

SEVEN STEPS TO THE

The Girl Scout Gold Award has seven steps:

1. ORGANIZE
2. LEAD
3. NETWORK
4. EXPLORE
5. CREATE
6. ACT
7. REFLECT



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STEP 1 ORGANIZE

BUILD A
FRAMEWORK

Get organized so that you can carry out the other six steps.

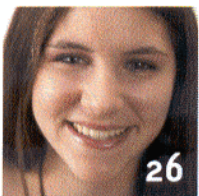


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STEP 2 LEAD

EARN THE
GIRL SCOUT GOLD
LEADERSHIP AWARD

Put the Girl Scout Law into action.



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STEP 6 ACT

DO THE GIRL
SCOUT GOLD
AWARD PROJECT

Make a difference in your community on something you strongly care about.



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STEP 7 REFLECT

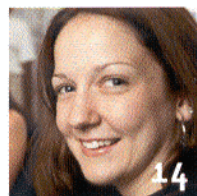
REFLECT AND
EVALUATE

Realize how earning the Girl Scout Gold Award has changed you and impacted others.

"It's up to you to achieve your goals."
—Natasha, 17

"Never underestimate yourself. You'll never know what you can do until you do it."
—Lipica, 16

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD



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STEP 3 NETWORK

EARN THE
GIRL SCOUT GOLD
CAREER AWARD

Reach out and build your network.



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STEP 4 EXPLORE

EARN THE
GIRL SCOUT GOLD
4Bs CHALLENGE

Develop your voice.



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STEP 5 CREATE

CREATE A
PROJECT PLAN

Map out your Girl Scout Gold Award Project.



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ON YOUR MIND?

FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS

Your questions answered about the Girl Scout Gold Award



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MONEY AND YOUR LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Money and your Leadership Project



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WORKSHEET AT-A-GLANCE WORKSHEET

Girl Scout Gold Award at-a-Glance Worksheet

STEP 1

BUILD A FRAMEWORK

1. ORGANIZE

A **framework** is the supporting structure that you need to build so that you can do steps 2 through 7 successfully.

Tips for creating a good framework:

- ★ Contact your Girl Scout council. Find out what workshops are offered for girls who wish to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award. What approval process does your council have? What is the timeframe?
- ★ Read this workbook, including "Girls Want to Know" on page 28, so you can know what to expect.
- ★ After you have read the workbook, meet with your advisor and develop a timeline and plan describing when and how you'll earn each of the three awards in Steps 2–4 and when you'll be ready to meet with your council before starting Step 5. Use "The Girl Scout Gold Award at-a-Glance Worksheet" on page 38. Each of these awards can stand on its own. You can choose to earn one, two, or all three, but you must earn all three to go on to Step 5 and to ultimately earn a Girl Scout Gold Award.
- ★ In making your timeline, also consider when you'll want to start Step 5. Remember that you have lots of time. You can do Steps 1–4 when you are 14–18 or in grades 9–12. You need to be 15–18, or in grades 10–12, when you do Steps 5–7.
- ★ Create an agreement with your adult advisor. Your advisor will support you by letting you know about important policies and procedures particular to your Girl Scout council and also by contributing ideas, asking questions to help you clarify your plans, and advising you about the scale, scope, and financing of your project.

My Road to the Gold Agreement

Advisor _____ Date _____
My Signature _____ Date _____

STEP 2

EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD LEADERSHIP AWARD

2. LEAD

Leadership is the spark that can ignite action and release your unique creative potential. In Girl Scouts your leadership ability is sparked by putting the Girl Scout Law into action.

EARN IT!



FOUR STEPS TO EARNING THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD LEADERSHIP AWARD:

SET THE SPARK

Choose and earn an Interest Project that you feel will help you practice living by one of these four sets of values from the Girl Scout Law:

honest and fair
friendly and helpful
considerate and caring
courageous and strong

ACTION

Which Interest Project did you choose?

How did you put the Girl Scout Law into practice?

How did it help you be a better leader?

Choose and earn an Interest Project that you feel will help you practice living by one of these three values from the Girl Scout Law:

responsible for what I say and do
respect myself and others
respect authority

ACTION

Which did you choose?

How did you put the Girl Scout Law into practice?

