

# **Girl Scout Gold Award**

Girl Scouts of Connecticut  
**Guidelines and Toolkit**

**For Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors**

**This Guide and toolkit should be used by girls who are earning the Gold Award with journeys as the pre-requisite(s).**

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## It's Your Project, Do it!

This is *your* Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Make the most of your experience by using all the strengths and resources you have and will build. Yes, you will lead a team of people to help with your project; but, always remember that this leadership experience is a chance for you to grow, to become stronger, and to better prepare you for the future.

Others may think they are helping by taking on tasks that are your responsibility. This is your time to explain that the Gold Award Project is more than a way to help address an issue in your community; it is an opportunity for your personal growth! Thank them for their offer of help and direct them to a task that helps you (after all, you *are* the leader of the team!)

If you ever question whether the experience of the "Journey to Gold" is worth the time and effort - just read some of the quotes in this guide! These are words from girls who, through perseverance, have completed the Gold Award and reflected on how the experience affected them.

*It's your project, do it!*



### A Tree for the Future

Every spring the sap rises in the trees

From root to branch,

And makes a tree that looks dead

blossom with green leaves and life.

So it is that the Scouting Spirit rises within you,

and inspires you to put your best forth.

By Juliette Gordon Low

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## GSOFACT Gold Award Process at a Glance



Celebrate! Local Pinning Ceremony: to be planned & held locally. Attend Council sponsored Reception, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of June

Submit Final Report to GSOFACT Program Department, and attend interview with GSOFACT Volunteer Gold Award Committee Members.

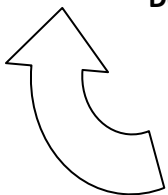
Work on your Take Action Project. Maintain monthly contact with your GSOFACT Gold Award Committee Mentor. Build a team of helpers to complete the project. Remember to share – tell others what you are doing!

Submit your Project Proposal paperwork to the GSOFACT Program Department. After the Volunteer Gold Award Committee has reviewed your proposal, a committee member will contact you to arrange an initial meeting. At this time you'll discuss any suggested changes to the project and sign an agreement. The agreement outlines project expectations. All project work must begin *after* you have received approval from your Gold Award Committee Mentor. Remember that a take action project: Addresses a root cause of an issue, is sustainable, is measurable, has a global link, and although Gold Award Take Action Projects are individual projects, you must involve others.

After completing the journey prerequisite(s), attend a required *GSOFACT Project Proposal Workshop*. Plan ahead! Ideally you'll attend a workshop between steps 4 and 5, but you must attend prior to submitting a proposal. As workshops may fill to capacity, register as early as possible. See listings of workshops at [www.gsofact.org](http://www.gsofact.org) program & training registration area. You may attend a workshop on your own or with others. During the workshop, project ideas will be discussed in small groups with Gold Award Committee Members and other girls. Be ready and open to suggestions. Attending adults participate in a parallel workshop.

Complete either two (2) Senior and/or Ambassador Journeys or one (1) Journey if you completed a Girl Scout Silver Award Project. "Completing" a journey means earning all awards linked to a specific journey. Journeys used as Gold Award prerequisites must be started *after* July 1<sup>st</sup> preceding 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Adults supporting girls while they prepare for the Gold Award may attend a *Journey to Gold Workshop*.

**Details of the Gold Award Project Take Action Project and Resources are contained in this guide.**



**Start here!**

"I also learned a lot about myself from the project. I learned that with hard work and dedication, I can accomplish things that I never thought I could before." Mary, 2010

# Important GSOFACT Definitions

- **Troop Advisor** – the adult who is responsible for the specific troop/group
- **Gold Award Mentor** – the adult member of the Gold Award Committee who has been assigned to work with a specific girl on her Gold Award Project.
- **Gold Award Technical/Community Consultant** – an adult (not necessarily connected with the Girl Scouts) who has agreed to advise a girl with specific technical aspects of her project. This could be a member of an agency who is supporting the girl's project, a professional with specific expertise relevant to the project. This person may not be a parent or close family member.
- **Local Pinning Ceremony** – This ceremony is planned with the girl's input at a local level. It may be planned by the troop/group, family or service unit. At this ceremony, girls receive their Gold Award Pin (contact your Gold Award Mentor to arrange for pin). This ceremony may be held anytime after the girl has successfully completed her project and final interview.
- **Council Gold Award Reception** – This ceremony and reception honors all GSOFACT girls who have earned the Gold Award during the year. At the Reception, girls receive their Gold Award Certificates and congratulatory letters. The reception is held in the afternoon of the first Sunday in June.



