

**Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines**



# **Girl Scout Gold Award Project Guidelines and Forms**

**It is suggested that you print out a copy of these forms before filling them out to have a reference for yourself with the page number references intact.**

**These pages have been designed for you to complete in a Microsoft Word document. We are looking for narrative descriptions, so the boxes for your answers will expand as you type. Please answer as descriptively as possible.**

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## **Introduction**

### **The Girl Scout Gold Award**

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout from age 15-18 or in grades 10-12, may earn. For many, the leadership skills, organizational skills, and sense of community and commitment that come from “Going for the Gold” cement the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship.

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes the leadership, effort and impact girls have had on their communities. Only about five percent of eligible girls take the rigorous path towards earning this prestigious award. Those that complete the journey, change the lives of others and their own in amazing and significant ways. The roots of the Girl Scout Gold Award are in history of the organization, whose tradition of the highest leadership awards for the Girl Scouts have included the Golden Eaglet of Merit (1916-1918), the Golden Eagle (1919-1938), First Class (1938-1982) and The Curved Bar (1940-1980).

### **The Girl Scout Gold Award Project**

The Gold Award project is the culmination of all the work a girl puts into “Going for the Gold.” It is something that a girl can be passionate about—in thought, deed and action. The project is something that fulfills a need within a girl’s community (whether local or global), creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing. If it is an event, the event should be something that people will want to continue for the next year; if it is a service, it should be something tangible, it should come with a plan for use and maintenance within the community. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership and networking skills. If a group of girls work on the project together, each girl must be responsible for a specific part of the project and must evaluate her participation as an individual and a member of the group.

## **Guidelines to Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award**

You must be a registered Girl Scout throughout your entire Girl Scout Gold Award project. Requirements that you started prior to becoming a 9<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scout cannot be applied toward your Gold Award.

Your project should require your commitment and a minimum effort of 65 hours. If this is a group project, each girl is required to spend a minimum of 65 individual hours. The hours begin after the project has been approved by the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee. Keep a time log detailing the time you and others spend on your project to submit with your final project evaluation

Projects can be completed either individually or in a group. If you choose to work in a group, each girl must assume equal amounts of responsibility and applications should be completed individually reflecting your part of the project. Everyone must be given an opportunity to learn and grow by acquiring the skills needed to meet the goals and complete the project. If the project has been approved for the group and one or more girls drop out, the remaining members would need to contact their Girl Scout Gold Award Liaison in writing to explain how the work of the exiting member(s) will be divided among the remaining project members.

Before starting your project, complete the Girl Scout Gold Award Initial Application Form and mail it to the Bemidji Program Service Center. Please email a copy as well. Applications must be received on or before the first of a month in which there are interviews (September, November, January, March, June). Applications received after the first of the interview month will be scheduled for the next interview date.

The Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee will conduct interviews to approve initial project proposals and final project reports. These interviews are held on the third Saturday of the interviewing month. The interview sites are determined by the location of the applications received. Advisors, parents, guardians, and mentors are welcome to accompany you to your interview, and to observe (but not speak at) the interview session. If this is a group projects, all girls must attend the interview. At the conclusion of the interview the applicant(s) will be informed if the project has been approved as proposed, has not been approved, or is conditionally approved pending changes

If there are any major changes to your project, they must be approved in writing. If you are not sure if something is a major change, contact your Girl Scout Gold Award Liaison. Fill out and send the "Girl Scout Gold Award Significant Project Changes" form to your Girl Scout Gold Award liaison. Your liaison will review the changes with the committee and notify you of their decision.

Upon completion of your project, send a completed "Gold Award Final Report" form, including a Girl Scout Gold Award Time Log, Girl Scout Gold Award Volunteer Log, and Girl Scout Gold Award Detailed Budget, to the Bemidji Service Center, Leadership Program Manager, for final interview scheduling. Be prepared to present the results of your project to the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee. This could include slides, videos, scrapbooks, photo albums, newspaper articles, or any other documentation that would help the committee in its evaluation of your project. Keep a copy of all documents and exhibits (videos, slides, etc) that you send to the council and bring it to your interview.

All documents submitted in the initial or final phase of the Girl Scout Gold Award application must be word processed, using full sentences, good grammar, and spell check. Applicants are encouraged to use a spreadsheet format for all logs and budgets.