How did it help you be a better leader?

Choose and earn an Interest Project that you feel will help you practice living one of these three values:

use resources wisely
make the world a better place
be a sister to every Girl Scout

ACTION

Which did you choose?

How did you put the Girl Scout Law into practice?

How did it help you be a better leader?

DO IT YOURSELF

Leaders need to learn to set and achieve their own goals. Choose a book from the STUDIO 2B Focus series, set your goals in conversation with your adult advisor and earn the charm.

REFLECTION

What's one thing you learned about setting goals?

How will that make you a better leader?

PUT LEADERSHIP INTO ACTION

Now it's time to show your leadership skills. Spend 30 hours in a leadership role. Use the "At-a-Glance Worksheet" on page 38 to keep track of your hours.

Do any combination of the following for a total of 30 hours:

- ★ Be an officer in a group or club at school.
- ★ Chair or be a captain of an extracurricular activity.
- ★ Assist in leading a Girl Scout troop in your neighborhood or at camp.
- ★ Serve in a leadership role at your council.
- ★ Play a leadership role in your town or at a place of worship.
- ★ Partner with or shadow a leader in your community.
- ★ Serve with adults on a council committee or council board of directors if your state law permits, or serve as a delegate to the National Council.
- ★ Serve on the By Girls, For Girls National Advisory Committee or the local equivalent.

Fast Track: If you are pursuing any additional awards, such as Leader-in-Training, Counselor-in-Training, or Program Aide, you may apply your hours to the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award.

PUT IT TOGETHER

Capture and consider what you have learned in earning your Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award by completing these statements:

I demonstrated a real understanding of the Girl Scout Law by applying it to this situation in my life:

I learned that a leader needs to be:

In earning this award as a leader, I am very proud of accomplishing:

I have shown my personal integrity and honor by:

STEP 3

EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD CAREER AWARD

3. NETWORK

"All I have to say is go for the Gold. You can do it. Don't give up. Your senior year of high school is the best, and you should make it the best by completing your Girl Scout Gold Award. Plus, it looks really good on your applications for college."

—Marilee, 17

Life after high school

is approaching fast. Summer jobs, internships, part-time jobs, and other work experiences are shaping your ideas about what's next for you.

EARN IT!



You may already have plans in place for college, vocational school, or a job. Earning your Gold Career Award gives you a process for planning your direction after high school.

To earn this charm, do one or a combination of the following for a total of 40 hours:

- * Career-shadow one or more people.
- * Get an apprenticeship or internship.
- * Visit colleges or trade schools.
- * Organize a career fair.
- * Publish a newsletter or create a Web page about careers for your school.
- * Partner with one or more Girl Scout council staff people.

Fast Track: If you currently have a paying job or have started your own business and have put in 40 hours on it, congratulations! Your fast track career moves have allowed you to be promoted. You can use this experience in place of the above step.

