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The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Project Advisors

What is the Gold Award?

The Gold Award is the highest award that a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout (grades 9–12) can earn. To become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a Girl Scout identifies an issue that's important to them, then develops and carries out an innovative and sustainable solution with measurable impact. Each solution/project must link to a national and/or global issue.

What types of projects are Gold Award– eligible?

A Gold Award project must reflect the following: the Girl Scout has identified the root cause of a community issue they are passionate about, the action they take must address a real need and have long-term benefits, they must show leadership by guiding a team of volunteers, and the project must be sustainable and measurable with a national and/or global link.

How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from the Girl Scout. The timeline is designed by the Girl Scout and enhanced with your input.

Who can be a Project Advisor?

A project advisor is an adult who chooses to be on a Girl Scout's Gold Award team and is an expert on the issue the Girl Scout's project addresses. Parents, caregivers, or troop leaders of Girl Scouts pursuing their Gold Award cannot be advisors. Adult siblings and family members like aunts and uncles can sometimes be advisors if they are experts on the issue the Girl Scout is exploring.

However, we encourage Girl Scouts to branch outside of their families when possible.

What is the role of a Project Advisor?

A project advisor offers a Girl Scout guidance and expertise as needed, during the planning and execution of the Girl Scout's Gold Award project. Note that it's important that the project and its core ideas be the Girl Scout's own.

How can I support a Girl Scout as they completes their Gold Award project?

Although the project advisor role is flexible, here are some ways you can show your support:

- Recognize that the Girl Scout's project is as unique as they are, so don't compare them—or their project— to other Girl Scouts and their Gold Awards.
- Let them interview you to help them better understand the issue they are addressing.
- Refer to colleagues or acquaintances of yours for interviews or advice.
- As they research and plan their project, refer them to relevant books, web resources, and/or organizations.
- Offer to act as a sounding board for any questions that may come up over the course of their project.
- Help them brainstorm the metrics most useful in ensuring their project has a measurable impact.
- Offer to review their proposal or final report before it's submitted.

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The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for New Mentors

What is the expected time commitment for a Gold Award Project Advisor?

The Project Advisor should be willing to work with the Girl Scout as much as the individual Girl Scout needs. This can vary from meeting once a week to meeting once a month (Girl Scout and Project Advisors should not meet less than once a month). Each Girl Scout will identify with their Project Advisor the specific time commitments they require for their individual project.

What is expected from a Gold Award Project Advisor?

The Gold Award Project Advisor is meant to be a mentor and resource guide to the Girl Scout throughout their Gold Award Project. They do not need to know everything about Girl Scouts- they instead are meant to fill the role of the subject matter expert of the project. Project Advisors provide the Girl Scout with project knowledge base, reference points, networking, and guidance that will ensure they meets the needs the issue they are addressing.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

The Project Advisor is welcome to contact Girl Scouts Nation's Capital at any time with questions or concerns about their role, the Gold Award, or Girl Scouting in general. You can email us at goldaward@gscnc.org.

What steps should I take if I never received the Project Advisor email from GoGold but the Girl Scout says she sent it?

The verification email is most likely caught in your email's filter or spam folder. If you cannot locate it, please reach out to goldaward@gscnc.org for assistance!

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