

# FAQs about changes to the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards



**1. What is the future of the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards?**

The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards will remain the highest awards in Girl Scouting. The guidelines—prerequisites, hour requirements, forms, etc.—are currently being revised by GSUSA. Council staff anticipates learning more about changes in late June 2009.

**2. Why are the guidelines being revised?**

The guidelines are being revised to align with the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. They will be consistent with the Discover, Connect, Take Action model and the 15 national outcomes.

**3. How are the Journeys related to the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?**

Girls who complete a journey for the appropriate grade level will find that much of the **prerequisite** work required to earn a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award has been completed.

**4. What are the new grade levels for earning the awards\*?**

Bronze	Earned by Juniors	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grade
Silver	Earned by Cadettes	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Gold	Earned by Seniors or Ambassadors	9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade

\* See question 12 for information about transitioning to the new guidelines.

**5. How will girls find the guidelines?**

GSUSA does not plan to sell printed copies of the guidelines. Information will be available to download from GSCNC's website, as well as GSUSA's website. GSCNC will revise Going for the Gold to include the new Gold Award guidelines in Fall 2009.

**6. Will there be opportunities for council staff, volunteers and girls to learn about these new guidelines?**

GSUSA will host webinars for council staff in Summer 2009. GSCNC will then provide volunteers and girls with appropriate learning opportunities. Gold Award workshops will be revised to include the new guidelines in Fall 2009.

**7. What is the schedule for releasing the guidelines?**

End of June	GSUSA will release the girl, adult, and council guidelines to councils.
July & August	GSUSA will host webinars for councils. GSCNC Committee will begin revision of teen earned award trainings
Late August	GSUSA will release the girl and adult guidelines on the GSUSA website, and GSCNC will release them on our website.
September	Joint adult-girl training event will be held to introduce guidelines.
October	GSCNC will release a revised Going for the Gold.

**8. What about girls who are working on their award using the current guidelines?**

Don't worry! Girls currently working on a Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award can complete their projects using the current guidelines.

**9. When will the new guidelines officially take effect?**

The new guidelines take effect October 1, 2011, at the start of the 2011-2012 Girl Scout year.

**10. What if girls who are using the current guidelines cannot finish their projects by the time the new guidelines take effect?**

Because of the lengthy transition period, it is unlikely a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award project will not be finished before October 1, 2011. If this does happen, however, it will be up to GSCNC to review each project on a case-by-case basis.

**11. How much time will girls have to transition?**

Girls will have from 2009, when the new guidelines are released, through September 30, 2011, to transition to the new guidelines.

**12. How will this transition work?**

GSCNC is encouraging flexibility in the 2009-2010 Girl Scout year. For example, a Junior who is working on her Girl Scout Bronze Award could move up to Cadette, but she must finish her Girl Scout Bronze Award by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade; a Cadette working on her Girl Scout Silver Award could move up to Senior, but she must complete her Girl Scout Silver Award by the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. By the 2010-2011 Girl Scout year, most girls should be completing awards in the appropriate level. By October 1, 2011, all girls must follow the new guidelines.

**13. Can girls work on two awards at the same time (i.e. can a sixth grader finish her Bronze and start work on her Silver?)?**

No. One award must be completed before work begins on a new one.

*For questions regarding these FAQs, please contact:*

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