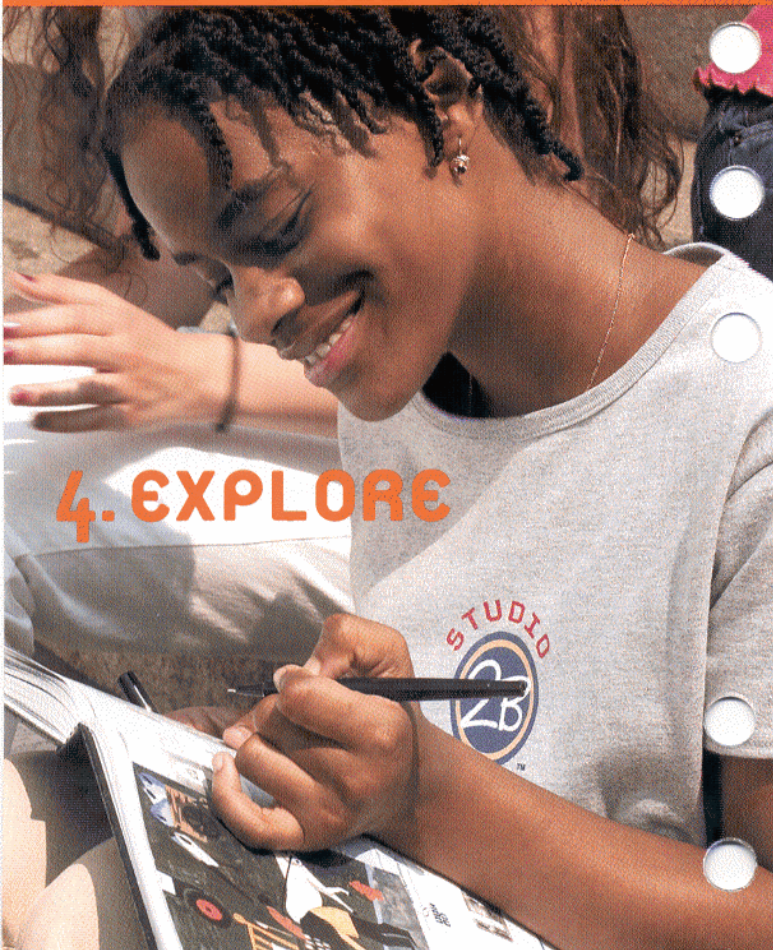
REFLECTION

Now that you have spent time exploring the world of work, write your dream job description. Some things to consider: Would you want to work in an office? A day job or night job? A job in which you help people? Build things? Create things? Use tools? Invent? Manage people? Use technology? Work outdoors? What product would you produce? How many hours a week? How much would you get paid?

TOOL KIT: STUDIO 2B Focus: *Mind Your Own Business* has activities that will help you become an entrepreneur and build a business plan. STUDIO 2B Focus: *Cashin' In* has activities that will give you ideas for financing your senior year in high school and life afterward—whether you enroll in college or enter the work world. STUDIO 2B Collections 15–17 also contains articles on career choices and on prepping for college, as does the STUDIO 2B Web site www.studio2b.org.

STEP 4

EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD 4BS CHALLENGE



4. EXPLORE

BECOME, BELONG, BELIEVE, BUILD How would you apply these words to yourself and your abilities?



In Girl Scouts, the activities you do are based on the 4Bs, which themselves reflect the Girl Scout Law.

BECOME: celebrate yourself today and become your best self in the future.

BELONG: be part of a group where you have fun, relate to others with respect, and develop lasting friendships.

BELIEVE: develop your ideas and voice what's important to you.

BUILD: take action on what you care about and make a difference.

The Girl Scout Gold 4Bs Challenge gives you the opportunity to apply the 4Bs to making a difference in your community and prepares you for taking on an even bigger challenge, the Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

FOUR STEPS TO EARNING THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD 4BS CHALLENGE:

1. BECOME: YOURSELF

In order to become your best self, you need to set goals for your personal growth.

What are your strongest skills in managing projects? Are you very organized? Good at motivating others? Excellent at getting work done in the time you have planned?

Which skills need work? Giving clearer directions? Using your time more effectively? Better solving of conflicts among group members?

Decide on two skills you need to improve and the steps you will take to improve them:

BE SMART

Use these questions as a guide in setting your goals:

Specifically what will you do?

How will you **Measure** your progress toward your goals?

How will you know if you have **Achieved** your goals?

Are your goals **Realistic**? (Can you really achieve them or are they too hard?)

What is your **Timeframe** to reach your goals?

2. BELONG: YOUR COMMUNITY

You belong to your community. Who else lives there?
Find out more about your community and its members.

Following is a list of information resources:

- * local school offices
- * U.S. census report
- * town or county planning office
- * local library
- * city government offices
- * county health department
- * county cooperative extension office
- * chamber of commerce
- * state assembly member offices
- * Girl Scout Council office
- * community organizations
- * yellow pages
- * community Web sites
- * associations that promote issues for women, youth, and children
- * local colleges and universities
- * social, service, fraternal, and professional organizations

3. BELIEVE: A VISION FOR CHANGE

Crafting a vision for change is the initial step for making the change become a reality.

Using what you learned above, answer these questions:

What are the top five needs of my community?

How do I know that this statement is true?



Why do these needs exist?

What project can be done to address the root causes of these needs?

Where do I fit into addressing these causes?

"Think about your passions and what you enjoy, then apply them to your community. Don't pick something to do because you think it is impressive—you won't enjoy it and the project won't have the same meaning for you as if you created a project about something you loved."

