



Girl Scout Gold Award Program Planner



Girl Scout Council of Hawaii
Mission to Market Department

10/31/2006

Girl Scout Gold Award

Highest Award for Girls 14-17

The Girl Scout Gold Award is recognized as the highest award in Girl Scouting. It is a national award with national standards, awarded by local councils on behalf of Girl Scouts of the USA. It represents a girl's accomplishments in Girl Scouting and her community as she grows and works to improve her life and the lives of others.

Requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award

A girl must be 14 or going into grade 9 to work on steps 1-3 of her Girl Scout Gold Award. She must be 15 **or going into** grade 10 to start work on STEPS 4-7. She must complete it and the paperwork before age 18 or the end of her final girl membership year, September 30.

The first four requirements of the Girl Scout Gold Award help girls build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills, and make a commitment to self-improvement. The Girl Scout Gold Award Project can be undertaken when the first four requirements are completed. It can be done as an individual or with a group. If done with a group, a girl must be responsible for a specific part of the project and evaluate her contribution to the project and the group.

STEP 1: ORGANIZE

- Read Go for It! The Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert.
- Meet with advisor and develop a timeline for STEPS 2-4.
- Make an agreement with adult advisor.

STEP 2: LEAD

GIRL SCOUT GOLD LEADERSHIP AWARD (charm or can substitute old Leadership Award pin)

- Set the Spark: Earn three Interest Project Awards found in *Interest Projects for Girls 14-17* or online at www.studio2B.org related to parts of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- Do It Yourself: Earn a STUDIO 2B Focus Book and set goals to earn a charm.
- Take Action: Put leadership into action: spend 30 hours in a leadership role.
- Use the Go for It! The Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert to keep records and a journal for discussion with advisor.

STEP 3: NETWORK

THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD CAREER AWARD CHARM (GS Gold Career Award charm or may substitute old Career Exploration Pin)

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.
- Organize a career fair
- Publish a newsletter or create a Web page about careers for school.

- Partner with one or more Girl Scout council staff members.
- Use “Go For It” Girl Scout gold Award STUDIO 2B insert to “journal it” for discussion and evaluation with advisor

Fast Track: If a girl currently has a paying job or has started her own business and has put 40 hours on it, she can use this experience in place of the above step.

STEP 4: EXPLORE

THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD 4Bs CHALLENGE CHARM

This challenge focuses on “become, belong, believe and build” and how activities relate to these concepts and the Girl Scout Law. The challenge is meant to lead a girl to a relevant Girl Scout Gold Award.

- **Become: Yourself-**In order to become your best self, you need to set goals for your personal growth. Assessment of skill set and setting and achieving two goals related to self-improvement.
- **Belong: Your Community-** You belong to a community. Who else lives there? Create a Community profile to find out more about the community needs and assets.
- **Believe: A Vision for Change-**Crafting a vision for change is the initial step for making the change become a reality. Create a vision for change by focusing on community needs. Come up with an actual vision statement for one’s Girl Scout Gold Award project based on challenge focusing.
- **Build: Your Network-** Focus on developing a specific network of people who might help with the vision

Use **page 18 in Studio 2B Focus book: *Write Now*** on building persuasive skills to help persuade others to support your position on this issue.

Use **Go for It! The Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert** to keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor.

Note: Hours spent on the Girl Scout 4 B’s Challenge can be applied to the Girl Scout Gold project hours.

STEP 5: THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT

- **Plan It**
 - Figure out what the community problem is and what you want to do about it.
- **Know More About It**
 - Collect as much information as you can. Find out what you need to know about your issue before you move ahead.
- **Choose It**
 - Choose what you want to do about your issue, be specific. Brainstorm all the ways you can solve the problem and then decide which is the best way to go.
- **Budget It**
 - Create a budget and review funding sources with your Girl Scout council. Look at the money-earning ideas and guideline in “Go For It!”
 - Have you created a realistic budget?

- Solicitation of Contributions for Gold Award Projects
 - The Blue Book of Basic Documents states that "girls may not engage in any direct solicitation for money." You'll need your leader's signature on any letter of request for support.
 - Look at Safety-Wise "Money Earning/Troop Financing" page 74 standard 28 & 29.
 - Decide how much money you will need. Write a budget, with help from your leader or advisor.
 - Does the income section include money you have earned?
 - Is Your Budget More Than \$300? Think about what businesses might be interested in funding your project. Call the GSCH Fund Development Department at 595-8400, for guidance on resources, and for permission to solicit specific business. There are restrictions on which businesses you can solicit, because many businesses already generously support Girl Scouting in Hawaii.
 - If the Donation is \$250 or More,
 - The check must be made payable to the Girl Scout Council of Hawaii (GSCH).
 - Please have the check mailed to the GSCH at 420 Wyllie Street, Honolulu, HI 96817.
 - Call the Fund Development Department at 595-8400. Let us know that you have successfully secured a donation of \$250 or more (congratulations!) and when to expect it. We'll deposit the check and reissue the funds to your troop as quickly as possible.
 - The council will acknowledge the donation in writing, as required by the Internal Revenue Service.
 - It is your job to write a personal thank you letter to the donor.
 - If the Donation is Less Than \$250,
 - The check must be made payable to the troop, never to an individual.
 - It is your job to write a personal thank you letter to the donor.
 - How to Write A Letter of Request?
 - Personalize the letter; find out to whom the request should be sent.
 - Clearly state your project in as few words as possible, briefly explaining the Gold Award.
 - State your total monetary goal and how much you are requesting.
 - Explain how the funds will be used.
 - Explain how your project will benefit others.
 - Include who to call for more information; use an adult's name and telephone, never your own.
 - Illustrate your project with a photograph, a sketch, or sample of the product.
 - Keep the letter to one page.
 - Include a return envelope addressed to your troop or the Girl Scout Council of Hawaii, depending on the amount of the request.
 - Thank the reader for their consideration of your request.