## Important GSOFACT Dates/Points to Remember

- **July 1<sup>st</sup> prior to 9<sup>th</sup> grade** – Earliest date when prerequisite journey work may begin towards the Gold Award.
- **June 1st of Senior Year of High School** – last date for submitting Gold Award Proposal paperwork.
- **April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Annual deadline for submission of Final Reports for inclusion in current year’s Council Gold Award Reception, Gold Award photo Brochure, celebratory certificates solicited by council from national organizations. (if Final Report is turned in at this deadline, in order for you to be recognized at the June reception of the current year, you must make yourself available for your interview before the 15<sup>th</sup> of April)
- **April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Connecticut Gold Award Scholarship deadline: Bea Okwu Gold Award Scholarship, Emily Chaisson Scholarship, and Connecticut Elks Scholarship. Applications are online at [www.gsofact.org](http://www.gsofact.org).
- **September 30 after graduating High School** – last date for submitting final report. (Young women who are developmentally delayed may have until the completion of their 21<sup>st</sup> year to finish their Gold Award.)
- **January 1<sup>st</sup>** – Interview deadline for all girls at college who have completed the Gold Award project and submitted their final report by September 30<sup>th</sup> following High School graduation.
- **Rolling** – Attendance at the Gold Award Proposal Workshop required within one year prior to submitting Gold Award Project Proposal paperwork.
- **Rolling** – Gold Award Project Proposals may be submitted at any time of the year.
- **Note**– Girl Scouts is an inclusive environment for all girls. We encourage Girl Scouts of varying abilities to pursue the Gold Award. If you require special assistance or an aide in order to fully participate, please let your Gold Award Mentor know so she can support you in the best way possible.

## Guidelines for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors

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 personal 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.

## 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 Steps and Standards of Excellence

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Standards of Excellence
<p><b>1. Choose an issue:</b> Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate civic responsibility.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Investigate:</b> Research everything you can about the issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source's reliability and accuracy.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate courage as you investigate your issue, knowing that what you learn may challenge your own and others' beliefs.</li> <li>▪ Identify national and/or global links to your community issue.</li> </ul>

<p><b>3. Get help:</b> Invite others to support and take action with you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of others.</li> <li>▪ Respect different points of view and ways of working.</li> <li>▪ Build the required team and recruit a Technical/Community Consultant who will bring special skills to your Take Action project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Create a plan:</b> Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lead the planning of your Take Action project.</li> <li>▪ Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Present your plan and get feedback:</b> Sum up your project plan for your Girl Scout council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Submit a Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive, and clear.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Articulate your issue clearly and explain why it matters to you.</li> <li>▪ Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine your project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Take action:</b> Take the lead to carry out your plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so that your solution has measurable and sustainable impact.</li> <li>▪ Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for your Take Action project.</li> <li>▪ Challenge yourself to try different ways to solve problems.</li> <li>▪ Use resources wisely.</li> <li>▪ Speak out and act on behalf of yourself and others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Educate and inspire:</b> Share what you have experienced with others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reflect on what you have learned when you present your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to your council.</li> <li>▪ Summarize the effectiveness of your project and the impact it has had on you and your community.</li> <li>▪ Share the project beyond your local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities.</li> </ul>

# GSOFACT

## GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

### PROJECT CRITERIA

***The Gold Award Project is the culmination of a young woman's self-discipline, leadership, time management, originality, initiative and a significant mastery of skills.***

*Your project must fulfill the following criteria.*

- ◆ The Gold Award take action project addresses the root of an issue in the community
- ◆ Is originated, developed, planned, executed, and evaluated by you with additional outside assistance and with official approval from your assigned Gold Award mentor
- ◆ Is approved in both the planning stage and final report by members of the GSOFACT Volunteer Gold Award Committee
- ◆ Is sustainable - Has a lasting benefit to the community....your project should be ongoing so you'll need to plan how it is to be maintained or sustained in the future
- ◆ Has a global component – you have taken into account how others have addressed the root cause of the issue
- ◆ Is measurable – there is a concrete way of measuring the impact on the community
- ◆ Is an individual girl project. A team is recruited to help complete the project
- ◆ Contains a leadership component, involving directing others
- ◆ Forces you to stretch and grow outside your comfort zone
- ◆ Is something you firmly believe in
- ◆ Is shared with others. You use a variety of methods of spreading the word of your project
- ◆ Must be beyond the world of Girl Scouts but may include Girl Scouts as a component

*When fulfilling the criteria for the Gold Award project, the girl agrees to:*

- ◆ Follow all *Safety-Wise* guidelines
- ◆ Follow all Copyright laws, when applicable – no exceptions.
- ◆ Work with adult consultants and advisors who are not related to her
- ◆ Not raise funds for another organization
- ◆ Maintain contact with her Gold Award Mentor during the project implantation phase.

# Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit Overview

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!

1. **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**

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](http://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:

### Mind-Mapping Tool

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 Community/Technical consultant, a person with expertise in the topic of your Gold Award project. A Consultant can help you identify resources, provide insights, solve problems, and provide additional background information on your chosen issue.

**Tools:**

- **Teaming Tips**
- **Community/Technical Consultant Tips**

- 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**
- **Planning and Budgeting Tips**
- **Sustainability Tips**

*Plan ahead!* Remember that you must attend a GSOFCT Gold Award Project Proposal Workshop prior to submitting your Proposal. At the workshop be open to suggestions about your project. Visit [www.gsofct.org](http://www.gsofct.org) to see workshop dates and to register.