—Jennifer, 17



What will the community look like after the project is completed?

What will be the long-term effects of the project on the community?

MY VISION STATEMENT

Using your answers to the questions on page 18–19, draft a vision statement of change for one aspect of the community needs: See pages 9–12 in STUDIO 2B Focus: *Write Now* to help you write your vision statement.

4. BUILD: YOUR NETWORK

You can build a network of people in your community who can help you make your vision of change come true. Review what you discovered in the section “Believe: A Vision for Change” on page 18 about the people in your community and take it a step further.

Who are the other people in the community who care about this issue?

What people in the community are affected by this issue?

Which people have the power to help solve this issue?

Who supports young people and community service?

Who are the political community leaders?

Who are the community leaders who are not elected officials?

How can you gain the support of the people you need to support your vision?

See pages 18–19 of STUDIO 2B Focus: *Write Now* on building your persuasive skills to help you persuade others to support your position on this issue.

STEP 5

PLAN YOUR GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

5. CREATE

It's time for you to **use your voice** and **make your mark** in the community.

Use the following guidelines to complete your project and earn your Girl Scout Gold Award.

Everything you've done in Steps 1–4 has led you to this moment!

PLAN IT

Figure out what the community problem is and what you want to do about it. Talk to your project advisor. If you don't have one, make sure you speak with your Girl Scout council about retaining one. Go back to pages 16–22 and review the work you did related to the Four Bs challenge. Is this the issue you want to focus on for your project? Do you have new and different ideas?

Now's the time to commit: My issue is:

KNOW MORE ABOUT IT

Collect as much information as you can. Use the Internet, read the paper, do some research, talk to people. Find out everything you can about your issue before you move ahead.

CHOOSE IT

Brainstorm all the ways you can solve the problem and then decide which is the best way to go. Ask yourself questions such as these to help you decide:

- * Do I have enough resources (time, money, help)?
- * If not, how can I get what I need?

"If you know you want to earn your Gold Award but don't know what project to do, don't let that stop you from starting the prep steps. Then when you decide on a project, you will be ready to jump in."

—Jennifer, 17



BUDGET IT

Create a budget and review funding sources with your Girl Scout council. Look at the money-earning ideas and guidelines on page 32. How will you know if you succeed? If you don't have enough information to make the determination, then maybe you need to rethink your solution. You may discover that one solution is too costly and move to another. Review the health and safety standards in *Safety-Wise* to be sure you are following them, too. Your council will have a copy.

BUDGET FORM

EXPENSE ITEM

AMOUNT

TOTAL



MAP IT

Now that you have selected your issue and your solution, write down the steps you need to take and what resources you will need. Make a timeline specific to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Organize the people and other resources you'll need to carry out your plan. Use the space below to help you "map it" or ask your council if there are specific forms you should use. Be open to adjusting your plans based on feedback from the council committee.

