

SILVER TREFOIL AWARD



The Silver Trefoil Award is a GSCNC award that focuses on community service. A girl may receive this award by providing 100 hours of service in the Washington Metropolitan community in the following areas:

- Government (25 hours, 15 of which must be for federal offices or agencies)
- International (25 hours)
- Girl Scouts (50 hours, 10 of which must be to the council)

By giving service to the international community, state, local and federal governments, and to GSCNC, a girl may increase her awareness and learn the following:

- How Girl Scout programs operates beyond the troop level
- The inner workings of federal and local governments
- The variety of services that international agencies provide
- The specialized careers involved in local, state and federal government, as well as the international community

PROCESS FOR EARNING THE SILVER TREFOIL AWARD:

- A girl must be a currently registered Girl Scout.
- A girl can begin to work on the hours towards the Silver Trefoil once she is a Girl Scout Cadette
- A girl may do no more than one-half of the total number of hours required for this award as a Cadette. The rest of the 50 hours must be completed once she is a Senior or Ambassador.
- To receive the Silver Trefoil recognition, a girl may send her final report in to GSCNC at any time, but it must be received by April 1, or the first business day after that if the first falls on a weekend, to be recognized at the annual GSCNC ceremony that spring.
- The GSCNC Silver Trefoil Award is worn on the uniform vest or sash below the Brownie Girl Scout Wings to the right or left of the Bridge to Senior Girl Scouts.
- A girl has until September 30 following her 12th grade year to complete the award.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE SILVER TREFOIL AWARD

- All requirements must be done in the council's jurisdiction with two exceptions:
 - If a girl is working on government hours, her state government hours may be done in Richmond or Annapolis if she lives in Virginia or Maryland, respectively.
 - If a girl is providing service to GSCNC and that service is performed outside the council jurisdiction (such as serving as a council delegate at the Girl Scout National Convention.)
- Keep an accurate record of dates and hours of service.
- All service hours must be completed prior to submission of the final report. The final report can be found in the *Kaleidoscope*, or in the Teen Forms section of www.gscnc.org.

INTERNATIONAL (25 hours required):

Must be service to and direct experience with an international group or individual. Painting faces at an international fair is not the same as being part of an international exhibit or working with an embassy and would not qualify as international service. The goal is to learn about culture and traditions of another country. Some important things to remember:

- It must be **service** hours. A girl cannot count hours spent emailing an exchange student who will be coming to stay with her this summer or writing to a pen pal because that is not considered service. However, a girl can count the hours she spends showing the exchange student around the girl's hometown and teaching him or her about U.S. culture.
- Service must take place **within the council's jurisdiction**. International hours must benefit the local international community and may not take place outside the council jurisdiction. Washington DC metro area is unique as there is a huge international population that exists here, and the Silver Trefoil recognizes this uniqueness.

Some examples may include:

- Help with GSCNC's linguistic outreach program, tutor ESOL students, assist a clothing drive
- Serve as an in-transit hostess or host a foreign exchange student
- Assist International Red Cross in making refugee packets for local refugees
- Help with International festivals, museums or exhibits if you work directly with an international organization

GOVERNMENT (25 hours):

Any combination of 25 hours for Federal, State or Local government, of which at least 15 must be at the Federal level

Federal Government - 15 hours

Any service to a federal office or agency can be applied towards this award. Some examples include:

- Serve as a Congressional Aide
- Federal service in the local community (courts, local congressional office)
- Service during the Inaugural parade/activities
- Service during special events at the Smithsonian (contact the Smithsonian museum in which you are interested)
- Service with any Federal Government Agency or Federal Agency program

State and local government - 10 hours

A girl may choose to do all of her hours at the federal level, but if she chooses to provide service to the state or local Governments, a maximum of 10 hours may be counted.

- Provide service to local or state government office or agencies
- Provide service to non-partisan civic organizations such as the League of Women Voters

GIRL SCOUT (50 hours):

Any combination of 50 hours, of which at least 10 must be service directly to the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.

Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital - 10 hours

Any service given directly to the council.

Some examples include:

- Serve on the GSCNC Board of Directors, Silver Trefoil Advisory Board, Gold Award Panel or other council committees
- Serve on special event committees
- Volunteer on the day of a large event such as Eco-Expo or the GSCNC Annual Meeting
- Volunteer for a Summer Day or Evening Program or a Core Camp
- Volunteer for office work in council shop, mobile shop, or registration department

Service Area, Service Unit, or Association - 40 hours

If a girl chooses to give service to the Service Area, Service Unit or Association, a maximum of 40 hours may be counted.

Some examples include:

- Plan a Service Unit encampment and/or help out during the event
- Assist leader in a Daisy, Brownie, or Junior troop
- Provide administrative assistance to a Service Unit
- Serve as an Association delegate
- Serve on an Association committee

GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE:

- The emphasis of the Silver Trefoil Award is on the quality of the experience and development of skills. This is best achieved by serving multiple hours within one organization. For example, 10 hours of service to one organization is more meaningful than 1 hour given to each of 10 organizations.
- The same service hours cannot be applied to more than one award or recognition. Service counted for any other award or recognition cannot be used for the Silver Trefoil Award. However, service hours may be divided between awards or recognitions.
- Hours for which a girl is paid may not be counted as service hours. For instance, working at a community outreach camp for pay cannot count. However, work at a core camp can be counted because this is a money-earning activity for the troop rather than the individual.
- GSUSA program standards #33 and #35 state that Girl Scouts cannot raise money for other organizations or work for partisan political organizations. Therefore, volunteer service to raise money or for political campaigns will not be counted toward the Silver Trefoil Award.

The Silver Trefoil Award Final Report Form can be found in the Teen Forms section of www.gscnc.org.