- 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 Project Proposal Form to your Girl Scout council 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 Scout Council 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**
- **Project Proposal Form**
- **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.

- 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.

- 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 community/technical consultant, your team, and all the other people who helped you along the way.

You may help plan your local pinning ceremony – why not invite those who helped you? Save the Date! The first Sunday in June is the GSOFACT Gold Award Reception – come be recognized as a member of this amazing group of young women.

*This experience has shown me that I can directly help others on a large scale, and that the potential to mobilize a community-wide effort makes a monumental difference in the lives of others. Ariel, 2010*



# Girl Scout Gold Award Toolkit

## Standards of Excellence Tracking Sheet

Girl Scout Gold Award Steps	Notes Regarding Your Progress and Significant Dates	Standards of Excellence
1. Choose an issue.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Live the Girl Scout Promise and Law.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate civic responsibility.</li> </ul>
2. Investigate.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use a variety of sources: interview people, read books and articles, find professional organizations online. Remember to evaluate each source's reliability and accuracy.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate courage as you investigate your issue, knowing that what you learn may challenge your own and others' beliefs.</li> <li>▪ Identify national and/or global links to your community issue.</li> </ul>
3. Get help.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek out and recognize the value of the skills and strengths of others.</li> <li>▪ Respect different points of view and ways of working.</li> <li>▪ Build a team and recruit a Community Consultant who will bring special skills to your Take Action project.</li> </ul>
4. Create a plan.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lead the planning of your Take Action project.</li> <li>▪ Work collaboratively to develop a plan for your project that creates lasting change.</li> <li>▪ Remember that you must attend a GSOFCT Gold Award project proposal prior to submitting your Project Proposal.</li> </ul>
5. Present your plan and get feedback.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Submit a Project Proposal to your council that is concise, comprehensive, and clear.</li> <li>▪ Describe your plan including the Girl</li> </ul>



		<p>Scout Leadership Outcomes you want to achieve and the impact you plan to make on yourself and the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Articulate your issue clearly and explain why it matters to you.</li> <li>▪ Accept constructive suggestions that will help refine your project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Take action.</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Take action to address the root cause of an issue, so that your solution has measurable and sustainable impact.</li> <li>▪ Actively seek partnerships to achieve greater community participation and impact for your Take Action project.</li> <li>▪ Challenge yourself to try different ways to solve problems.</li> <li>▪ Use resources wisely.</li> <li>▪ Speak out and act on behalf of yourself and others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Educate and inspire.</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reflect on what you have learned when you present your Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to your council.</li> <li>▪ Summarize the effectiveness of your project and the impact it has had on you and your community.</li> <li>▪ Share the project beyond your local community and inspire others to take action in their own communities.</li> </ul>



### ***Decision-Making Tips***- helpful with Step #1, choose an issue

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.

- **The Corporation for National and Community Service:** [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov)
- **Global Citizens Corps:** [www.globalcitizencorps.org](http://www.globalcitizencorps.org)
- **Global Youth Action Network:** [www.youthlink.org](http://www.youthlink.org)
- **Global Youth Service Day:** <http://gysd.org/share>
- **Learn and Serve America:** [www.learnandserve.gov](http://www.learnandserve.gov)
- **Prudential:** [www.spirit.prudential.com](http://www.spirit.prudential.com)
- **Taking IT Global:** [www.tigweb.org](http://www.tigweb.org)
- **United Nations Millennium Development Goals:** [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)
- **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts:** [www.wagggs.org](http://www.wagggs.org)
- **Youth Venture:** [www.genv.net](http://www.genv.net)

Still searching for a topic? Try community mapping. Draw & label parts of your community. Write in thoughts of what people might need there. Be sure to contact people in these organizations/areas and ask what issues they face.



## ***Interview Tips*** – helpful with step #1, choose an issue

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

1. **Making arrangements:** Deciding who you would like to interview, contacting the person, and setting up a date and time.
  
2. **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.

3. **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.
  
4. **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!



## ***Making Your Pitch-*** helpful with Step #1, Choose an issue

You've seen the advertisements and most times you even remember the slogans. What makes them memorable? It could be because they're clever or catchy or funny. Now that you've chosen your issue, think of a way that you can let people know about it. You should be able to describe the issue you've chosen in about 15 seconds. Here are some tips to help you do that.

- **Make it memorable:** Develop a slogan. What makes you remember the slogan in those commercials on TV? How can you incorporate that into your pitch?
- **Target your audience:** Who are you trying to reach? If you are aiming for kids, think of a story or riddle that would relate this to them. Young kids love to rhyme. If you're reaching out to adults, no cute stories! Think about your audience and try to tailor your pitch so that it connects with them.
- **How you will help:** You've gotten their attention with your story. Now tell them what your project will do to make their lives better.
- **Personalize it:** Why this project? Why this target audience? How will doing this make you a better person?
- **Do it:** Put it all together. Explain your idea in a short and motivating way that clarifies for you, your potential team, target audience, and supporters. Remember, 15 seconds. Go!