TIMELINE OF PROJECT STEPS

ACTION STEP

DATE

RESOURCES

People

Facilities

Equipment

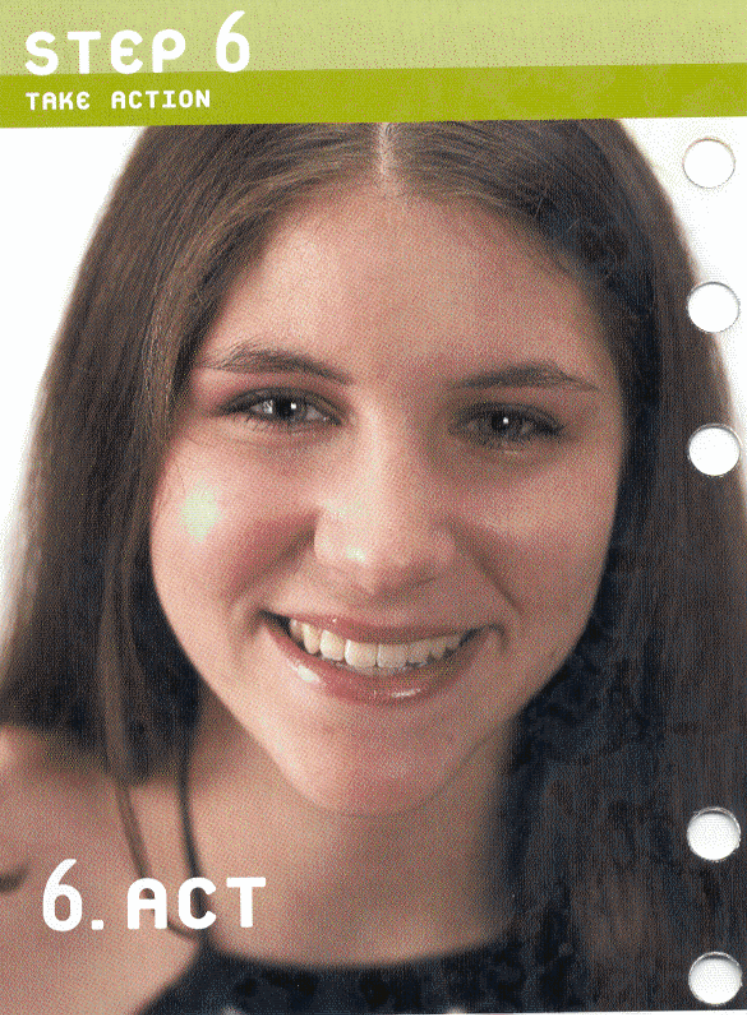
EVALUATION

Meeting with council committee date

Suggestions/changes from committee

STEP 6

TAKE ACTION



6. ACT

put your plan into action. You may have to make changes as your plan goes into action.

That's typical—it's a rare plan that doesn't run into some roadblocks or snags. Being flexible and thinking as you go are what make a project a success.

STEP 7

REFLECT AND EVALUATE

7. REFLECT

ask yourself questions such as:

- * Did I accomplish what I set out to accomplish?
- * Could I have avoided some problems that sprang up?
- * What did I learn about myself?
- * What did I learn about others?
- * How did I leave my mark?
- * How can I share what I did?

congratulations! once you have completed steps 1-7 and reported to your council, you have earned the girl scout gold award.

MAKE YOUR MARK

The gold award can be a lot of fun.

You'll meet many new people, learn great things about yourself and your capabilities, put all of your leadership skills into action, and, best of all, make your mark in your community.

A Girl Scout Gold Award Project can make a lasting change for the better in your community.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement for Girl Scouts ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12. When you go for the Girl Scout Gold Award, you will design and lead a project that takes at least 65 hours, including “planning and doing” time, to complete.

Not only will you gain a personal sense of accomplishment and benefit your community, but you will also be joining a network of tens of thousands of powerful and accomplished women who have earned this honor. You'll find that colleges and universities, businesses, and your community recognize the effort and leadership you have demonstrated. In fact, some colleges and universities offer scholarships to girls who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award.

And while earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, you'll earn three other awards as well.

See “The Girl Scout Gold Award at-a-Glance” on page 38 for all of the steps. Track what you do in the spaces provided.

**“My most important advice
is to have fun. Enjoy every
minute of your work or it
won't be meaningful to you.”**

—Jennifer, 17



ON YOUR MIND?

GIRLS WANT TO KNOW!

your questions are answered here about the girl scout gold award

Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

You must be a registered Girl Scout and be 14–18 or in grades 9–12 to work on the awards leading up to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. You must be 15–18, or in grades 10–12, when you work on your actual Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Remember, the project must be completed by September 30 following your senior year in high school.

Is the Girl Scout Gold Award Project an individual project, or can it be worked on by teams of girls?

You may work with other girls, but you must keep track of your specific work and hours.

CASE STUDY:

A Sample Individual Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Tracy became interested in using the arts as therapy after she suffered a painful illness. She developed a project to help senior citizens deal with chronic pain through music, dance, painting, and pottery activities. She visited a number of nursing homes to see what was being offered and came back with a number of issues. Not only did the residents need activities that could relieve chronic pain, but they also needed activities that offered mental and social stimulation. Tracy investigated art therapy projects, interviewing instructors at a local college that offered this major, and local practitioners in the field. After gathering information and creating a budget and project timeline, Tracy organized and trained a group of volunteers to offer art therapy activities, secured a mini-grant to purchase supplies, implemented the project at two nursing homes, and created a model that could be replicated by other community groups.

