girl scouts nation's capital

Highest Award Quick Guide

LAST UPDATED: OCTOBER 2026

The Bronze Award



Who: Girl Scout Juniors
What: Girl Scouts' highest award for Juniors!
When: Complete as a Junior
How:
1. Identify Issues
2. Build your Girl Scout Team
3. Explore your community
4. Choose your Bronze Award Project
5. Make a Plan - Girl Scouts should spend 25 hours planning and implementing their project.
6. Put your plan in motion
7. Spread the word!
8. You've earned the Bronze Award!

Resources: Find the Bronze Award Guidelines on our Council website: www.gscnc.org/bronzeaward.

Remember, all Junior Girl Scouts are required to complete one Junior Girl Level Leadership Award prior to earning the Bronze Award

The Silver Award



Who: Girl Scout Cadettes
What: Girl Scouts' highest award for Cadettes!
When: Complete prior to September 30th of the year you enter ninth grade
How:
1. Read the Silver Award Guidelines for Girl Scout Cadettes
2. Brainstorm your Take Action project idea and consult your troop leader
3. Complete the Silver Award Online Approval Tool using the questions guide with your troop leader, project advisor, or parent and make sure to print a copy of your approval confirmation
4. Upon approval, complete your Take Action project
5. Provide updates to your troop leader on your Silver Award Final Report
6. Submit your Silver Award Final Report and approval confirmation through the online submission tool
7. You've earned your Silver Award!

Resources: Find the Silver Award Guidelines on our Council website: www.gscnc.org/silveraward.

The Gold Award



Who: Girl Scout Seniors & Ambassadors
What: Girl Scouts' highest award for Seniors and Ambassadors!
When: Complete prior to September 30th of the year you graduate High School
How:
1. Complete the required Gold Award training on gslearn or attend a training workshop
2. Brainstorm your Take Action project idea, consult your troop leader and select a project advisor
3. Submit your Gold Award Proposal through GoGold Online
4. Work with your Gold Award Panel Mentor to prepare for presentation
5. Present your Proposal to the Gold Award Panel and receive decision letter
6. Once your proposal is approved, complete your Take Action project
7. Submit your Gold Award Final Report through GoGold Online
8. You've earned your gold Award!

Resources: Find the Gold Award Guidelines, training information and much more on our Council website: www.gscnc.org/goldaward.

Find more information about Highest Awards on the Council website: www.gscnc.org
Questions? Contact the Program team at Higheraward@gscnc.org

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The Silver Trefoil



Who: A Girl Scout can begin to work on hours toward the Silver Trefoil as a Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador but cannot earn more than 50 hours as a Cadette. The Award must be completed as a Senior or Ambassador.

What: Unique to Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, the Silver Trefoil recognizes a Girl Scout who completes 100 hours of community service.

When: Complete prior to September 30th of the year you graduate from high school

How:
1. Read the Silver Trefoil Guidelines
2. Complete community service in the categories of Girl Scout Community, National Service, and Global Service
3. Submit your Silver Trefoil Final Report to the Council
4. You've earned your Silver Trefoil Award!

Resources: Find the Silver Trefoil Guidelines, examples of service hours, and the Silver Trefoil Report Form on our Council website: www.gscnc.org/silvertrefoil

The President Volunteer Service Award - CURRENTLY PAUSED



Who: All Girl Scouts and Adult Volunteers

What: Service Award

When: Service Hours Due October 10th

How: Complete eligible service hours between and submit form via the Council website.

- Eligible Service includes any unpaid acts of volunteer service benefiting others (can be in-person or virtual)
- Service hours do not have to be exclusively girl scouts related. Service hours, if they meet the eligibility criteria, can be earned through service generally.
- Service hours earned in pursuit of higher awards (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Silver Trefoil) can be used to count towards PVSA minimums if they meet eligibility criteria

Resources: Learn more on our Council website: www.gscnc.org/highestawards

The Ethel G. Harvey President's Award



Who: Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors or Ambassadors

What: Honorary Award for Girl Scout Youth

When: Nominations due March 15th

How: Girl Scouts must be nominated by a registered member of Girl Scouts of Nation's Capital and to be eligible:

- cannot have received the award before
- demonstrated her leadership abilities to Girl Scouts Nation's Capital
- contributed to the growth of Girl Scouts Nation's Capital
- demonstrated poise and sensitivity towards others
- demonstrated both written and oral communication skills
- actively participated in Girl Scout activities to help bring unity among the diverse elements within Girl Scouts Nation's Capital

Resources: Learn more on our Council website: www.gscnc.org/highestawards