

Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award





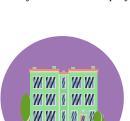
Silver Award at a Glance

7 Steps to the Silver Award



Prerequisite:

Go on a Cadette Journey, including the Journey's Take Action™ project.



Step 3:

Explore your community to learn more about issues that interest you. This can be your neighborhood, your school, Girl Scouts, your place of worship, or another community of interest.



Step 1:

Identify issues that you're passionate about and how they affect your community.



Step 2:

Build your team. Work with a team of up to three other Cadettes or on your own. Either way, plan to partner with the community.



Step 4:

Choose your Silver Award project

based on your passions and what you've learned by exploring your community and talking to others.



Step 5:

Make a plan and submit your Project Proposal to council before you carry out your Silver Award Take

Action Project.



Step 6:

Put your plan in motion. You and your team will each spend a minimum of 50 hours to earn the award. Planning time counts too! Use the Time Log to track your time.



Step 7:

Spread the word and submit your final report to council. Inspire others! You can give a presentation to another Girl Scout troop, your local Girl Scout community, or to students at school.



Then...

Turn in your final report to your council before September 30 of the year, you or your oldest team members complete 8^{th} grade.

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How to Use This Workbook

This workbook is designed to lead you through the 7 Steps to the Silver Award. Use the sample Silver Award Take Action project in the template pages to follow all the examples provided throughout this workbook.

If you need more detailed explanations, review available resources with your leader or adult volunteer. *The Adult Guide for Earning the Silver Award* goes into more detail; the **Volunteer Toolkit** has Silver Award meeting plans.

Need more guidance, attend a Silver Award Training Workshops available monthly. Sign up on the GSCCC Activities calendar

https://www.girlscoutsccc.org/en/discover/activities/events.html?q=Higher%20Awards

Excited to earn your Silver Award? Check these off first.

- You're a registered Girl Scout Cadette (in grades 6–8).
- You've earned a Cadette Journey, including the Journey's Take Action project.
- You will be able to finish your project and submit paperwork by September 30 after 8th grade is completed.
- You're excited to plan a **Take Action** project with the required elements by practicing **leadership**, addressing a real **root cause** of a community issue you care about, and creating a plan to make your project **sustainable**.

What do Silver Award Girl Scouts say?

"Do what you love while helping others!"

"Definitely do it. We learned a lot!"

"Be realistic."

"We enjoyed giving back to our community!"

"Plan, and plan more."

"Time management is the hardest."

"Just start! Don't put it off because you're looking for the perfect project."

"Ask for help!"

Key Elements of the Silver Award Project



The Silver Award Take Action project may be different than other projects you've done as a Girl Scout.

If you earned a Bronze Award, some of the steps will be familiar. If you didn't earn a Bronze Award—that's OK! Any Girl Scout Cadette can rock a Silver Award Take Action project.

Take Action vs. Community Service

Before you begin, it's helpful to understand the difference between a Take Action project and a Community Service project. Here's the difference:

Take Action	Community Service
A long-term project with sustainable and ongoing influence that addresses an issue's root cause	A short-term effort that helps something or someone fulfill an immediate need
Done WITH the community	Done FOR the community
Creating a unique initiative to address an issue's root cause	Joining an existing effort to solve an issue
Creating and leading your own team of volunteers	Joining an existing team, usually as a volunteer
Setting the goals and leading a team to achieve them	Working toward a goal that's set by others

Often, a community service project idea can be developed into a Take Action project. For example, you may want to collect items for a crowded pet shelter. That's a service project, of course. But if you partner with the shelter to understand the root causes of overcrowded shelters and come up with a solution, like workshops to educate others about spaying and neutering pets, that's a Take Action project.

Project Requirements

Take Action projects have five elements: the Girl Scout Gold Award requires all five; the Girl Scout Silver Award requires three (GSGLA recommends all 5); and the Girl Scout Bronze Award requires two.



	Leadership	Root Cause	Sustainable	Measurable	National and/or Global Link
Bronze Juniors					
Silver Cadettes					
Gold Seniors/Ambassadors	\rightarrow	\rightarrow	\rightarrow	\rightarrow	



To earn the Silver Award, you need to:

· Show leadership.

Requiredelement

- Research and address a root cause of an issue in your community.
- · Create a plan to make the project sustainable.
- Recommended: Make your project measurable. Recommended: Make a national and/or global link.

These are the key elements. If they are new to you—no worries! We'll identify how to fulfill each of these requirements in this workbook. You'll be a Silver Award Take Action project expert in no time.

Introduction of new concept/recommended



Before getting started, make sure you have completed a Cadette Journey, including the Journey's Take Action project.

In your Silver Award Project Proposal, you will be asked to provide the name of the Cadette Journey completed and the completion date.

In addition, you will be asked to reflect on these questions

- · What did you do?
- · What did you learn?
- · What will you do better, or differently, next time?

This reflection will help you have a successful Silver Award project.

For what Journeys are available go to the GSUSA Shop page for the list.







Step 1: Identify issues.



How to start? Begin with your passions! What makes you excited? What do you love to do? What have you always longed to know more about?

Then, look to your community. What are the challenges? Who could use some help? Is there a way to bring your passions to the community to make the world a better place?

There are no wrong answers—no pressure. In this step, you're simply exploring, jotting down what comes to mind.

Check out the sample Silver Award Take Action project in the template pages to follow all the examples provided throughout this workbook.

Use the chart on the next page to help you find the issues that interest *you*.



Tip: Once you begin this step, start tracking your time so you don't get stuck trying to recreate it at the end. Each Cadette should spend a minimum of 50 hours working on the Silver Award. Track your time using the Time Log found in the template section, a spreadsheet, or a piece of paper—just don't lose it.

What issues are you	Why are these issues	How do the issues affect
What issues are you passionate about?	Why are these issues important to you?	your community?
Environment	Trees are essential for so many animals. I see a lot of trees being cut down to make room for new buildings.	There is less space for the birds and their nests.
Education	I want to be a teacher, and I enjoy working with kids.	All children should be able to learn and have fun while doing it. More tools are needed to assist teachers in keeping learning fun.

 $Match your talents \ and \ skills \ with \ the \ issues \ you \ identified \ and \ the \ people \ you \ want \ to \ help \ using \ the \ Take \ Action \ Brainstorming \ Decision \ Bracket, \ which \ can \ be \ found \ in \ the \ template \ pages.$



Step 2: Build your team.

To meet the Silver Award **Leadership** requirement, you'll need to build a team. You've got options:

- Small team model: Work with a team of up to three other Cadettes. (4 girls max) Your team can be made up of Girl Scouts from the same troop, other troops, or individually registered Girl Scouts. Each Girl Scout must play an active role in choosing, planning, developing, and completing the team's project, and must have their own role and responsibilities in the project.
- **Solo model:** You can create and implement a project on your own. Recruiting and engaging your peers and/or adult volunteers from your network and around your community will be necessary to complete specific tasks.



Teamwork makes the dream work.

Since each Cadette will spend 50 hours on this project, focus on an issue you are really interested in. Don't just pick an issue your friend is doing because you want to work with them.

- Respect your teammates and their different points of view.
- · Decide on team rules—use the Girl Scout Law as your guide.
- Contribute your share.
- · Have a conflict? Resolve it quickly by talking things out.