How could this project be expanded into a group project?

For more than one girl to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award doing a similar project, the girls would need to:

- ★ Meet with and form collaborations with other community organizations that focus on serving senior citizens.
- ★ Expand the number of nursing homes served.
- ★ Secure a larger grant for the project.
- ★ Design a way for the activities to continue even after the girls have earned their awards: for example, working with the local colleges
- and the nursing homes to set up internships for college credit for students who participate in the project.
- ★ Offer a greater menu of art therapy activities.
- ★ Train a wider pool of volunteers.
- ★ Create a tool kit or packet for nursing homes and residents that defines the project, lists available activities, and provides community contacts.

Can I earn the Girl Scout Gold Award even if I haven't been in Girl Scouts very long?

Yes! You just need to be a registered Girl Scout and be willing to complete the hours necessary to earn this award.

Do I need to do the steps in any particular order?

You can do the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award, the Girl Scout Gold Career Award and the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge in any particular order or even work on them simultaneously, but you must have completed them, be age 15, and receive your council's approval before starting your Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

What if I've already done some similar activities while doing other Girl Scout awards? Can these activities count toward my Girl Scout Gold Award?

Activities done prior to working on your Girl Scout Gold Award may not count toward the number of hours for this award. If you have earned the charm for a STUDIO 2B Focus book that is one of the requirements for one of the awards, you will need to set new goals for yourself in that Focus book.

What is the role of the council's Girl Scout Gold Award committee?

This is a group of adult volunteers dedicated to helping you succeed. They will review the size, scope, and cost of your project and make recommendations to ensure that it is in fact an appropriate project to earn a Girl Scout Gold Award. They might also be aware of community issues and dynamics that impact your project and may be able to introduce you to other adults who can assist.

Who are the adults who can support me with this project?

If you are in a Girl Scout troop, your troop's advisor may become the adult who can support you. Going for your Gold Award is a great opportunity to expand your network and for you to discover experts who can assist you in your project plans and implementation.

Am I expected to use my own or my parent's money to finance costs associated with the Girl Scout Gold Award Project?

When designing your project, it's important to think creatively about how you can make a difference with little or no money. Then talk to your council about ideas for financing the project or arranging for the donation of materials and services. Please see the section on money-earning guidelines on pages 31-37.



MONEY

MONEY AND YOUR LEADERSHIP PROJECT

One of the challenges facing every girl going for her “Silver” or “Gold” is financial. On the one hand you are asked to meet a need in your community; on the other hand, you have some major constraints outlined in *Safety-Wise* and by your council. So what’s a girl to do?

Okay. The reality first. Then some possible ways to approach it. Think of those who have gone before you. They figured it out, and so can you! Then clear the adjustments you have made in your plan with your Girl Scout council.

“The sense of pride and accomplishment you get when you complete your project...that’s what brings everything together. That’s when you know it was worth all the effort.”

—Stephanie, 17



Ten Top Money-Earning Ideas for Groups

- 1. Sell Girl Scout Cookies.** Think big—why not fax order forms to businesses in your area, or arrange for booths at sports events or college dorms. You end up helping your council as well as your group.
- 2. Provide childcare** at special events during the holiday season or community events. Arrange for an adult trained in first aid to be present.
- 3. Recycle aluminum cans.** How about a community can-a-thon? Involve small businesses as well as families.
- 4. Put on gigantic garage sales.** Don't forget to make refreshments for sale!
- 5. Offer clown activities and face painting** at family events or malls.
- 6. Wrap gift packages** at holiday fairs.
- 7. Apply for a community improvement grant** in partnership with an adult advisor. Check with the mayor's or governor's office and your council. Arrange for an adult to be the signer. Remember that adults must do the actual "ask" and sign any paperwork. The money may need to go through your council or service unit as well.
- 8. Hold a penny drive.** Appeal to friends and family to save loose change for you. Donations of coins can accumulate really fast, and can present you with the nice problem of hauling a heavy load to the bank.
- 9. Recruit "shareholders"** for your group's budget. Figure out the total budget and seek sponsors who support your year's activities. As shareholders, they deserve an annual report.
- 10. Provide classroom or home birthday parties** on order, cupcakes and games for the busy mom.