## 7 Steps to Achieving Your Girl Scout Gold Award

Check When Complete	Step	Description	Age / Grade Eligible
	1 – Organize	Build a framework.  Get organized so that you can carry out the other six steps.	Age 14 – 18, Grade 9-12
	2 – Lead	Earn the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award.  Put the Girl Scout Law into action.	Age 14 – 18, Grade 9-12
	3 – Network	Earn the Girl Scout Gold Career Award.  Reach out and build your network.	Age 14 – 18, Grade 9-12
	4 – Explore	Earn the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge.  Develop your voice.	Age 15 – 18, Grade 10-12
	5 – Create	Create a Project Plan.  Map out your Girl Scout Gold Award Project.	Age 15 – 18, Grade 10-12
	6 – Act	Do the Girl Scout Gold Award Project.  Make a difference in your community on something you care strongly about. Your project must total a minimum of 65 hours of planning and doing.	Age 15 – 18, Grade 10-12

### **STEP 1: BUILD A FRAMEWORK**

- Read the *Go for It! The Girl Scout Gold Award* STUDIO 2B insert
- Meet with troop/group advisor or Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor and develop a timeline for steps 2-4
- Make an agreement with your adult advisor

### **STEP 2: EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD LEADERSHIP AWARD CHARM**

- Earn three Girl Scout Interest Project awards related to parts of the Girl Scout Law.
- Set goals and earn charms for the STUDIO 2B Focus book of your choice.
- Log 30 hours in a leadership role.

### **STEP 3: EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD CAREER AWARD CHARM**

- Do a total of 40 hours related to career exploration.
- Or, Fast Track it with a paying job or your own business.

### **STEP 4: EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD 4Bs CHALLENGE AWARD CHARM**

- **Become:** Assessment of skill set and setting and achieving two goals related to self-improvement.
- **Belong:** Create a community profile to find out more about the community needs and assets.
- **Believe:** 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:** Focus on developing a specific network of people who might help with the vision.
- **Optional:** use page 18 in *STUDIO 2B Focus: Write Now* on building persuasive skills to help convince others to support your position on this issue.
- Refer to the *Go for It! The Girl Scout Gold Award* STUDIO 2B insert to journal for discussion and evaluation with Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor.

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

### **STEP 5: PLAN YOUR GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT**

- Plan it: Keep record of time and process using *Go for It! The Girl Scout Gold Award* STUDIO 2B insert.
- Know more about it—research information on it.
- Choose it—brainstorm ways to solve problem, create a budget. Council must approve any money-earning or gift-in-kind plans related to project.
- Map it—create a timeline of project steps and list of resources needed. Fill out project plan for council.
- Work with Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor/Consultant.
- Submit plan to Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee for approval
  - Follow council submission guidelines. A girl cannot start on project until go-ahead is received from the Gold Award Mentor Committee
  - Receive feedback from council.
  - Make adjustment to plans if necessary.

**STEP 6: ACT**

- Do it! Put plans into action.
- Adjust plans if necessary
- Carry out project

**STEP 7: Reflect**

- Evaluate
- Celebrate

A more complete discussion of the Girl Scout Gold Award can be found in the *Go for It! The Girl Scout Gold Award* STUDIO 2B insert or materials available from your Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines Service Centers,

**Do's and Don'ts**

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the <i>Go for It! The Girl Scout Gold Award</i> STUDIO 2B insert for planning and documenting your activities.</li> <li>• Attend a council orientation on "Going for the Girl Scout Gold Award" if possible.</li> <li>• Get council approval before starting on your Girl Scout Gold Award project.</li> <li>• Find out if your council has a schedule for submission of reports for award ceremonies and plan accordingly.</li> <li>• Follow all national and council guidelines for money-earning and safety.</li> <li>• Work with a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor.</li> <li>• Be realistic about planning a budget for your project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be afraid to do an individual project based on your own interests that meets a need in your community.</li> <li>• Start a project until you have had your project plan approved by your Girl Scout council.</li> <li>• Lose your vision and leadership in the course of the project—you are the one in charge, even when facilitating the work of others.</li> <li>• Don't ask for money or donations yourself. Work with an adult who has to do "the ask" after getting council permission.</li> <li>• Get locked into earning the Gold Award—it is a personal choice.</li> </ul>