No matter which option you choose:

- Plan to partner *with* community members to learn about your issue, discover the root cause(s), make a plan, and take action. Community members might be teachers or school administrators, neighbors, business owners, religious group leaders, or staff at a local community center working on the issue you are interested in. They should be experts in the issue you're working on.
- Show active leadership by involving others in your efforts and directing them to help youmeet the goals of your project. Keep track of who helps you and how so you can thank them upon completion and list them in your Final Report.
- You should have the support of at least one registered, background-checked adult Girl Scout volunteer (usually your troop leader) who is responsible for safety and Silver Award procedures.
- Try it: Having a **project advisor** is not required but can be very helpful. Lots of people are happy to play a part in helping a Girl Scout make the world a better place.
- The Final Report will ask you to identify and reflect on your individual leadership role, responsibilities, and experience.



A project advisor is an adult who is an expert that has some level of knowledge, skills, or access to resources that can help with your project.

While parents/legal guardians and troop leaders can be project advisors, try to expand outside your familiar circles and grow your network!

If you've chosen a group for your team, hold your first meeting.

Explore how you can collaborate. Play a game or two to get the ball rolling—you might try "spider web!" First, form a circle. Then, toss a ball of yarn or string to each other. The person receiving the yarn tells the group a characteristic about themselves before tossing the yarn to the next person. The yarn should be held tightly and above the ground at all times. Use this activity to discuss how the members all depend on each other. If a single person pulls the yarn, it affects everyone in the group; if one person's yarn is cut, the whole web is broken. Have fun!

For more team-building activities, ask your adult volunteer, advisor, or another trusted adult to check out the *Volunteer Toolkit* Silver Award Meeting Plans.

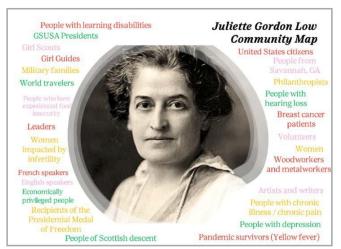


Step 3: Explore your community.

1. **Draw a community map** to keep track of what you see and your ideas for change.

As you explore, remember that a community can be a physical place on a map or a group of people.





2. **List the names and contact info** of those you meet in your community who might be able to help you with your project.

 $Community\ experts\ are\ important\ because\ they\ can\ offer\ their\ knowledge\ or\ advise\ you\ on\ how\ to\ take\ action\ on\ the\ issue(s)\ you\ are\ thinking\ about\ addressing\ through\ your\ project.$

Name and Contact Info	Organization	How might they help?
Teacher, neighbor	Neighborhood preschool	Ideas on how to engage preschool students in learning
Carpenter, local store owner	Local hardware store	Ideas for the materials to use for the hands-on shoe-tying tool

3. **Learn what others know** of your issue.

Chat with the people you know to learn about your issue in the community. It's another way of finding a project idea that might interest you.

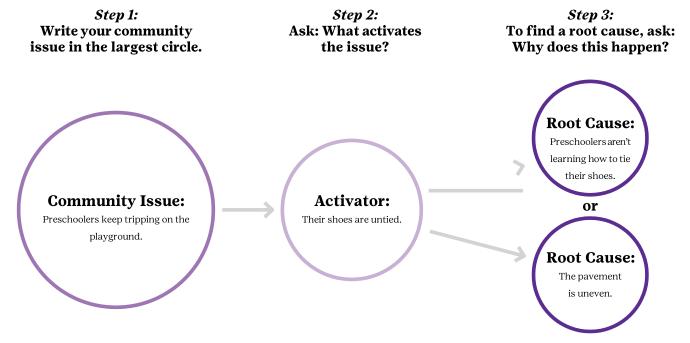
Who I Talked to	Issue(s) They Suggested	What Causes the Issue	What Worked in the Past	What Didn't Work
Teachers	Students tripping	Shoelaces untied	Learning the skills at home	School nurse teaching students
School nurse	Students needingmore support to learn how to properly tie theirshoes	Students not getting enough practice	Presentation on how to tie shoes	Students forgot how to tie shoes after the presentation because there was no practice involved
Parents	No time to teach shoe tying	Busy schedules	Shoes without laces	Can't always wear shoes without laces

4. **Research root causes** by asking what causes an issue and why, then ask why this happens again.

Understanding the **root causes** of your issue is an important part of a Take Action project. By looking at the root causes of an issue, you figure out why the issue is happening in the first place and then you can create a solution to stop it from happening again.

Uncovering root causes may seem hard but it can be surprisingly easy. Brainstorm with your team, use colorful sticky notes to track your ideas, or create your own mind map diagram like the one shown here. Keep asking "Why?" and you may find that there is more than one root cause!

Use the **blank mind mapping diagram** in the template pages to find the root cause of your project's issue.





You've thought about your interests and passions. You've explored your community. You've talked to others, and you've researched to understand root causes of one or more issues. The moment you've been waiting for has arrived: it's time to choose a project!



Make it official by writing it down:

The issue my project will address is I care about education, and I like working with children. I learned that lots of preschoolers are tripping on the school playground because they are not properly tying their shoes. The school nurse has seen an increase of injuries and is concerned someone will hurt themselves badly.
It matters because
It matters because Injuries at school take away from children's fun and learning time. It's important that all children are safe and able to play. Mastering a task like shoe tying will help preschoolers be more independent and confident.
My target audience (who is going to benefit) is Preschoolers and school staff.

A root cause of my issue is...

Preschoolers are not learning how to tie their shoes. Maybe they are being taught, but they aren't remembering it. It is clear they need more practice in learning to tie their shoes.

My team's project idea plans to address the root cause by...

Developing a workshop to teach preschoolers to tie their shoes, with a hands-on tool to help them practice. The hands-on tool will stay at the school so the students can practice whenever they want.

Still not sure about your project? Try these to help you make a decision:



Review the info you've collected. Check out your issues chart, your community map, and the ideas you gathered from talking to others. If you're working with a team, sort the information you've gathered and rank your ideas.



What matters to you most? Or, where could you or your team make the most positive change? Make a list of pros and cons you are considering. Use the Pros and Cons Chart in the template pages.



Feeling overwhelmed? Some issues are complicated and have a lot of pieces. It might help to narrow your focus. Can you break the issue down and take action on one part? Contact your local council if you need help.





Step 5: Make a plan and submit your Project intent form.

By now, you have chosen a Silver Award Take Action project and are ready to make a plan to get it done.

Planning ahead helps your Silver Award Take Action project go smoothly. Answer the questions below, then review the Silver Award checklist in the template pages at the end of this workbook to decide if your plan is complete or if more planning is needed.

Your plan is just that: a plan. If it changes over time, that's OK!

When ready, submit the project intent form to your council for review and approval. Note: One Final Report Form is submitted per project. Not per girl.

Question	Example	Your Answer
How will your unique talents and leadership skills be used in this project?	Gloria loves to build things, so she will lead the details of the hands-on tool. Ava likes research, so she will lead the gathering of information on fine motor and developmental skills for preschoolers for the workshop materials. Zuri prefers organizing and public speaking, so she will lead the scheduling and operational details for the actual workshop events.	