You can't ask for money as a girl member of Girl Scouts. Because of certain regulations, you can't ask for materials or services (technically called gifts-in-kind) either. Such asking is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout policies—and for a lot of reasons (legal and otherwise), adults are the only people who can raise money for Girl Scouts.

What you can do: Since adults can solicit money, work with an adult partner if you really need to get a donation of materials or need some funds. You can describe your project to others, write a letter, do a PowerPoint™ presentation, or write the grant, but an adult has to do the actual ask and sign on the dotted line. And don't forget to clear the solicitation with your council. No way around it.

You can't raise money for another organization as a Girl Scout. That means you can't have a bake sale and tell people that you are giving the proceeds to a homeless shelter for meals, you can't ask for pledges for a walk-a-thon to benefit breast cancer research, and you can't hold a benefit dance to raise money for Sally's kidney operation.

What you can do: This is where it gets a bit tricky. Your group can hold a bake sale or birdhouse sale and can charge a fee to an approved event that you put on to earn money for your troop's or group's activities. However, your group must have council permission for any money-earning activity. Your group may then decide to use that money toward the completion of a Girl Scout Silver or Gold Award Project, such as the purchase of materials. It must be a group decision on how to allocate the funds, which can be used for group or individual projects.

If you are an individually registered member, things are slightly different. You cannot earn money as an individual Girl Scout for yourself. The money you earn must go to an account held by a group (troop/group, service unit, or your council). Next, you must present your need for funds to that group. There is no guarantee that you will get back the amount of money you earned for the group, as the dispersal of funds will be a group decision. We suggest you first check with your council about the options open. There may be a grant process in place for funds earned by individual girls on product sales, or you might be put into a Gold Award interest group or group of "Juliettes" where, working with other girls and an adult advisor, you can develop a funding base for activities.



SOME MONEY-EARNING FAQs

Can I use my own money on the Girl Scout Gold Award Project?

Yes. If you want to use your own money, you can. You may receive help from your family, too. However, we encourage you to work with others to earn the money. That's part of the process. "Going for the Gold" is not meant to be a hardship on a family or individual.

Some individual activities with great potential:

- * pet walking and pet care
- * babysitting
- * lawn mowing and leaf raking
- * plant sitting
- * recycling
- * tutoring younger kids
- * computer problem solver
- * refereeing sports games
- * party giving: clowning, magic shows, game leading
- * jewelry making and jewelry repair

Can I ask friends and neighbors for help?

You shouldn't ask for donations of money, but you can ask for donations of time and stuff, such as clothing for a clothing drive or that pile of bricks left over from your neighbor's backyard project. However, if the neighbor wants to claim the donation as a tax deduction, he or she will need to make the donation to the council for IRS purposes and get a receipt signed by a council staff person.

What if what I want to do costs too much?

It's better to succeed with a smaller project that is within your budget than to be unable to complete a larger project because it exceeds your budget. Be realistic about what you can and can't do. Work with your adult advisor to develop a reasonable budget for your project. If your resources are not sufficient for you to realistically accomplish your goal, then you need to rethink the project. Planning is the key to a good Gold Award Project. You should be prepared with a budget for your project before you meet with your council Gold Award committee. Think it through and do your homework! Your council has the right to put a cap on spending, as well as to request that large donations go through the council

Five Money-Earning Ideas Not to Follow Through On

1. Money-earning projects where you are performing an activity that someone normally gets paid to do—in other words, **taking jobs away from people**, such as store workers, maintenance staff, or service providers. (However, if certain activities—for example, cleaning a stadium after a game or gift wrapping at a store—have previously been clearly defined within your community as opportunities for nonprofits to earn money, you can undertake these activities with council approval.)
 2. "Cheap labor" projects disguised as money-earning projects, such as bagging groceries at a supermarket or painting a business office. At first it may sound like a great idea, but you are actually being taken advantage of and taking away the job of someone who should be paid more money than you are being offered. That's why there are child labor and minimum wage laws!
 3. Money-earning projects where Girl Scouts of the USA might be perceived as **endorsing a product** or political viewpoint or cause. When in doubt, check with your council.
 4. Money-earning projects where the money goes to individuals rather than to your group as a group donation. You cannot be employed as a Girl Scout to earn money.
 5. **Selling anything on the Internet** as a Girl Scout. Safety issues and council boundaries are of primary concern here.
- Remember: Always check with your Girl Scout council before starting to plan a money-earning project.**

office. Work with them. See page 24 for more on creating a realistic budget.

