



The Silver Trefoil Standard

The Silver Trefoil Award is unique to Girl Scouts Nation's Capital. This award originated in the 1970s as the Little Flower Award in memory of Senior Girl Scout Linda Curtis. Today, the award honors Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who make the world a better place through service in three categories: Girl Scout Community, National, and Global.



Award Information

History

The Girl Scouts Nation's Capital Silver Trefoil Award originated as the Little Flower Award, which was presented in memory of Senior Girl Scout Linda Curtis and was given for commendable service to Girl Scouts Nation's Capital. In 1977, the award was expanded to include a wider spectrum of service, including government, international and council service hours. The award did not change materially between 1977 and 2009. In 2009, when Girl Scouts Nation's Capital merged with Shawnee Girl Scout Council, the Silver Trefoil Award was evaluated by the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital Program Policies and Goals Committee to ensure it is relevance to and attainable by today's Girl Scouts Nation's Capital Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors.

2010 Award Updates

The Silver Trefoil Award recognizes commendable service. Facing the realities of a larger council and changes to the Girl Scout program model, the Program Policies and Goals Committee studied the award and recommended revisions. These updates bring the award into line with the Discover, Connect and Take Action leadership outcomes, and provide opportunities for recognition for girls throughout the council. The changes also reflect the interests of today's Girl Scout's and the reality of our globally-connected society. A new emphasis has been placed on girls' reflection on their service. Girl Scouts are challenged to focus on how their service fits into the Girl Scout mission statement, and the Girl Scout Promise and Law, even before they plan their path to completing the Silver Trefoil Award.



Eligibility

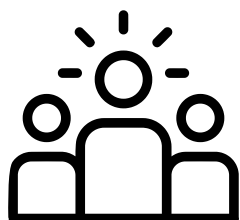
The Silver Trefoil Award is earned by completing 100 service hours in defined categories. A Girl Scout may begin to work on the hours toward the Silver Trefoil Award as a Girl Scout Cadette, Senior or Ambassador. A Girl Scout may complete no more than 50 hours as a Girl Scout Cadette. At least 50 hours must be earned as a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador.



Process for Earning the Silver Trefoil



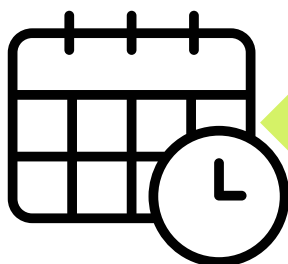
Define your personal goals and reasons for earning the award.



Working cooperatively with your troop and/or teen advisor, research opportunities to fulfill hours in each category. Plan your course to completion (but be aware that your plans may change along the way!).



As you bridge to another Girl Scout program level, re-evaluate your personal goals and reasons for earning the award.



Log each hour of service given in the appropriate category on the Silver Trefoil Log and Final Report Form. Please keep an accurate record of dates and hours.



Complete the online Silver Trefoil Report Submission form, found on the GSCNC website. To be recognized at the In Your Honor Ceremony, forms must be completed by March 15th!

Remember that the Silver Trefoil must be earned by September 30th following a Girl Scout's completion of high school!



General Guidelines

- Examples are given for each requirement. These are just examples, and you should explore many other opportunities.
- Some service hours may fit into more than one category. Any given hour can only apply to one category; however, the hours of a service opportunity may be split among multiple categories.
- Girl Scouts may work together on service, but each individual girl must complete the required hours
- Service must be non-paid work



- The same service hours cannot be applied to more than one award, but may be divided between awards. For example, 40 hours of service as a Congressional Aide may be divided between the Silver Trefoil and another award.
- You will notice that the subcategory minimums do not add up to 25 – this allows you the freedom to focus more on an area you find intriguing.
- Quality of the service experience and development of skills should be emphasized rather than the number of hours. It is better to give multiple hours of service to one organization than limited hours with several organizations.



Frequently Asked Questions

I'm excited to start work on my Silver Trefoil hours. How can I find volunteer opportunities?

There are many volunteer opportunities available all around our council. To begin finding chances to help out, sign up for Girl Scouts Nation's Capital's Rally for teens—Teen Program and Earned Awards—where we occasionally list options for volunteering. You may also want to ask your troop leader or Service Unit Manager for ideas. Other good places to inquire are your local parks, rec center, library, or your school or place of worship. Your friends may also have suggestions from their own volunteer experiences. You can also find good opportunities online through volunteer organizations and sites such as Greater DC Cares and Idealist.org

I'd like to come in to a council office to volunteer in order to complete my Council Service Hours. How should I find out about upcoming volunteer opportunities?