*The Gold Award has made me a stronger individual and I look forward to applying the knowledge I have gained. Therefore, if one were to ask me what I learned from my Gold Award, I would rarely mention the events of the past, instead, I would tell you what I have learned about my future. Christine, 2010*

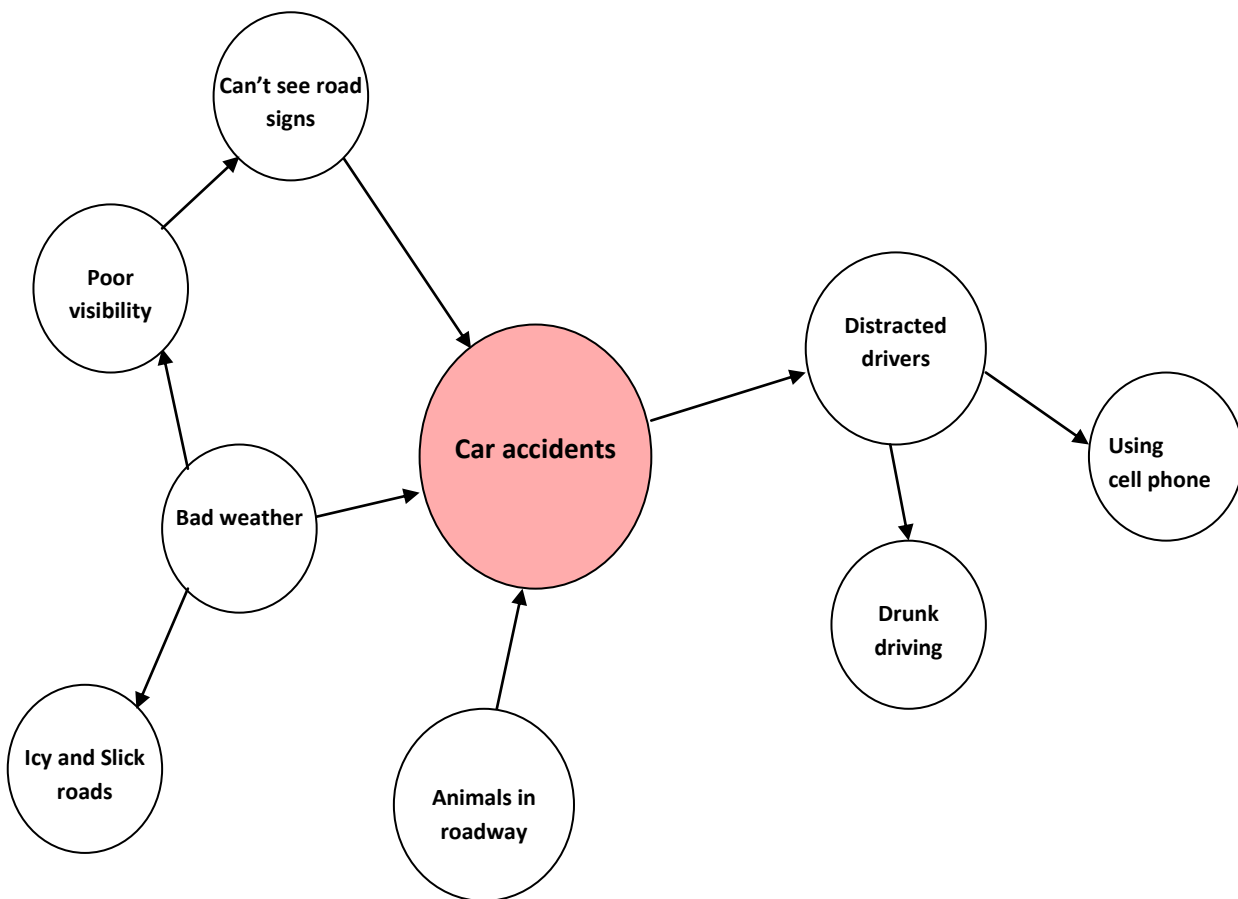


## **Mind-Mapping Tool** – Helpful with step #2 Investigate

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.





## ***Teaming Tips*** – helpful with step #3, get help

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

*My experiences in Girl Scouting have shaped the person I am today in so many ways. Because of Girl Scouting, I have become a better leader, a better team player and an overall better person. Mary, 2010*



## ***Community/Technical Consultant Tips*** - helpful with step #3, get help

Here you'll find tips for selecting and working with your Community/Technical Consultant.

- **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 Advisor for some safety tips and do's and don'ts. Make sure your family knows who you're talking to and meeting.
- **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 Technical/Community Consultant, 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 Technical/Community Consultant (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!



## ***Project Planner*** — helpful with step #4, create a plan

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.



## ***Project Planner*** *continued...*

**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 Advisor, and community/technical consultant, do you need any one else to help with your project?
- What supplies will you need?
- If necessary, how will you earn money?
- How will you measure your success as you go?
- How will your project create lasting change?