Is it all right to seek help from other organizations when doing my Gold Award?

Yes, with some qualifications. Many service organizations have budgets for community projects. You can use their interests (e.g., Lions Clubs focus on vision care and Soroptimists may have a committee on literacy) as leverage to support your project and get volunteers to help you. Do some research on the local clubs. Even some businesses give workers time for community service hours and projects. However, remember the rule about having the adult doing the “ask” for actual money and gifts-in-kind, and clearing your joint approach with your local council. (Your council may be asking the same group for a major donation.)

I know you can't raise money as a Girl Scout for other organizations, but can I do it on my own?

As an individual, you can volunteer for other organizations, but you should not identify work that you do to raise funds for another organization as part of your time going toward the Girl Scout Gold Award. Additionally, you may not present yourself as a Girl Scout to the public in this process since you are a volunteer for another organization. For example: If the Red Cross needs money to purchase training dummies, you may participate under their supervision as an individual volun-

Earn It: A 19-Year-Old's Tips for Success

- 1. Figure out what you want to do early.** It is important to choose a project as soon as possible and focus on it.
- 2. Correspond weekly with your advisors.** Even if it is just to check in, they may have access to more resources than you do.
- 3. Be aware that the Girl Scout Gold Award committee looks for original, artistic, and creative projects.**
- 4. Don't wait until the last minute.** You have a busy senior year with lots of work, and problems can arise with the project or the paperwork.
- 5. Make sure you choose a project that is personally meaningful and relevant so you won't mind dedicating a lot of time to it.**

—Karis, age 19, now a sophomore at New York University



teer to raise funds, but you cannot count that service as part of your time toward any Girl Scout award or service hours. However, you can plan a Gold Award Project using the training dummies that were purchased as part of your efforts as a volunteer for that organization.

Can we charge for a Girl Scout event to earn money?

If it is a service project, a fee can be collected to cover the cost of materials. The project ceases to be a service project if you are charging a fee for the event above cost, in which case the hours cannot go toward service hours for any award. If you are doing an event as a Girl Scout (e.g., a Badge Workshop, Bike Rodeo, etc.) and are planning to charge a fee above the cost of materials, you must first clear this with your Girl Scout council. Provisions should be made for scholarships for troops or girls who cannot afford fees, and you must be clear in your advertisements and materials that this is a money-earning event for your troop or group.

“It's not the computers that make a successful project. It's the smile on a girl's face when she gets an A in math and science. It's the way she talks about herself, showing that she too can succeed. It's seeing a girl be responsible and happy with herself.”

—Nickole, 17

ALL THE STEPS

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD AT-A-GLANCE WORKSHEET

STEP 1: ORGANIZE BUILDING A FRAMEWORK

Start _____ Finish _____

Contact Girl Scout council:

I received this information from the council:

My advisor is:

My timeline to complete the seven steps is:

STEP 2: LEAD

EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD LEADERSHIP AWARD

Start _____ Finish _____

Interest Project

Interest Project

Interest Project

STUDIO 2B Focus Book

Leadership Role

30 Hours

Start _____ Finish _____

Put It Together

Start _____ Finish _____

STEP 3: NETWORK

EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD CAREER AWARD

I will spend 40 hours in:

Start _____ Finish _____

STEP 4: EXPLORE

GIRL SCOUT 4BS CHALLENGE

Start _____ Finish _____

BECOME: MYSELF

Goal 1: _____

Goal 2: _____

BELONG: COMMUNITY PROFILE

Now that I have completed this step, what implications have I discovered for my project planning?

BELIEVE: MY VISION STATEMENT

BUILD: MY NETWORK

STEP 5: CREATE PROJECT PLAN

Start _____ Finish _____

Use pages 11, 24, and 25 to complete your project plan.

STEP 6: ACT

TRACKING THE 65 PROJECT HOURS

STEP 7: REFLECT

REFLECTION AND EVALUATION

Use pages 12-14 to record your reflection and evaluation.