Question	Example	Your Answer
What community experts willyou work with?	Gloria will meet with a teacher and the owner of the local hardware store. Ava will meet with preschooler parents and teachers. Zuri will meet with the preschool administrators.	
How will you create a plan to make your project sustainable ? *Three possibilities are: 1. Create a permanent solution that can be used after the project is complete. 2. Educate and inspire others in the community or within Girl Scouts to be part of the change. 3. Advocate to change a rule, regulation, or law and encourage others to join.	The team chooses Option 2: They will present workshops to students at the preschool and provide the workshop outline and permanent tool to the school who will continue to teach shoe tying.	
Proposed Start Date	Fall of 7th Grade	
Proposed End Date	Fall of 8th Grade	
Is the time frame realistic? (Y/N)	Yes	

Your project is sustainable if the impact lasts, even after the project is over. Putting a plan into place to sustain your project is required; however, how the project is sustained is often outside Girl Scouts' influence or control. See **The Adult Guide for Earning the Silver Award** for specific examples.



Silver Award projects sometimes require money or non-monetary donations of goods. If you think your project will require this, then please estimate supplies/donations needed and potential costs. For GSCCC Money Earning Guidelines, <u>click here</u>.



Example Budget Worksheet:

Supplies Needed	Estimate HowMuch They Will Cost
Pressed wood	\$25
Yarn	\$10
Nails	\$8
Copies of workshop outline	<i>\$5</i>

Estimated Budget Worksheet:

Supplies Needed	Estimate HowMuch They Will Cost

Take Action projects often focus on education and advocacy. These generally don't cost very much. If your Silver Award Take Action project has a budget that seems unrealistic, re-evaluate. Is the project truly a Take Action project?

For the Silver Award Final Report, use the Budget Worksheet in the template pages to list the items you received (including troop funds, money earned, donations, etc.), the cost of supplies purchased, and to identify who and where they are from.



Making your project measurable and making a national and/or global link is recommended. Why take these steps? They will make your project stronger and help you prepare for the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Can you make your project measurable?

As you work on your project, try to set one goal that will help you measure your project's success. Think about what you can count to show the impact you've made on your community issue.

Possibilities include:

- the number of people the project helped.
- · the number of people who got involved.
- a number that shows the change in a community's need (survey before and after).

Write down your goal in your Project Proposal.



Can you make a **national and/or global link?**

Your project has a national and/or global link when you can identify how other people and places address your issue.

You can:

- Investigate how people in other communities or other parts of the world address your issue.
- Ask: What kinds of programs do they have in place? How
 can you learn from these? Can you incorporate what you
 learn about other communities into your project?

Share what you learn in your Project Proposal.



Submit your Silver Award Project Intent Form to GSCCC council.

When you're ready, make it official:

Paste your answers into the **Silver Award Project Proposal** and submit to your troop leader for review—they'll make sure you are on the right track! Once your troop leader signs off on your project, submit your Silver Award intent form to GSCCC Council for final approval of your project before you begin your project.

You can find the Silver Award Intent Form on the GSCCC website under the Silver Award landing page.





Tip: The Silver Project Proposal is a helpful tool that can be submitted to your TROOP LEADER before you begin working on the project. If you are working in a group, fill it out together!



Ready to take action? It's time to put your plan in motion.

Make a list of things you need to do as shown in the chart below. If you're working in a team, decide what tasks each member will do. Then, decide when each item on the list needs to be completed.



Silver Award Take Action Project: To-Do List

Example	Task	How? Supplies needed?	Date task needs to be completed
	Develop the hands-on tool.	Discuss ideas with the carpenter and preschool teacher.	March 7
Gloria	Get supplies for the hands-on tool.	Donation from the hardware store: pressed wood, nails, and yarn.	April 8
	Learn about fine motor skills and developmental stages of preschoolers.	Talk with a preschool teacher or other professional whoworks with preschoolers.	March 1
Ava	Find fun ways to teach preschoolers to tie their shoes.	Review and sign the online internet safety pledge with my troop leader, then research online.	March 21
Zuri	Schedule shoe-tying workshops.	Discuss possible dates with preschool administrators, then check with the team for their availability.	March 4
	Promote the workshops to preschooler families.		April 2
Ava and Gloria; Zuri review/edit	Create a step-by-step guide for using the tool to leave with the school.	Create on a computer and print out several copies.	May 10
Ava, Gloria, Zuri	Host the workshop.	Bring the tool and guide.	May 20

You and each of your team members must keep track of your own time spent on the project. See the start of Gloria's Time Log in the example below:

Date	Task	Time Spent	Running Total
3/7	Meet with the carpenter.	1 hour	1 hour
4/8	Get supplies.	1 hour	2 hours
4/20	Build sample hands-on tool.	4 hours	6 hours
5/1	Practice how to instruct.	2 hours	8 hours
5/10	Test with the preschool teacher.	2 hours	10 hours
6/1	Build more hands-on tools to leave with the school after the workshop.	8 hours	18 hours

You've seen Gloria's example above. Use the blank To-Do List and blank Time Log in the template pages to track your own work.



As you work on your project, take photos or videos to document the work you do. You can use these in Step 7: Spread the Word and share them in your Silver Award Final Report.



Be sure to wear your Girl Scout uniform, if you have one, when taking action in your community; people may be more eager to help you when they know that you are a Girl Scout!





Step 7: Spread the word and submit your Final Report.

Spread the word by sharing the story of your project.

Why? Because when you share your project, you inspire others—and you bring attention to the important issue you were addressing. Telling your story is one of the best ways to celebrate all that you have accomplished!

There are lots of possibilities. You can give a presentation to another Girl Scout troop, your local Girl Scout community, or to students at school. Create a visual display for a local library or community center. Submit an article to the local news or your school website. How will you spread the word?

Submit your Silver Award Final Report

*Note: One Final Report Form is submitted per project (not per girl)



Get started on your Final Report by reflecting on your experience.

- Describe in detail what you did for your leadership role.
- In completing this project, what did you discover about yourself?
- What skills did you gain, and how will these skills help you in the future?
- What part of your project would you change if you could start over, and why?







Each Silver Award project team must submit a Final Report Form to the council for final approval and completion of the project. Please note that only one form is required per team, not per individual girl.

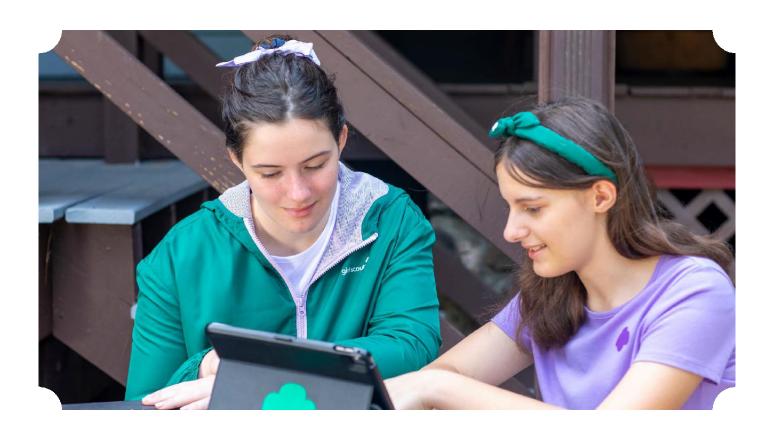
The report will contain sections for you to share your role and reflect. Once your Final Report is approved by GSCCC, it's official: You'rea Silver Award Girl Scout!

Keep a copy of your final report for your own records and submit before September 30^{th} the start of your 9^{th} grade year in school.

What if you didn't meet all of your goals?