## From Good To Great – Successful Girl Scout Gold Award Project Examples

A Girl Scout Gold Award project is more than a community service project. It involves girl planning, leadership, skill challenge and development, leadership, decision-making, and focus on addressing community needs. In a group project, each girl must have an individual role and individual responsibilities. Here are several examples of good community service projects and how they can be expanded to meet the Council guidelines for a good Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Community Service Project	Girl Scout Gold Award Project
Volunteering hours at a park service site picking up litter.	Coordinating the re-seeding of an area with native vegetation and eliminating non-native vegetation. Then creating an interpretive guide on what the area was originally like and the importance of preserving native species. Having an education day for youngsters in the area to learn about the native species.
Volunteering at a local library doing children’s story hours, or conducting a book drive for an organization.	Creating a summer reading program for a migrant work camp. Assure that each child in the program receives their own bilingual book. Match the children with volunteer tutors from the local high school Spanish club members to create an ongoing relationship.
Volunteering to collect games, clothing, and/or food for a local teen or women’s center.	Creating a health access booklet for teens in the community. Coordinate a teen health fair with booths represented by local / area organizations. Collect canned goods for the local food shelf as admission to the health fair.
Putting on and/or acting in a play to commemorate the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of a community.	Research and write a script for a cemetery tour focusing on the founders of the community. With volunteers, cast for parts, create costumes, and arrange for a series of evening cemetery tours to kick off the celebration for the founding of the community.
Planting flowers in a local park.	Work with the city park department to start a public garden in your community. Coordinate use of the garden. Provide food to the local food bank from the garden. Establish a greenhouse at a local school and / or retirement center to start plants early, using school children or retired adults as mentors.

## 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.

## Money and Your Girl Scout Gold Award Project

One of the challenges facing every girl “Going for the Gold” is financial. You have some major constraints outlined in *Safety-Wise* and by your council money-earning guidelines.

PLEASE NOTE: Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines asks that you send donations (checks and the value of items donated) to the Fund Development Director at the Waite Park Regional Center. They will issue the money back to you for your project. This allows them to track donations, and the donator receives an acknowledgement allowing them to take the tax-deductible contribution.

Here are some ways to approach the issue of financing your Girl Scout Gold Award project.

What You CAN'T Do:	What You CAN Do:
<p>You can't ask for money as a girl member of Girl Scouts. You can't ask for materials or services (technically called gifts-in-kind) either. This 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 Scouting.</p>	<p>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 <b>can</b> describe your project to others, write a letter, create 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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>This is where it gets a bit tricky. Your troop/group <b>can</b> hold a bake sale or birdhouse sale and can charge a fee to an approved event that you put on to earn money <b>for your troop/group's activities</b>. However, <b>your troop/group must have council permission for any money-earning activity</b>. <b>Your troop/group may then decide to use that money toward</b> the completion of a Girl Scout Gold Award Project, such as the purchase of materials. It must be a troop/group decision on how to allocate the funds, which can be used for group or individual projects.</p>

If you are individually registered, things are slightly different. You cannot earn money for yourself as an individual Girl Scout. The money you earn must go to an account held by a group (troop/group, service unit, or your council). 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. There may be a grant process in place for funds earned by individual girls on product sales, or you might be put into a Girl Scout 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.

## Group Money-Earning Ideas

Reminder: All Girl Scout activities must meet **Safety-Wise** and council guidelines.

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. (Be sure to have an adult trained in first aid present.)
3. Recycle aluminum cans. (How about a community can-a-thon? Involve small businesses as well as families.)
4. Put on a gigantic garage sale. Don't forget to make refreshments to sell!
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. (Check with the mayor's or governor's office and your council. Arrange for an adult to be the signer. The money may need to go through your council or service unit, as well.)
8. Hold a penny drive. Appeal to friends and family members 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 prepare an "ask" for 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).

### Do **Not** Engage In The Following Kinds Of Activities:

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 defined clearly as opportunities for nonprofits to earn money, you can undertake these activities with council approval.
2. "Cheap labor" projects disguised as money-earning projects. 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. This includes getting paid to pass out flyers for political candidates or freebees at a business opening. When in doubt, check with your council. Contact the Council Fund Development Director regarding money raising and donations.
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.

## Some Frequently Asked Questions on Money

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

A: 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. 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 and advisor about ideas for financing the project or arranging for the donation of materials and services.

Some individual activities with great potential:

Pet walking and pet care, Babysitting, Lawn mowing, Leaf raking, Plant sitting, Recycling, Tutoring younger kids, Providing respite care for family caregivers, Refereeing sports games, Party giving (clowning, magic shows, game leading), Making or repairing jewelry, Creating hand-made greeting cards, Providing a calligraphy service for addresses on special invitations.

Q: *Can I ask friends and neighbors for help?*

A: You shouldn't ask for donations of money, but you can ask for donations of time and materials, 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.

Q: *What if what I want to do costs too much?*

A: 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 Girl Scout Gold Award Project. You should be prepared with a budget for your project before you meet with your council Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor 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 office. Work with them. See your "Go for It!" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert for more on creating a realistic budget.

Q: *Is it all right to seek help from other organizations when doing my Girl Scout Gold Award?*

A: Yes, with some qualifications. Many service organizations have budgets for community projects. You can use their interests (e.g., Lions Club International focus on vision care, Some optimists groups may have a literacy committee) as leverage to support your project and get volunteers to help you. Do some research on local service organizations. Even some businesses give workers time for community service hours and projects. 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 major donation and you don’t want to interfere with the council’s “ask.”) Don’t let the organization’s agenda drive your vision for your project.