Also read "MONEY and Your Leadership Project" for money guidelines and ideas in this booklet.

- Map It
 - Is your project realistic? Be careful not to plan a project that is too demanding and will be difficult to complete, know your limits.
 - If this will be a group project, does each girl have a well-defined role and does the role stand on its own?
 - Have you designed your project to meet the minimum hours required? Your project must take a time commitment of 65 hours, minimum, of your time. Keep a journal of your unique role, hours, and accomplishments using any form that you desire. Your time should include your hours spent researching, planning, making contacts, training and directing others, actual implementation, cleanup and post-project evaluations.
 - Have you reviewed Safety-Wise? Safety-Wise contains GSUSA program standards, guidelines and checkpoints for safety. It must be consulted to ensure your project falls within the acceptable safety guidelines.
 - Create a timeline of project steps and list of resources needed. Fill out project plan for the council.
 - Work with a Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor.

Submit Plan to Girl Scout Council of Hawaii

- Follow council submission guidelines. A girl cannot start on the project until go-ahead is received from the Council.
- Receive Feedback from council.
- Council must approve any money earning or gift-in-kind plans related to project.
- Adjust plans if necessary.

STEP 6: TAKE ACTION

- Do It! The project should:
 - Take approximately 65 hours to complete (including planning time)
 - Provide community service, outside of Girl Scouting
 - If you need a Certificate of Insurance from the Girl Scout Council of Hawaii to secure a site for your Gold Award project, you must request this from Council at least one month prior to your event. To request the certificate of insurance, you must provide the following information:
 - Name of event
 - Date and time of event
 - Place of event with complete address, phone, FAX number and point of contact
 - Any special wording required
- Adjust plans if necessary
- Be flexible
- Carry out project
- Use **“Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award Studio 2B** insert to keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with girl Scout Gold Award project advisor

STEP 7: THINK ABOUT IT

- Use **“Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award Studio 2B** insert to keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor.
- Submit Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to council

Completion

- Evaluate your project with your Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor. You need to fill out the Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report form, have your advisor sign it, and submit it to GSCH Mission to Market Department.
- Send out Mahalos to donors and volunteers
- In the month of May GSCH recognizes Gold Award recipients (deadline set by GSCH Mission to Market Department) of the current year at a special ceremony. You and your family, your Leader, and your Project Advisor(s) will receive an invitation to the ceremony. The date will be listed in the GSCH Program Guide.
- RSVP to GSCH Mission to Market Department if you want to be recognized at the Statewide Gold and Silver Ceremony in May. RSVP deadline to participate in the ceremony is April 1st.
- Ceremonies can also be planned by individuals, groups, or service units to honor girls upon completion of their award.

Inspiration Corner

Need inspiration? Here are some sample projects to get you thinking:

- Start a bat education program for nature centers and schools, including a travel box and talk, as well as helping the community set up neighborhood bat boxes.
- Create a program for educating parents on the dangers of lead poisoning and present it at community events.
- Create a pedestrian safety campaign in your community; present the need for a stoplight in your community at a busy intersection to your local city council based upon your research.
- Develop a breast cancer awareness program in your community for mothers and teens through local women's church groups.
- Organize a chapter of SADD and plan a campaign for safe graduation parties in your community with representatives from the different high schools.
- Develop an anti-bullying program for children, that includes a drama component and peer counselors.
- Plan and host a student art show as part of a community event.
- Set up a cybercafe in a retirement home and train volunteers to help new users connect with information and their loved ones.
- Start a community clothes closet for homeless or low-income teens
- Present a movement class using music and art at local senior centers.
- Train a guide dog for the blind and educate others about the project.
- Write, cast, and direct a play to promote community conflict resolution.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RESOURCES

- "Go For It" Girl Scout Gold Award insert
- Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11-17
- Interest Projects on www.studio2B.org
- STUDIO 2B Focus Books, especially Write Now!
- Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award charm
- Girl Scout Gold Career Award charm
- Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge Award charm

- The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors
- Revised www.girlscouts.org Webpage:
 - Girl Scout Central: Girl Scout Gold Award
 - Where to Place Insignia on the Uniform
 - How to Wear the New Stuff (summer 2004)
 - Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal form
 - Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report form
- www.studio2B.org Webpage