The Silver Award is a leadership award. The most important outcomes are the ones you gain for yourself: improved confidence, better organization, stronger teamwork, and more. It's less about the perfect final product and more about what you discover along the way!





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Now, it's your turn!

Use the following template pages to plan your project.

Girl Scout Silver Award Checklist

Check items off your list once you have completed them. When you've checked off all the items from each section and received approval from your troop leader or council, you're ready for the next section!

Pr	Prerequisite				
	I am a registered Girl Scout Cadette (in grades 6–8).				
	I have finished a Cadette Journey, including the Journey's Take Action project.				
	I know that I need to finish my project and submit paperwork by Sept 30th the start of my 9^{th} grade year in school.				
	I know the Silver Award Take Action project's required elements are 1. Practicing leadership ; 2. Addressing a root cause of a community				
	issue I care about; and 3. Creating a plan to make my project sustainable .				
	I have completed Silver Award training from my council.				
	I have reviewed the Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award.				
	I am excited to get started!				
Pi	roject Proposal (submitted to Troop Leader)				
	I developed a title for my project.				
	Iprovidedinformationaboutmyself(solomodel)ormyselfanduptothreeotherCadettes(smallteammodel)andadditionaladultresources.				
	I provided the name of the completed Cadette Journey and completion date.				
	$I answered \ the \ Journey's \ Take \ Action\ project.$				
	I decided my project's expected start date and expected completion date.				
	I researched an issue I am passionate about and identified at least one root cause that is based on a need in my community.				
	I have identified my target audience (who is going to benefit).				
	$I \ have identified \ and \ engaged \ experts \ and \ others \ in \ my \ community \ who \ might \ be \ able \ to \ help \ with \ my \ project \ or \ have \ knowledge \ of \ how \ my$				
	project issue affects my community.				
	I have described my plan to address my issue's root cause and make my project sustainable by using one of these three methods:				
	Create a permanent solution that can be used after the project is complete.				
	DEducate and inspire others in the community or within Girl Scouts to be part of the change.				
	Advocate to change a rule, regulation, or law and encourage others to join.				
	I have worked with my team (if applicable) to identify all team members' leadership roles, which are all different and will each take				
	a minimum of 50 hours of work EACH.				
	I have reviewed my plan and confirm my project is Take Action and not Community Service.				
	I have listed potential supplies needed and estimated costs.				
	$I\ am\ aware\ of\ my\ local\ council's\ requirements\ for\ any\ of\ my\ project's\ donations, money-earning\ activities,\ or\ the\ use\ of\ troop\ funds.$				
	I am aware that each individual team member should spend 50 hours on the project and maintain a Time Log.				
	I've identified how I would try to make my project measurable by making a goal to measure the project's				
	success. I've identified how I would try to make a national and/or global link.				
	I have worked with my team (if applicable) to complete all fields on this form, including all questions, lines, and signatures.				
	I have worked with my team (if applicable) to develop and submit one Project Intent Form to my Council.				

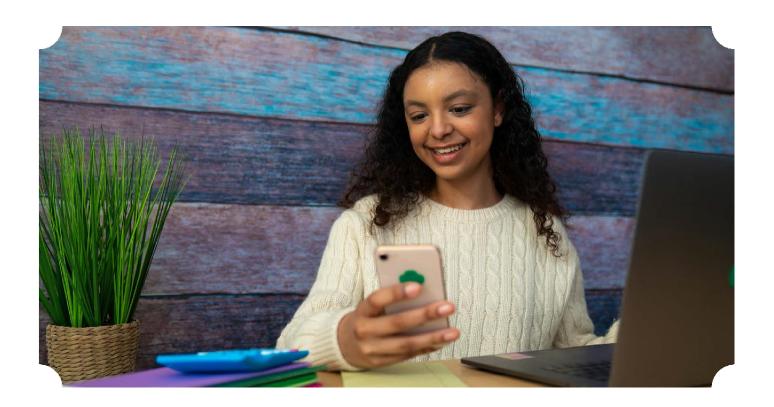
Girl Scout Silver Award Checklist

Check items off your list once you have completed them. When you've checked off all the items from each section and received approval from your troop leader and council, you're ready for the next section!

Final Report

I have shared my project results—including what I did, how my project went, and what my team
(if applicable) and I accomplished.
I have submitted a Budget Worksheet to my leader which has a record of the funds raised (donations, money earned, and troop funds) and spent,
including how they were spent.
I have identified how I let others know about my project and the impact it had.
I have provided copies of photos, videos, fliers, or other evidence that documents what was accomplished. Uploaded to my Final Report.
I have submitted a Time Log of my hours to my troop leader. Each Cadette should spend a minimum of 50 hours working towards the Silver Award
I have included my reflection on this experience and how it has prepared me to pursue the Gold Award.
I have completed all fields on the GSCCC Final Report Cognito Form, including all questions, lines, and signatures.
I have submitted the Final Report to council no later than September 30 the start of my 9th grade year.

*Other formats are acceptable for Time Log and Budget Worksheet





SAMPLE: Silver Award Take Action Project Shoe-Tying Success

Ava, Zuri, and Gloria were excited to earn their Girl Scout Silver Award. They agreed to be extra observant at school and in their neighborhood to discover potential issues that could be the focus of their Take Action project.

They came together as a team to share ideas, and they chose several ideas to explore. Their leader helped them connect with community members who could help them learn more. One of their observations was that lots of younger students don't tie their shoes. They researched to find the **root cause**: the students were not learning how to tie their shoes because they needed more hands-on practice.

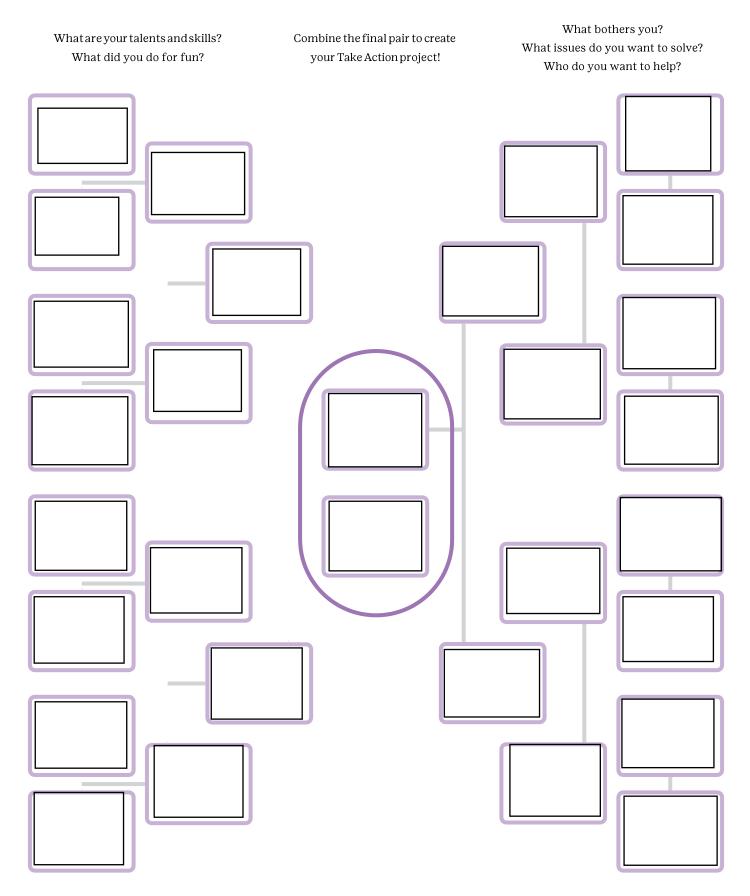
They showed **leadership** by partnering with a preschool, and by each individual Girl Scout handling different aspects of the project. Ava took the lead on research, Zuri scheduled calls with experts to learn more, and Gloria worked with a small team of volunteers to create a hands-on tool to help students practice tying their shoes. Together, they developed workshops that they led at the preschool to put their program into action. Ava doesn't feel comfortable speaking publicly, so she helped set up and took attendance while Zuri and Gloria presented to students and teachers.

