

## Gold Award FAQ

Our Council's Gold Award Webpage, [www.gscnc.org/goldaward](http://www.gscnc.org/goldaward), will have the most up to date forms and information regarding the Gold Award.

### How do I submit my proposal? What makes a proposal complete?

Our Council uses [GoGold Online](#) for the Gold Award submission process. **A complete proposal will include our Council's CHECKLIST.** The checklist can be found in Step 4 of GoGold Online.

**A complete proposal will include a girl's troop leader verification signature, her project advisor's confirmation signature, and our Council's checklist.** The Project Advisor must be someone with the organization the project will benefit or an expert in the field of the project. The confirmation is their agreement to support you/the project. The proposal form and information about the verifications needed can be found on our Council Gold Award webpage: [www.gscnc.org/goldaward](http://www.gscnc.org/goldaward).

### How many hours need to be included in the hours log?

80 hours is the minimum amount of time for completing 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 hours log should reflect your hours in 2-3 hour increments.

Be specific about the activities taking place for each hour you log post approval, for example:

Date	Activity	Details	Hours
10/10/2019	Printed Flyers	I printed flyers that were used to advertise my workshop	2
10/11/2019	Distributed Flyers	I posted flyers throughout the community and my neighborhood to advertise my workshop	3

### When are proposals due?

Proposals are due by 5pm on the first working day of each month. **This is a firm deadline.**

### How are proposals reviewed?

Our Council has six Gold Award Panels made up of dedicated volunteers who review proposals and mentor girls throughout the Gold Award process. The panel members meet in various locations throughout the month and review proposals. They then provide feedback to our Teen Program Specialist, who develops the decision letters that are sent to each girl. **The proposal review process takes a full month. Do not expect to hear back before the last day of the month of your proposal submission.**

### Why can't a parent be a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor?

Girls are encouraged to go outside of their comfort zone and connect with their community when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. This means working with a project advisor who is not her parent.

### Can I have a parent or Girl Scout leader call the Council on my behalf to ask questions about my project?

The Gold Award is your project and not your guardian's or your troop leader's. Practice your leadership skills by making the contact yourself.

### Can I plan a project that is just collecting or donating items to an organization like a food drive or free little library?

Collections and donations are great SERVICE projects but are just service and do not meet the requirements of a TAKE ACTION project. Service projects are usually done for the community, address an immediate need, and have a short-term impact. Take action projects work with the community, address the root cause of an issue, and have a lasting impact that is sustainable.

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## What is a Gold Award Panel Presentation? Is the Panel Presentation mandatory?

A Gold Award Panel Presentation provides an in-person opportunity for you to share about your Gold Award project and receive immediate feedback. Girls are able to provide a brief pitch and answer any questions panel members may have. Questions are not pre-set, but are unique to each girl's proposal. Presentations range from 20-30 minutes and will only be shared with 2-3 panel members.

*While participating in a presentation isn't mandatory, it is highly recommended. Meeting with the panel in-person often helps them understand your proposal better and offer more significant advice/feedback.*

## How does a Girl sign up to present?

Gold Award Panels meet during the second and third weeks of the month, every month, in various locations throughout our Council. Please check the [Council events calendar](#) for exact dates and links to register. Registration will open on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the Panel Presentation itself. (For example, a girl who would like to participate in a panel presentation in February could sign up as early as January 15<sup>th</sup>.) We ask that girls do not register until they receive confirmation from Council that their Proposal is complete and ready for review.

## Is a Girl assigned a Gold Award Panel Mentor even if she does not present?

Yes! Every girl whose proposal is reviewed will be assigned a Panel Mentor. Each girl will receive the name and email address of their mentor in the Proposal Decision letter. Girls should reach out immediately to their mentor upon receiving their decision letter.

## When do Girls receive the Proposal Decision Letter?

You will receive a decision regarding your proposal during the last week of the month of submission via the email provided on your proposal. There are three different decisions: Approved, Resubmit to Mentor, and Denied. Under no circumstance can a girl begin her 'Take Action' project before receiving an "Approved" decision.

**Approved** – Your project meets all expectations and may be started upon email notification with the letter from the Gold Award Panel.

