journeys, and standards of excellence. Adults will leave with resources to help guide their girls on the journey to Gold. This workshop is not intended for girls.

How do I register for these workshops?

You can register for these programs online. Just search GSOFACT calendar of events-type 'gold' into the search line. You can also mail in or fax a completed registration form. Registration forms are available in the Form Library at www.gsofact.org. The Form Library is located under the Membership tab. No registrations will be taken over the phone. Payment must be attached to the registration. These workshops can fill quickly, please register early.

Mail completed registration and payment to:

**Girl Scouts of Connecticut
Attn: Registration Department
20 Washington Ave
North Haven, CT 06473
P (203) 239.2922 F (203) 234.6828**