*My ability to stick with this important task made clear to me my strong sense of determination. This project has shown me that the goals I set for myself are nothing short of attainable and that the resolve I need to reach these goals is already instilled within me.*

*Jillian, 2010*



**Planning and Budgeting Tips** – helpful with step#4, create a plan

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, Community/Technical Consultant, and Take Action team to find solutions to problems and obstacles that come up along the way.



## ***Sustainability Tips*** — helpful with step #4, create a plan

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?

### **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** – helpful with step #4, create a plan

The answers to 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?
- Have you identified a way to measure your project’s impact?
- Does your project follow all Girl Scout safety standards and local laws?
- Does your project challenge your abilities and your interests?

Once you answer “yes” to all the items on this checklist, and you have attended a GSOFCT Gold Award Project Proposal Workshop, you’re ready to submit your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal. If not, you still have more work to do. Work to address the checkpoint & turn the “no” to a “yes”.

### **Girl Scout Gold Award Proposals may be sent to:**

GSOFCT, Program Dept. – Gold Award  
20 Washington Ave  
North Haven, CT 06473

### **Remember to include:**

- Proposal on GSOFCT form
- Letter of Endorsement
- Detailed Project Plan
- Timeline
- Expected Budget





## Girl Scouts of Connecticut

### Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal

Please print in black pen or contact [gold@gsofct.org](mailto:gold@gsofct.org) requesting this form in Word format. Keep a copy for yourself and submit this form to your council 6-8 weeks prior to the anticipated start of project. Remember: do not begin your project until you have received council approval through the Gold Award Committee. Submit to: GSOFCT, Program Dept. - Gold, 20 Washington Ave. North Haven, CT 06473

Date Gold Award Proposal Workshop Attended \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Formal Letter of Endorsement on letterhead Attached \_\_\_\_

Detailed Project Plan attached \_\_\_\_

Project Timeline Attached \_\_\_\_

Proposed Budget attached \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ (Expected graduation date) \_\_\_\_

Troop/Group Number: \_\_\_\_ Troop/Group Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Group Advisor's Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Technical/Community Project Consultant: \_\_\_\_\_

Technical/Community Project Consultant's Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Technical/Community Project Consultant's Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of adult who attended a Journey to Gold Workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prerequisites:** Two Senior or Ambassador journeys or one journey and the Girl Scout Silver Award.  
 List two journeys that you have completed along with your troop/group Advisor’s signature.

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

<b>Girl Scout Silver Award Completion Date</b>	
<b>Council Where You Earned the Award</b>	

**Your 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.

More Team Members	Affiliation	Role



**Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal, continued**

F. Enter the names of people or organizations you plan to inform and involve.

G. Estimate overall project expenses and how you plan to meet these costs.  
*(Attach budget sheet)*

H. What methods or tools will you use to evaluate the impact of your project?

I. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?

J. 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, and so on).

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Technical Consultant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Impact Planning

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

Impact On . . .	Goals	Potential Impact
<b>Community</b>	What community issue do you plan to address?	What examples of the project impact might you see in future?
<b>Target Audience</b> (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, continued

The following is a list of the 15 Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes\*. Which do 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 others, 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](http://www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/outcomes/transforming_leadership.asp).

## DETAILED PROJECT PLAN

**Describe the steps involved in putting your plan into action.**

Include:

- Resources
- Facilities
- Equipment
- Approvals needed
- Any other aspects you feel will help others understand what the project will entail.





REQUEST FOR LETTER OF GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT ENDORSEMENT

Sample Letter

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<<Contact Name>>

<<Name of Company or Organization>>

<<Street Address>>

<<City>>, <<State>>, <<Zip Code>>

Dear: << Contact Name>>

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in the Girl Scout program and is earned by girls in grades 9-12. Each girl identifies an issue in the community and develops a take action project that addresses this issue. The Girl Scout leads others in the implementation of this project, which is designed to continue to serve the community.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I would like to do the following for my Gold Award project:

If you believe this project plan will fulfill an existing need within your community, I am requesting a letter of endorsement from your organization. Please use your official letterhead, include my name, the project idea, and how the project will help the community. Please send this letter of endorsement to me at the address below, and I will share it with my Girl Scout Gold Award Committee Mentor. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

<<Signature of Girl>>

<<Printed Name of Girl>>

<<Street Address or P.O. Box>>

<<City>>, <<State>>, <<Zip Code>>

<<Phone Number>>

<<E-mail Address>>

**This is a SAMPLE letter. Use this as a guide when writing to request a letter of endorsement.**  
**Do not submit the request with your proposal, please submit the RESPONSE from the project's beneficiary. It must be on their letterhead.**

**Girl Scouts of Connecticut  
Gold Award Project Goods and Services**

**Council Permission Request Form**

Girl's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

The following goods or services are needed in order to complete my Gold Award Project. I am seeking permission to send a request letter to the companies listed below. I understand that I may contact small local companies or organizations who are known to me. I also understand that any donation of goods or services is not tax deductible.