They felt proud when the preschoolers gained the skill and confidence to tie their shoes. And they made their project **sustainable** by teaching preschoolers to tie their shoes, and by sharing their workshop outline and hands-on tool with the preschool, which will continue to encourage the students to practice. They made a lasting impact!

Their troop leader explained the concepts of **measurable** and **national and/or global link**. They knew these weren't required for the Silver Award, but they made a goal to teach at least 50 students to tie their shoes. They decided to keep track of attendance at their presentations, just to practice for the Gold Award. They also discussed how their project links to a national and/or global issue because the increased demands on parents' time leads to a higher demand for more hands-on life skills programs at school.

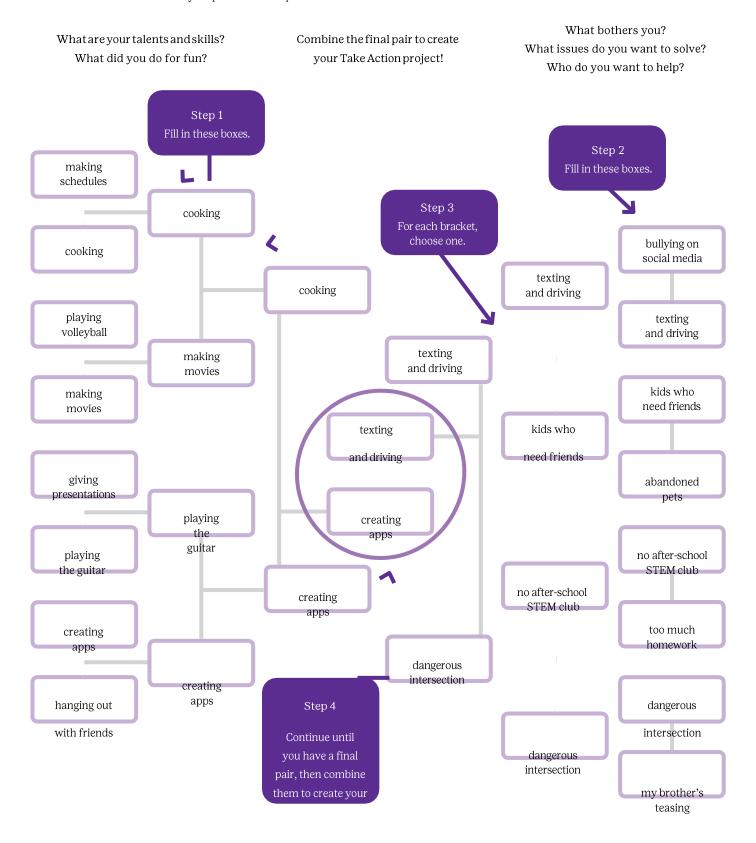


Take Action Project Decision Bracket



Take Action Project Decision Bracket

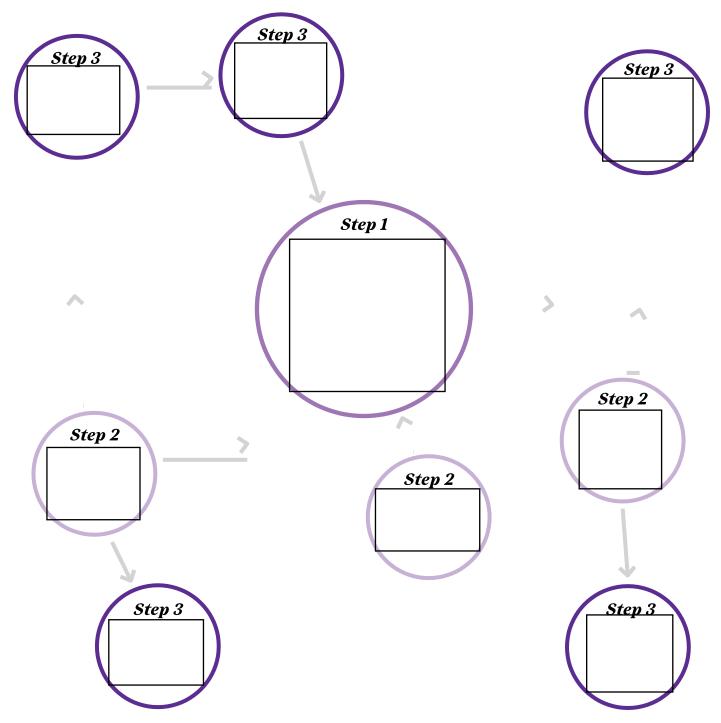
In this example, your Take Action project might be to create an app that locks your phone before you drive, then sends a unique code to someone who's not in the car. You can't use your phone until the person with the code unlocks it.



Mind Mapping Diagram

Try it!

Write your community issue in the center circle. Ask yourself: What activates the issue? Write your answers in the circles closest to the center circle (add more if you need to). Then, explore further. Ask: "Why does this happen?" Place these answers in the smaller outer circles, like in our example on page 13. Add as many of these circles as you like. These are your root causes. Select one or two root causes and you have the foundation of a strong Silver Award Take Action project!



Pros/Cons Diagram

Try it! If you're still unsure about a project idea, list the pros and cons of the ideas you're considering. Make a copy of this page for each idea you want to explore.

Project Idea Pros Cons

Budget Worksheet

Funds/Donations (+)

What is the item? [Money Earning/Troop Funds/Donations (In-kind or monetary)]	Who is it from?	Total Value
Expenses (-)		
What is the item? (Purchased Supplies)	Where is it from?	Total Value
Balance		\$0

(This is a sample. Other spreadsheet formats are also acceptable.)

To-Do List

Task	Who will do it?	How? Supplies needed?	Date task needs to be completed

Time Log

You must submit this log with your Girl Scout Silver Award Final Report. Only list time spent after you complete your journey. Each Cadette should spend a minimum of 50 hours working toward the Silver Award.

(This is a sample. Other spreadsheet formats are also acceptable.)