**Resubmit to Mentor** – As written, your project does not meet the standard of a Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Project. The idea itself may be good, but the project is missing a key element. Your project may not be showing your individual mark on the issue, you may need to define your leadership, or the Panel may question the scope of the project. Projects designated as "resubmit to mentor" have potential, but they must be further developed to address the areas of concern raised by the Gold Award Panel. All revisions should be sent directly to the Panel Mentor, who will be able to approve your Proposal at this step.

**Denied** – Your project does not qualify as a Gold Award Take Action Project. Canned, collection, fundraising, and group projects will also be given this designation. Consult with your Gold Award Panel mentor for support and suggestions on how to revise your proposal and make it meet the Gold Standard. Your mentor wants you to succeed! Your next proposal must be submitted to Council through GoGold online for review.

## How/Where do I revise my proposal?

The area(s) in which your revisions are needed will determine where you make revisions. **Make sure you receive approval from your panel mentor before you submit your revised proposal to Council!**

Please note that it is sometimes difficult for mentors to determine where your changes were made within your proposal. We encourage you to make your changes in **ALL CAPITAL LETTERS** so they can easily identify where you made edits.

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## What is considered a complete Final Report?

The Final Report is pulled from the information entered in Step 6 & 7 of GoGold Online. It will be sent to Council via email. You are welcome to have your Gold Award Panel Mentor review your Final Report before submitting to Council, but it must be submitted to Council for final review and approval.

Similar to the proposal, the Final Report requires the project advisor to confirm the project has been completed and is ready for review by the Council. The final report cannot be submitted to Council without such verification.

## What is the deadline for a girl to finish the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A Girl Scout has until September 30<sup>th</sup> (the official end of the Girl Scout membership year) of the year in which she graduates high school, or until she turns 18 years old, to finish her project and turn in her Gold Award Final Report.

## Did you know about the Nation's Capital Gold Award Scholarship?

High school seniors who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award are eligible for educational scholarships awarded by Girl Scouts Nation's Capital. Applications are due by 5pm on March 15<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found on our Council website: [www.gscnc.org/scholarships](http://www.gscnc.org/scholarships).

## How does a girl get recognized at the In Your Honor Ceremony?

All girls who complete their Gold Award will be invited to attend the In Your Honor Ceremony, held annually in early May. In order to be invited to that year's ceremony, the Gold Award Final Report must be finished and submitted to Council by March 15<sup>th</sup> of that year. If she finishes after March 15<sup>th</sup>, her project will be recognized at the following year's In Your Honor ceremony.

## GoGold Online Tips and Tricks:

- ⇒ GoGold Online works best on a desktop computer or laptop but is also compatible to use with a smartphone or tablet.
- ⇒ Give yourself plenty of time to complete the online Gold Award proposal. Use the Gold Award Guidelines for Seniors and Ambassadors for reference. A Gold Award proposal is not something you can start and finish in one night, don't wait until the last minute to begin!
- ⇒ Remember to inform your troop leader and project advisor of your submissions! Your troop leader must approve your pre-requisites and your project advisor must agree to support your project prior to your proposal being eligible for review. Your project advisor must also verify completion of your project before you submit the final report to Council.
- ⇒ The deadline to submit a completed proposal to Council is the first working day of the month. We suggest you plan to finish your pieces of the proposal a few days ahead of the deadline to give your troop leader and project advisor time to work on their parts.
- ⇒ Save your answers to the questions in a separate location, either handwritten or a Word document, in case of any system errors.

If there are issues accessing your account, or the site gives you an error message, please send an email to [gogoldonline@girlscouts.org](mailto:gogoldonline@girlscouts.org) and [mygoldaward@gscnc.org](mailto:mygoldaward@gscnc.org) to notify GSUSA as well as Girl Scouts Nation's Capital that the website is not functioning properly.

A detailed GoGold Online Tips and Tricks packet can be found on our Council's Gold Award webpage: [www.gscnc.org/goldaward](http://www.gscnc.org/goldaward)

**If you still have questions or concerns please contact:**

Teen Program Specialist – Nicole Lehmer, [goldaward@gscnc.org](mailto:goldaward@gscnc.org)  
Program Coordinator – Karina Gallardo, [programaa@gscnc.org](mailto:programaa@gscnc.org)