Girl's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

As this Girl Scout's Assigned Gold Award Committee Mentor, I have reviewed the list below:

Gold Award Mentor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Gold Award Mentor's Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Girl's Instructions:**

- Complete both pages of this form and ask your Gold Award Mentor to review and sign it.
- Send this completed form to GSOFCCT, Program Dept. – Gold Award, 20 Washington Ave., North Haven, CT, 06473
- Wait till you receive approval from the Council office before approaching any company or organization. Allow time for processing.
- If permission is granted, you must use the Request for Goods or Services Letter when approaching companies or organizations. Always have an adult be a part of this process.



# Gold Award Project -- Request for Goods or Services

## Sample Letter

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<<Contact Name>>

<< Name of company>>

<<Street Address>>

<<City>>, <<State>>, <<Zip>>

Dear <<Contact Name>>

The Gold Award is the highest award in the Girl Scouts. Each girl identifies an issue in the community, then develops and implements a take action project which meets the community need. It is a great honor to achieve this award. Nationwide, approximately 5.4% of eligible Girl Scouts ages 14 to 18 earn their Gold Award.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am working on my Gold Award Project. Briefly described, my project involves: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In order to make this project happen, I'm going to need support from volunteer friends as well as local merchants such as yourself. I would like to set up an appointment with you to discuss my project and the identified materials needed. I plan to call within the next few days to set a mutually agreeable time and date. If you would prefer to call me instead, my contact number is \_\_\_\_\_. Please note, as items of support are for my project and not for the general Girl Scout council use, they are not tax deductible.

What I am specifically seeking assistance with are the following goods or services necessary for the successful completion of my Gold Award Project.

Goods or Services	Quantity

I look forward to discussing this with you in the next few days.

\_\_\_\_\_

Girl's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Gold Award Committee Mentor's Name

## DO'S AND DON'TS OF COPYRIGHTS

When planning publications or audio-visuals for your project, you must adhere to copyright restrictions.

**To reproduce (copy) ANY copyrighted materials, whether in whole or in part, by any means (electronic or mechanical, photocopying, recording, etc.): WRITTEN PERMISSION must be obtained from the owner of the copyright. Copying without permission can result in legal action.**

When seeking permission to reproduce copyrighted material (songs, articles, poems, recipes, disks, photos, clip art, etc.), it is necessary to identify the copyright owner. Local or school librarians may be helpful in determining copyright ownership and addresses of corporations.

In your contact letter, state the title of the original work, the exact page number(s), words, or music you intend to reproduce. Indicate the anticipated date of publication, approximate number of copies to be made, intended audience, and, if the material is to be offered for sale, the asking price. Allow at least 4-6 weeks to secure permission to use copyrighted material.

**REMEMBER: Do not, under ANY circumstances, use the material until all permissions have been received in writing, and, if required, all fees have been paid.**

NOTE:  
**PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE UNAPPROVED COPYRIGHT CONSENT WILL BE REJECTED**

Reference:  
[www.copyrightkids.org](http://www.copyrightkids.org)

## TO SEEK COPYRIGHT PERMISSION

### Sample Letter

Date \_\_\_\_\_

<<Name of Author/Company>>  
 <<Street Address>>  
 <<City>>, <<State>>, <<Zip Code>>

RE: Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the final project for the Gold Award, the highest girl award in Girl Scouts, my proposal includes \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that you are the owner of the copyright for (\_\_\_name of item\_\_\_) and I want to include your work as part of my project. Specifically, I want to use (specific details – number of minutes, actual words, etc.) in my project as (state use of material).

\*My budget is very limited and the final project will be available to (local schools, libraries, troops, etc.) at no cost. I am hoping that you will permit the use of this material without any charge. If this is not possible, please notify me of the required fee involved.

\*Your signature below, under 'confirmed by', will indicate that you agree to permit this use without payment of a fee. Please notify me if you have any questions concerning this request. My contact information is as follows: <<name, address, city, state, zip, phone number.>>

\*Thank you for your assistance with my Gold Award project. I look forward to hearing from you.

\*Sincerely

Name of Girl Scout  
 Name of Advisor

**Confirmed by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Licensor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Publisher** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*PARAGRAPH VARIES WITH NEEDS AND INTENT

## Girl Scouts of Connecticut

### GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD AGREEMENT

(Reviewed and signed at initial meeting with assigned Gold Award Committee Mentor)