Date	Task	Time Spent	Running Total
Total Hour	s for Girl Scout Silver Award Projec	t	



GSCCC Additional Information and Resources

- Benefits of Earning the Silver Award
- Adult Roles
- GSCCC Money Earning Guidelines
- Silver Award FAQ's
- Resource Links
- Leader Tips

Who To Contact At GSCCC

Director of Engagement
Michelle Kienitz
805-232-3985
mkienitz@girlscoutsccc.org

GSCCC Customer Care Team 800-822-2427 info@girlscoutsccc.org



Benefits of Earning a Silver Award

- 1. The Girl Scout Silver Award is recognized as the second highest award in Girl Scouting. It is a national award with national standards, awarded by council on behalf of Girl Scouts of the USA.
- 2. You are recognized as a future community leader if you have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award as an individual or as part of a group.
- 3. Although you don't have to do the Girl Scout Silver Award before going for the Girl Scout Gold Award, completing the Girl Scout Silver Award will help develop your skills and abilities that will allow you to successfully earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- 4. You'll find yourself supported by the community in many ways while on your quest for leadership. Being a Girl Scout will open many doors.
- 5. Having your family members pitch in to help with your project can be fun! It can be a positive time spent working together.
- 6. Believe it or not, younger girls will look up to you when you earn this award. Are you prepared to help mentor someone?
- 7. Learning to work closely with a group to accomplish your goal for the community can be a lesson in cooperation, leadership, and compromise. Teamwork is a skill that goes beyond the sports field.
- 8. Working on a Girl Scout Silver Award is a safe way to build your leadership skills while acting on a community issue you really care about.
- 9. You will build skills and expand your knowledge. Who knows what you can accomplish before you set the goal and go for it!
- 10. You will create change in the world around you.
- 11. Working on the project with friends can be a lot of fun!



Troop Leader



This is the GIRL'S project, but the Troop Leader may need to act as a project manager.

The girl should:

- Come up with the idea herself (or as a group)
- Do as much of the communicating (with Council, community) as possible
- Take all actions to implement the project

The Troop Leader should:

Review project ideas at the beginning based on Take Action criteria (use tool on page 5

- Not create roadblocks
- Devote meeting time to the Silver Award
- Help with time management (but do not be a task master)

If you do have multiple groups working on different projects in your troop, it is recommended that you bring in parents or other troop volunteers. Consider having one parent or troop volunteer be the main adult point-of-contact for each group.

Troop Leaders are also responsible for reviewing the project and assist with submitting the Intent form to council for approval before the girls can start the Take -Action portion of the project.

Troop Leaders should not pre-approve a project that does not meet the standards of a Take Action Project.

Parent/Guardian

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting that a Cadette can earn. It represents a girl's commitment to herself and to her community, as she focuses on leadership, career exploration, personal challenges and completing a project that will benefit her community. It takes many hours of preparation, planning and work to accomplish the goals a girl has set for herself.

Parents/guardians play a significant role in supporting a girl's path to the Girl Scout Silver Award. As a parent you may be called upon to be coach, mentor, cheerleader, sounding board and chauffeur.

As a parent, you are not expected to be a taskmaster — this is the girl's project. However, you can assist a girl by:

 Reading through the materials provided to girls regarding these awards so that you feel comfortable offering support.



- Encouraging and supporting her, but not pressuring her. "Going for the Silver" is something that a girl must want to do herself.
- Helping her choose a topic that will become the basis for her project if she asks for ideas. Remember, however, that the topic is based on her passions, not yours.
- Aiding her in accessing a network of adults who can lend insight, provide contacts, and point to resources. You may work with someone who has just the skill set your daughter needs in an advisor, or someone who belongs to a service club that your daughter and her advisor can approach for financial assistance.
- Supporting a girl in following any Girl Scout safety or money earning guidelines during her path to the Girl Scout Silver Award. This is important to assure the safety of your daughter and the integrity of the Girl Scout program.
- Allowing your Girl Scout to stumble and learn the lessons that come with the Girl Scout Silver Award project. She will have a Girl Scout Silver Award project advisor, an adult who has been trained to assist her in partnership.
- Realizing that your Girl Scout is capable, competent and worthy of respect as she assumes more responsibilities within her community. Provide her with positive and constructive support on this journey.
- joining in the celebration as your Girl Scout is honored for her accomplishments.

Project Advisor

A Project Advisor is someone who has specific knowledge or experience about the issue you are addressing in your project. For example, if you are doing a project to benefit a homeless shelter, your project advisor might be the person who runs the shelter; or if you are doing a literacy project, the project advisor might be a librarian. It is recommended that you find a Project Advisor, but it is not a requirement.





Silver Award Leader/Mentor Tips & Guidance

Thank you for taking on the very important role of Silver Award Leader/Mentor. You are tasked with being an impartial sounding board for Cadette Girl Scouts pursuing the second highest award in our organization. Your role is to be a support, source of advice, and project manager. The project belongs to the girls, but they will likely need your assistance in keeping them on track – remember this is the girls' project, so you'll want to poke them, not push them. Instead of telling the girls exactly what they should be doing, instead help guide the conversation by asking insightful questions that will allow the girls to reach the solution/recommendation/idea on their own.

When working with girls to help develop a good idea into a great Take Action project, please use the below matrix both at the beginning of her project and her Final Report to ensure her project meets Take Action criteria:

What's the WHY (root cause)	Who is involved (leading a team)	Measurability (numbers)	Sustainability (lasting effect)	50 hours (each girl)
What is the root cause of the issue that the project is addressing? Why is addressing it important?	Who will you be working with? Who is your community partner?	What can you count in your project? e.g. how many bags, workshops, attendees?	How will you ensure that your project continuesto have an impact after you turn in your FinalReport?	How will each girl get her own accumulation 50 hours of leadership experience?

When working with girls endeavoring for the Silver Award, please remember:

- Silver Award projects need to be small teams of no more than 4 so that each girl gets a quality 50-hour leadership experience. Solo projects are OK.
- This is more than a collection project.
- Each girl must complete her part of the project and assist with filling out the Intent and the Final report with the assistance of the troop leader.
- Time log (each girl has her own time log and accumulation of 50 hours)
- Budget (one per project)



Money Earning

As a Cadette Girl Scout seeking support for your Silver Award project, the ability to pursue donations (either monetary or in-kind) is an important consideration. Work with your Troop Leader and other adult advisors to determine specifically what is required to meet the needs of your project.

The easiest way to earn money for your Silver Award? Participate in the cookie and fall product programs!

Decide AS A TROOP to use product sale money for Silver Award projects – this should be the girls' decision, not the Troop Leader's.

Troop Additional Money Earning Activities



If you choose to participate in Additional Money Earning Activities, 50% of the girls in your troop must earn the participation patch in BOTH the Fall Product & Cookie Program.

Refer to the GSCCC Money Earning Guidelines

Donations

Besides Additional Money Earning Activities and product sales, you may

obtain funds and goods (known as "in-kind") to support your Silver Award project through individual and business donations.

Girls may solicit in-kind donations from friends, family, organizations, and local businesses in support of their project. Girls should be identified as Girl Scouts when requesting donations. Must wear Girl Scout vest and attire and be professional.

For more information regarding tax deductible gifts or the in-kind donation processes please email infor@girlscoutsccc.org

Prohibited Money Earning Activities

As a Girl Scout, you are prohibited from engaging in the following money earning activities:

Raising money for another organization. You cannot have a bake sale, performance, or other activity and give the proceeds to another organization. You cannot ask for pledges to benefit another cause or hold a benefit to raise money.

Money-earning projects where you are potentially doing an activity that someone else normally is hired to do. You cannot take a job away from people, including store workers, maintenance staff, gardeners, cleaners, or other service providers.

"Cheap labor" disguised as a money-earning project. You are being taken advantage of and potentially taking away the job of someone who should be paid more money. That's why there are child labor and minimum wage laws.

Projects where the Girl Scout organization might be perceived as endorsing a product, political viewpoint, or cause. This includes product sales (such as Creative Memories), being paid to pass out flyers for a candidate or freebies at a business, with the exception of restaurant nights.