Check the Teen Program and Earned Awards Rally on Rallyhood to find out more about chances to volunteer at the Council office. If you aren't signed up for the Teen Program and Earned Awards Rally, visit <https://rallyhood.com/14353> to subscribe.

Do I need to have a supervising adult sign off on each of my volunteer experiences?

No. Girl Scouts Nation's Capital will need your signature and the signature of your Troop Advisor on the last page of your report form, but does not require a signature for each individual experience or a specific hours category. If you are a Juliette, have a parent or mentor sign on the line designated for the Troop Advisor

Once I submit my completed form, how long will it take before I hear back?

Turnaround time for completed forms is typically two-three weeks. If Girl Scouts Nation's Capital has any questions about your service hours, we will contact you via email to receive clarification. If you have not heard from Girl Scouts Nation's Capital within three weeks, you may email the Program Department at HigherAward@gscnc.org to inquire about the status of your award.

If I am unsure of what category a service opportunity falls into, what should I do?

The Council primarily focuses on what connection Girl Scouts make with their service to a particular, so as long as you can articulate why an activity fits best within a particular category you should be in good shape. (The reflection questions offer a great chance to further explain your thinking!)

Required Service Hours



Girl Scout Community Hours

Minimum of 50 hours - The Girl Scout Law asks us to be a sister to every Girl Scout. To earn the Silver Trefoil Award, embody the Girl Scout law.

Council Service Hours – minimum of 15 hours

Volunteer at the council level, in order to provide service that has an impact on the whole council. Below are examples of Council service hours. Remember, you are not limited to these examples.

- Serve on the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital Board or other Council committees
- Serve as a Delegate to the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital Annual Meeting
- Assist at Council events such as the Cookie College
- Help in an out-based office
- Volunteer for a day camp or a core camp
- Participate in a clean-up event for a Girl Scouts Nation's Capital Camp property

Service Unit/Association/Troop hours – minimum of 25 hours

Volunteer at the service unit/association level, in order to provide service that has an impact on your local Girl Scout community. Below are examples of Service Unit/Association/Troop service hours. Remember, you are not limited to these examples.

- Assist with a Daisy, Brownie or Junior troop
- Provide volunteer support to a service unit
- Plan a service unit encampment, Thinking Day or similar event.

National Service Hours

Minimum of 25 hours - This category has been redefined as national service hours, with the understanding that government remains a partial requirement. Service to country and community is part of the Girl Scout tradition.

Government Hours – minimum of 10 hours

Provide non-partisan service to federal, state or local government entities. This may include non-government entities that fulfill a governmental role such as the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian or Post Office). Below are examples of government service hours. Remember, you are not limited to these examples.

- Help in a national park (federal)
- Intern at a federal agency office (federal)
- Volunteer at Girl Scout Day at the National Air and Space Museum (federal)
- Clean up a state park (state)
- Work in a local library (local)
- Clean up a county park (local)

Required Service Hours



Local Hours – minimum of 10 hours

Service that fulfills a need in close proximity to your home, your school or your troop; either in your town or your county. Below are examples of local service hours. Remember, you are not limited to these examples.

- Provide service to a local soup kitchen
- Staff a first aid station at an event in your town
- Tutor another student in a subject you are knowledgeable about
- Volunteer at a nearby homeless shelter

Green Hours – minimum of 5 hours

Service that helps protect the environment. Below are examples of green service hours. Remember, you are not limited to these examples.

- Volunteer at a park/recreation area
- Share Leave No Trace guidelines with others
- Volunteer in a recycling effort
- Join a Linking Girls to the Land project

Global Service Hours

Minimum of 25 hours - In light of our council's expansion and to reflect the guiding principle of the Girl Scout Mission Statement: "Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place," the Silver Trefoil Award requires Global Service hours. Global Service hours encompass service to international communities and multicultural service.

International Hours – minimum of 10 hours

Service that has a direct impact on the global community, whether local or in another country. Below are examples of international service hours. Remember, you are not limited to these examples.

- Collect materials for those in need in other countries
- Volunteer with international festivals, museums or exhibits
- Host a foreign exchange student
- Provide relief work in another country
- Volunteer at an event at a WAGGGS World Centre

Multicultural Hours – minimum of 10 hours

Make the world a better place where all social and ethnic groups interact with tolerance and understanding. Below are examples of multicultural service hours. Remember, you are not limited to these examples

- Run an interfaith event with a local church, temple and/or mosque
- Provide service at an event honoring a culture different than your own
- Volunteer in another region of the country
- Tutor ESL students
- Host or staff a Thinking Day celebration