



Gold Award – Including ALL Girls

Girl Scouts Nation's Capital is committed to ensuring that girls of all abilities are able to achieve the Gold Award – a Girl Scout's highest honor.

This includes:

- Girls with diagnosed disabilities
- Girls who have IEP's (Individualized Education Plans)/504 Plans in the school setting
- Girls who receive disability-related accommodations within the school setting
- Girls who identify as having a disability/"special need" – (includes those who may not have a formal diagnosis)

ROLE OF THE PARENT/GIRL SCOUT:

- Specify on the Gold Award proposal if you/your daughter has an IEP.
 - Space for this is included on the proposal.
- Request accommodations/contact the Inclusion Specialist as soon as possible.*
 - Disclosure is a MUST when it comes to ensuring the needs of a girl are met. The Inclusion Specialist/Council will NOT reach out to you.
 - Specifying needs early will help to ensure accommodations are implemented efficiently. It is never too early to start planning.
- Be specific/provide examples.
 - The Inclusion Specialist/Council will NOT make assumptions about a girl's needs. While we can offer examples of accommodations based on previous experiences, the girl/parent knows best.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Accommodation requests MUST be made by a girl or her parent/guardian. Third-party requests (such as those made by a troop leader) will not be granted.

ROLE OF COUNCIL/THE INCLUSION SPECIALIST**

- Assist in identifying and facilitating reasonable accommodations for girls of all abilities to achieve the Gold Award, at the point of disclosure by a girl/parent.
 - No accommodations will be implemented until the girl/parent provides approval.
- Ensure that volunteers are aware of and are exercising our commitment to including all girls in the Gold Award process.

ROLE OF GOLD AWARD VOLUNTEERS/PANELISTS

- Ensure that each Gold Award project is evaluated based on a girl's individual development and abilities.
- Implement reasonable accommodations for girls of all abilities as specified by Council.
 - Council approval is required for significant accommodation requests.

Examples of Reasonable Accommodations provided by Girl Scouts Nation's Capital for the Gold Award process:

- ASL interpreters (i.e. for the Gold Award panel interview) – requires at least 3 weeks' notice
- Braille/large print documents (i.e. Gold Award application) – requires at least 3 weeks' notice
- Modified application process (based on assessed need)
- Modified panel review process (based on assessed need)

****For more information or clarification about inclusion and the Gold Award, or to make accommodation requests, please contact:**

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