Projects where the money goes to an individual rather than to the troop.

Selling anything on the Internet.

"Crowdfunding" opportunities such as Kickstarter, Go Fund Me, or Indie GoGo





Money Earning FAQ

Can you use your own money on your Silver Award project?

Yes, within reason. You may also receive help from your family and friends. However, part of the Silver Award process is working with others to earn money. Earning a Silver Award is not meant to be a hardship on a family or individual, nor is it meant to provide those who have access to personal financial resources with an edge. When designing your project, it is important to think creatively about how you can make a difference with little or no money.

What if my project costs more than the money I can potentially earn?

It is better to succeed with a smaller project that is within your budget. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do. Work with your Troop Leader and community partner to develop a reasonable budget. If your resources are not sufficient, then you need to rethink your project. Planning is the key.

Can I use social media to solicit donations for my Silver Award project?

No. You may use Facebook, Twitter, and other platforms to raise awareness and obtain general support for your project but conversations about donations need to be done in a direct manner, i.e. by phone, by email, in person.

Can I charge for a Girl Scout event to earn money?

If you are conducting an event as a Girl Scout and plan to charge a fee, you must follow the GSCCC Special Events and Money Earning policies as detailed in the Money Earning Guidelines.

Work with your Troop Leader or Program Specialist to ensure that you are following these policies. Provisions should also be made for those who cannot afford the fees to your event. In addition, you must be clear in your advertisements and materials that this is a money-earning event for your Silver Award.

I know you can't raise money for other organizations, but can I do it on my own?

As an individual, you can volunteer for other organizations and raise money on their behalf; however, any funds raised cannot be put towards your Silver Award project nor can the count the hours toward your Silver Award hours. Additionally, you may not present yourself as a Girl Scout to the public in this process since you are volunteering for another organization.

Can I donate goods to another organization?

Yes, you may donate goods to another organization in lieu of money. However, this should not be the only part of your project because it then becomes a collection project, which is not permitted.



Hours

The Silver Award is a minimum 50-hour project. It is incredibly important that you keep track of your hours as you work on your project – you do not want to reach the end and have to remember everything you did.

Methods for Keeping Track of Hours. Below are several methods that have worked for other girls, but the most important thing is to choose a method that is most convenient and easy for you.

- Notebook (paper and pen)
- Time tracking apps, such as Hours (iOS) or Timesheet (Android) Excel spreadsheet
- Google Sheets most recommended as it allows you to easily sum up your hours.
- Use the Silver Award Hour Log sheet included in the Silver Award workbook.

What You Cannot Count for Hours. The following do not count toward your 50 hours:

- Travel time
- Time spent preparing your Final Report
- Time spent on Additional Money Earning activities (fundraising) that exceeds 15% of your total hours
- Time spent volunteering at an existing event or organization
- Volunteers' time (e.g. you may not count the hours of people helping you with your project toward your hours)





Silver Award Final Report

The https://www.cognitoforms.com/GSCAsCentralCoast/SilverAwardFinalReport is a Cognito Form and must be completed and submitted online.

The Cognito Form is savable for up to 30 days by clicking "Save" at the bottom of the page. You will receive a unique link to your Final Report that is valid for 30 days.

Note: Only one Silver Award Final Report is required per project not per girl.

Silver Award Ceremony

GSCCC does not host a council-wide Silver Award Ceremony; these recognition events are typically organized by your Service Unit. We encourage you to contact your Service Unit team to find out if they offer a Higher Awards Court of Awards.

GSCCC provides each Silver Award recipient with a Silver Award pin, a congratulatory card from our CEO, and features all Silver Award projects in the Gold Award Yearbook.



General Silver Award FAQ's

What grade must a girl be in before beginning to work on her Silver Award project? The girl must be in the 6th grade to begin working on the prerequisites (Journey). She has until September 30th after her 8th grade year to complete the process. Work cannot continue past that point into her 9th grade year.

Does Council need to approve my proposed Silver Award project?

Yes, GSCCC Awards staff needs to approve the project before you begin. Each project is required to submit the Silver Award Intent Form for approval before starting the project.

Who provides FINAL approval of my Silver Award project?

GSCCC Awards staff. Girls will submit a Silver Award Final Report to council for completion and final approval of their Silver Award. The Troop Leader.

My troop is bridging from Junior Girl Scouts in the spring, can we begin work on Silver Award activities?

You may begin work on your Silver Award requirements after completing 5th grade.

How do girls know when a journey is completed?

A Journey is completed when a girl has earned the Journey awards, which includes creating and carrying out a Take Action Project.

What makes the award's guidelines for a Take Action Project different from the Journeys?

In contrast to Journey Take Action Projects, which give girls themes on which to base their Journey, Girl Scout Silver Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. Girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action Project.

Can a group of Girl Scouts work on their Silver Award together?

Yes, it is important, however, that each girl has an individual leadership role, and each girl logs her own hours. No more than four Girl Scouts per group.

If I have done similar activities in pursuit of other Girl Scout awards, can these activities count toward the Girl Scout Silver Award?

Activities done prior to working on the Silver Award or as activities counting towards other leadership awards DO NOT count toward the number of hours for the Silver Award. However, hours earned toward the Girl Scout Silver Award can count toward the President's Volunteer Service Awards. (see www.presidentialserviceawards.gov).

Do I need to follow any specific safety rules?

Yes, you should be aware of the safety guidelines that are in the Safety Checkpoints as well as any health and safety guidelines from GSCCC, city, county, or state.



I've completed my Silver Award project and submitted the GSCCC online Silver Award Final Report via the Cognito form. What's next?

The form will automatically be sent to your council staff liaison for review. We recommend printing a copy of your completed Silver Award Final Report for both you and your Troop Leader/advisor to keep as a record of your accomplishment. Your council staff liaison will review your submission and contact you via email with either approval or feedback for improvements.

What is the final deadline for completing the Silver Award Project?

You must have completed your project and have submitted your online Silver Award Final Report Cognito form by September 30th following your 8th grade year, or before bridging to Senior Girl Scouts, whichever comes first.

What is the difference between a Troop Leader and a Project Advisor in the Girl Scout Silver Award process? Do we need both?

A Troop Leader's (or group leader's) role in the Silver Award process is to review projects based on Take Action standards, help girls with time management, and provide general support. A Project Advisor is someone who has specific knowledge or experience about the issue you are addressing in your project. For example, if you are doing a project to benefit a homeless shelter, your project advisor might be the person who runs the shelter; or if you are doing a literacy project, the project advisor might be a librarian. It is recommended that you find a Project Advisor, but it is not a requirement.

Who oversees my project if I am not in a troop or group?

As an individually registered Girl Scout you can complete all of the activities on your own with the supervision and guidance of a parent/guardian. Your parent/guardian can offer support.

Do I need to complete the Girl Scout Silver Award before I work on the Girl Scout Gold Award?

You do not need to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award to begin the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award pre-requisites are either a Silver Award and one Senior/Ambassador Journey or two Senior/Ambassador Journeys. Therefore, earning a Silver Award means that you only have to do one Journey and can get started on your Gold Award sooner in your Senior Girl Scout years.





Silver Award Resources

Here are some quick and useful links to the main things that will be needed to complete the Silver Award process.