- I have read the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Gold Award Workbook and understand the requirements for the Gold Award Project and its preliminary steps.
- I understand that the project needs to meet the Standards of Excellence as outlined in the Gold Award Guide and Toolkit, with a minimum of 80 personal hours.
- I understand that my troop leaders/advisors, my parents, and my relatives may be my emotional support, but may NOT be my technical/community consultants, or mentors.
- I understand that the Gold Award Committee mentor assigned to me is responsible for approving my project proposal and is the person I need to turn to for guidance, direction, and questions about my overall project.
- I understand that I will be asked to sign an agreement of any changes decided upon by myself and my Gold Award Committee mentor after thorough discussion and mutual agreement before starting my project.
- I understand that I may not begin my proposed project until all preliminary requirements are completed and I have met with the assigned Gold Award Committee Mentor and she has approved my project as submitted or I have agreed to her suggested changes/additions to my project proposal in writing.
- I understand that Money Earning Activities for my Gold Award project need special written approval from Girl Scouts of Connecticut/Program Services Director before a formal Money Earning Activity application is completed and submitted through my Gold Award Committee Mentor to council for consideration.
- I understand that if, through an adult, I intend to solicit local merchants (who are known to me) for 'gifts in kind', and I must first prepare and submit a listing to my assigned Gold Award Committee Mentor for review of said merchants and the specific materials/services desired. This signed listing will then be reviewed by the Director of Program. I understand that gifts in kind are not considered tax deductible as they are not a donation to GSOFCT.
- I will contact my Gold Award Committee Mentor at least once a month via phone or e-mail to advise her of my progress, lack of progress, problems and/or successes. I understand that if two months go by and my assigned Gold Award Committee mentor does not hear from me, my project proposal paperwork will be returned to council and my work on Gold kept on hold.
- I understand that any fliers or promotional pieces intended for distribution, need to be pre-approved by my Gold Award Mentor.

- I understand that my Final Report (and no documentation support) is sent to the Program Dept. – Gold at the North Haven Office (with a copy for my files) upon completion of my Gold Award Project and not before.
- I understand that only when the Final Report is submitted to the Program Department in North Haven and is approved by my assigned Gold Award Committee mentor will an interview be granted to review my Gold Award project, provided I am still a registered Girl Scout member.
- I understand that being granted an interview does not automatically grant me the Gold Award. The interview Committee may not feel my project is complete or does not fulfill the mandated requirements and thus may require additional work on my part to complete the Gold Award project. Additional work may only occur if the girl is still a Girl Scout and not an adult Girl Scout. A girl becomes an adult Girl Scout on October 1st following graduation from high school.
- I understand that the information I provide to the Gold Award Committee and my assigned Gold Award Committee Mentor is accurate, truthful, and in full compliance with the spirit of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

If applicable, I agree to revise my project proposal as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

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Gold Award Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

My assigned Gold Award Committee Mentor is \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Gold Award Committee Mentor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Girl Scouts of Connecticut**

**Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report**

Complete neatly in black or blue ink, or email [program@gsofct.org](mailto:program@gsofct.org) for Word version. Submit the original completed form to your council. Make copies for your records. Submit to: GSOFC, Program Dept. – Gold, 20 Washington Ave., North Haven, CT 06473.

Project Time Log Attached \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop/Group Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Group Advisor’s Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Gold Award Committee Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Technical Consultant: \_\_\_\_\_

Consultant’s Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Consultant’s Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Team:** List the names of individuals and organizations that worked with you on your Take Action Project.

Team members	Affiliation	Role

**Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued**

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Describe the issue your project addressed, what impact you had hoped to make, and who benefited.

**Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued**

B. What was the root cause of the issue? How did you address it?

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C. How will your project be sustained beyond your involvement?

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D. Explain the national and/or global link to your project.

---

E. Describe any obstacles you encountered and what you did to overcome them.

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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?

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## Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued

### Impact

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

Impact On	Goals	Examples of Immediate Impact	Possible Future Impact
<b>Community</b>	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?
<b>Target Audience</b> (workshop participants, other youth, community members, and so on)	What skills, knowledge, or attitudes did your target audience gain?	What examples demonstrate that the target audience gained skills or knowledge?	What would be examples of a long-term impact on your target audience?

**Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued**

**Impact, continued**

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

**Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report, continued**

**Possible Future Impact**

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

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Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Technical Consultant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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(For Council use only – below this line)

Received at council office: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Final Interview & Approval Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Gold Award Committee Members signatures:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



**Hartford-Middletown**  
Gail Myers

**Northeast**  
Virginia Worchel\*  
GSOFACT Staff

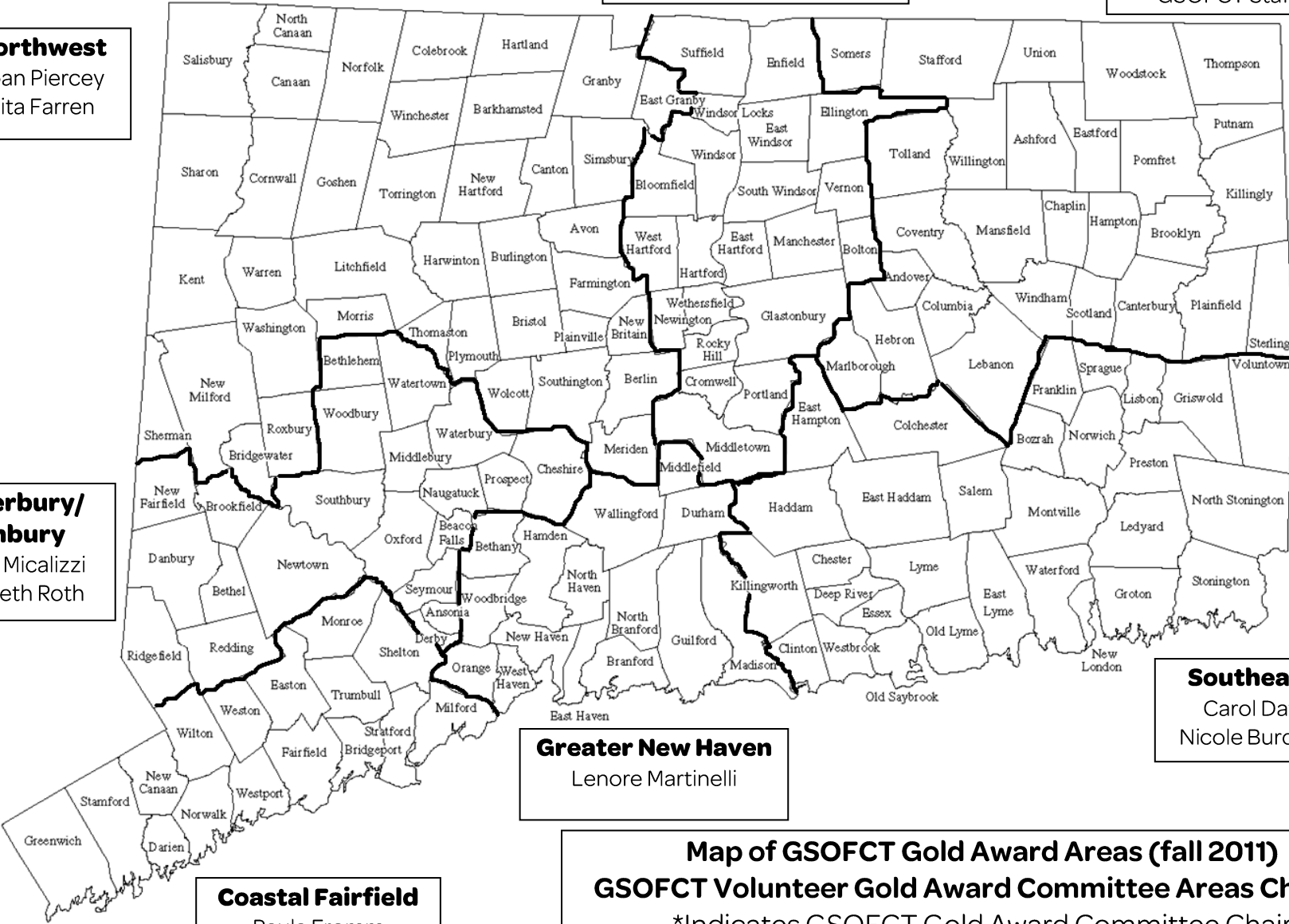
**Northwest**  
Joan Piercey  
Rita Farren

**Waterbury/  
Danbury**  
Hillary Micalizzi  
Elizabeth Roth

**Southeast**  
Carol Day  
Nicole Burdick

**Greater New Haven**  
Lenore Martinelli

**Coastal Fairfield**  
Paula Fromm



**Map of GSOFACT Gold Award Areas (fall 2011)**  
**GSOFACT Volunteer Gold Award Committee Areas Chair(s)**  
\*Indicates GSOFACT Gold Award Committee Chair  
Important Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

## A TRADITION OF HONORING GIRLS

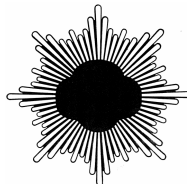
The **Golden Eagle of Merit**, the highest award in Girl Scouting from 1916 to 1919, marked the beginning of a long tradition of using prestigious awards to recognize girls who make a difference in their communities and in their own lives. To earn the **Golden Eaglet**, 1919 to 1939, a girl needed to earn at least fourteen badges chosen from a list of seventeen. A girl who earned the **Curved Bar Award**, 1940 to 1963, might have worked on badges under such groupings as Agriculturist, Ambassador, Flier, Homemaker, Docent or Entertainer to meet the requirements for this top honor. From 1963 to 1980, **The First Class Award** was given to girls who met four or more challenges in addition to earning a specified number of badges. These challenges were real-life situations designed to test a girl's skill and knowledge. The **Gold Award** was introduced in 1980, and *at that time* the requirements included leadership, a career component, a specified number of Interest Project Awards, a Challenge, and the girl must have earned the Silver Award. In 2010, the Gold Award requirements were updated to reflect the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and incorporated the Leadership Journeys as prerequisites and the Take Action Project as the model for the Gold Award requirements.

The times may change, but Girl Scouts continue to encourage girls to

“go for the gold” and be the best they can be at whatever they do.

(2006 Annual Report, GSUSA)

**Yearly, approximately 5,500 girls received the Girl Scout Gold Award. That represents approximately 5.4% of eligible Girl Scouts.**



**“Whatever you take up, do it with all your might, and stick to it.”**

*Juliette Gordon Low, from first Girl Scout handbook, 1913.*

**NOTES**