- Silver Award Final Report
- Silver Award Final Report Attachments
- Safety Activity Checkpoints
- Sample Silver Award Project Proposal (To Troop Leader ONLY)
- Sample Silver Award Final Report





Girl Scout Silver Award Project Proposal Instructions

The Girl Scout Silver Award™, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn, gives you the chance to do big things and make your community better in the process.

This Project Proposal is to be used by you (and/or your team)—a registered Girl Scout Cadette in grades 6 to 8—with assistance from your adult Girl Scout volunteer supervisor, troop/group leader, and project advisor (optional) to gain approval from Council for your Silver Award project before you start your take-action project.

This form will help you think through the details of your project, helping make sure you have a plan in place that will set you up for success early on. Let's get started!

How to complete this form:

- 1. Familiarize yourself with Silver Award guidelines: review the *Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award* and complete the highly recommended council training.
- 2. Read the Silver Award Project Proposal questions ahead of time and think about your answers. If you are working in a group, fill itout together! You can work with a team of up to three other Cadettes or on your own. One Girl Scout Silver Award Project Proposal workbook should be completed per project and submitted to your troop leader for review. Council does not review these workbooks.
- 3. Once your project proposal has been reviewed by your troop leader, Complete and submit the Silver Award Project Intent Form to your local council. One Project Intent Form is needed per project.

 Silver Award Intent form:

https://www.cognitoforms.com/GirlScoutsOfCaliforniasCentralCoast2/SilverAwardIntentForm

A few friendly reminders:

- Finish your Silver Award Take Action™ project and Final Report by September 30 of the year you or your oldest team members starts her 9th grade year.
- Take photos and/or video to document your project along the way—you'll have an opportunity to upload them to your Final Report.
- The Final Report will require updating and reflecting on your approved Project intent form. Keep a copy of this Project intent form so you can answer the questions more easily.
- When the Silver Award project winds down, the outcome may not be exactly as planned. That's OK! Girl Scouts earn the Silver Award as long as award requirements have been met. What Girl Scouts learn in the process about themselves and the world around them is what's most valuable. Look at any unexpected twist as a learning opportunity.
- If your project ends up significantly changing from your current Project Proposal, please contact your local council who approved your proposal to let them know and they will advise you on next steps.





	Council			
Team members:	Confirm the full names o	of each Girl Scout	on the project.	Please include

troop number, current grade, email. (See *Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award*, Step 2.)

Full Name	Troop Number	Current Grade	Email	Training (when/how)



List additional adult resources:

	Responsibilities	Name	Email	Phone Number
Troop/Group Leader*	Managing guidelines for any project donations, money-earning activities, or use of troop funds and approvals, were relevant			
Adult Girl Scout Volunteer Supervisor*	Silver Award project team supervision, including managing safety and Silver Award procedures			
Project Advisor (optional)	An adult who has some level of knowledge, skills, expertise, or access to resources that can help with your project			

^{*}Volunteers in these roles must be registered and background checked.

Prerequisite: Provide the Cadette Journey title, completion date, and reflection for each team member.

Team Member Name		
Team Member Name		

Prerequisite Cadette Journey	Date Completed	What did you do?	What did you learn?	What would you do better, or differently?



Team Member Name

Prerequisite Cadette Journey	Date Completed	What did you do?	What did you learn?	What would you do better, or differently?

Team Member Name

Prerequisite Cadette Journey	Date Completed	What did you do?	What did you learn?	What would you do better, or differently?



Team Member Name

Prerequisite Cadette Journey	Date Completed	What did you do?	What did you learn?	What would you do better, or differently?

Project Title ______ Proposed Proposed Start Date _____ Completion Date ______ 1. The issue the project will address is... (Please include a 3–4 sentence description. See the Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award, Step 4.)

	going to benefit) is (Please inclu	
description. See the <i>Cadette</i>	Workbook for Earning Your Silver	Award, Step 4.)
	ho I contacted or partnered we ce Cadette Workbook for Earning Y	
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5.	A root cause of my issue is (Please include a 3–4 sentence description. See the <i>Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award</i> , Steps 3 and 4.)
•	My team's project idea is (Please include a 3–4 sentence description of your project, including the desired result and how it addresses the root cause of your issue. See the <i>Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award</i> , Step 4.)

Tip: Check out the "Take Action vs. Community Service" section of the *Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award* to make sure your project is truly Take Action.



How will you create a plan to make your project sustainable ? (Check the boxes that apply. See the <i>Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award</i> , Step 5.)		
□ Create a permanent solution that can be used after the project is complete. □ Educate and inspire others in the community or within Girl Scouts to be part of		
the change.		
\square Advocate to change a rule, regulation, or a law and encourage others to join.		
Specifically, my team will plan to make the project sustainable by (Please include a 3–4 sentence description.)		

8. Please provide a description of your team's **leadership.** (See the *Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award*, Steps 2 and 5.)

Name	Leadership Roles	Responsibilities



9. Silver Award projects sometimes require money or nonmonetary donations of goods. If your project requires this, then please estimate supplies/donations needed and potential costs. A budget worksheet with actual supplies and costs will be required with the Final Report. (See the *Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award*, Step 5 and the template pages.)

Note: Please be sure to refer to GSGLA's money earning and donation guidelines.

Supplies/Donations	Cost (even if \$0)

10. Check □ **Yes** to indicate you are aware that each individual team member should spend a minimum of 50 hours working on their Silver Award project and will maintain a time log. (See the *Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award*, Step 6 and the template pages.)



	1. Try it: Describe how you will try to make your project measurable by sharing the goat team set to measure your project's success (See the <i>Cadette Workbook for Earning</i>)		
	Silver Award, Step 5.)		
12	. Try it: Describe how you will try to make a national and/or global link (See the <i>Cadette</i>		
	Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award, Step 5.)		
	Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award, Step 5.)		

Signature Page

We*—the Girl Scout Cadette(s), parent/caregiver, and troop/group leader—agree and understand that the Silver Award Project:

- · Cannot be just a collection or donation drive. Donations may be part of a larger Silver Award project.
- · Cannot be a fundraiser for another organization, program, or individual.
- Is not simply volunteering time for another organization in an already existing project.
- Cannot be done by multiple teams. Only one team (1–4 Girl Scouts) may collaborate on each Silver Award project.
- Is a Take Action project, not a community service project—even if the community service project is very large and takes a lot of time and hard work.

I, Girl Scout Cadette, have read and understand all the requirements and guidelines specific to the Girl Scout Silver Award as outlined by the *Cadette Workbook for Earning Your Silver Award* and GSGLA specific requirements. I am aware of all deadlines for the Girl Scout Silver Award. Should any major plans change, I will contact my Troop Leader who approved my proposal.

proposal.	
Girl Scout Signature	Date
Girl Scout Signature	Date
Girl Scout Signature	Date
Girl Scout Signature	Date
I, the parent/caregiver, recognize it is the Ca	dette's responsibility to fulfill the requirements
for the Girl Scout Silver Award including all d	eadlines. I understand that they must uphold
guidelines specific to their project as outlined	d by the Adult Guide for Earning the Silver
Award and the Cadette Workbook for Earning	Your Silver Award, and GSGLA specific
requirements.	
Signature	Date
I, the Girl Scout troop/group leader, have rev	viewed the above Girl Scout Silver Award Project
Proposal. I am aware of the requirements ar	•
Earning the Silver Award and the Cadette Wo	orkbook for Earning Your Silver Award, as well as
GSGLA specific requirements and believe th	is project aligns with those requirements.
Signature	Date