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

A: 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 your local Red Cross needs money to purchase training dummies, you may participate under their supervision as an individual volunteer 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 Girl Scout Gold Award project using the equipment that was purchased as part of your efforts as a volunteer for that organization.

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

A: 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 in 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. Provision should be made for scholarships for troop/groups or individual girls who cannot afford fees to your event and you must be clear in your advertisements and materials that this is a money earning event for your troop/group.

## Ways Adults and Mentors Can Support the Girl Scout Gold Award Applicant

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting. It represents a girl's commitment to herself and to her community, as she focuses on leadership, career exploration, personal challenges and completing a lasting project that will benefit her community. It takes many hours of preparation, planning and work to accomplish the goals a girl has set for herself.

Adults and mentors play a significant role in supporting a girl's path to the Girl Scout Gold Award. You may be called upon to be coach, mentor, cheerleader, sounding board and chauffeur. You are not expected to be a taskmaster — this is the girl's project. Here are ways that you can assist a girl:

- Read through the materials regarding the Girl Scout Gold Award so that you feel comfortable offering support.
- Help her choose a topic that will become the basis for her project if she asks for ideas. Remember, however, that the topic is based on her passions, not yours.
- Encourage and support her, but do not pressure her. "Going for the Gold" is something that a girl has to want to do herself.
- Recognize that this young woman is capable, competent and worthy of respect as she assumes greater citizenship and responsibility. You can help provide her with positive and constructive support on this journey.
- Aid her in accessing a network of adults who can lend insight, provide contacts, and point to resources. You may know someone that has a skill set the girl needs in an advisor. You may know of community organizations that the girl and her advisor can approach for financial assistance.
- Practice good parenting when it comes to making sure she gets enough rest, eats well and is supported by the whole family in her endeavor.
- Make sure the girl follows any Girl Scout safety or money earning guidelines during her path to the Girl Scout Gold Award. These are important to assure girl safety and the integrity of the Girl Scout program.
- Allow her to stumble and learn the lessons that come with the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. She will be working with a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor (See "Role of Girl Supporters"), an adult who will assist her and who has skills specific to the project, and a council Gold Award Mentor Committee liaison.
- Help with the project as asked or cheerlead from the sidelines if appropriate.
- Join in the celebration as she is honored for her accomplishments.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*Q1: Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?*

A1: Girls must be a registered Girl Scout to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award. The project must be completed and the final paperwork submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> following the girl's senior year in high school. If she graduates early, she has until she is 18 to complete the project and submit the final paperwork.

*Q2: Can girls earn the Girl Scout Gold Award if they are a Juliette?*

A2: Yes. Girls who are Juliettes are Girl Scouts. If a girl meets the age and membership requirements, she can work towards her Girl Scout Gold Award.

*Q3: Can a girl who is physically or mentally challenged earn the Girl Scout Gold Award using the same requirements?*

A3: The Girl Scout Gold Award is designed to help girls identify projects that will meet community needs and challenge them to develop leadership, organizational and networking skills. Projects may be developed based on adaptations to meet the physical and mental abilities of the individual girl. Recruitment of a project advisor who can work with the girl individually is recommended. Specific questions on adaptations can be directed to the GSUSA – Program, Membership and Research Group – Disabilities Consultant.

*Q4: Is the Girl Scout Gold Award Project completed by an individual or a group?*

A4: Girls may work individually or in a group, but they must each complete the application paperwork, required hours, final paperwork, and track their specific work and hours. There are many ways of assuming leadership that can be met through either individual or group projects.

*Q5: How could an individual project be expanded into a group project?*

A5: A group project must be broad enough to challenge each girl and allow each to take on leadership responsibilities and complete a minimum of 65 hours of planning and doing (with each girl doing some of the planning and some of the doing).

*Q6: Can a girl earn the Girl Scout Gold Award even if she hasn't been in Girl Scouts very long?*

A6: Yes. A girl needs to be a registered Girl Scout and be willing to complete the requirements necessary to earn the award.

*Q7: Does a girl have to have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award in order to do the Girl Scout Gold Award?*

A7: No. The Girl Scout Silver Award is a good foundation for the Gold Award process, but it is not required.

*Q8: Does a girl need to do the steps in any particular order?*

A8: Please reference the table and descriptions of the 7 Steps to completing the Gold Award table on pages 6-8 of this application information. Steps 1 through 3 (including the Leadership and Career Awards) can be completed in any order, or may be worked on together. However they must be completed before Steps 4 through 7. Steps 1 through 4 (Including the 4 B's Challenge) must be completed before beginning any work on your Girl Scout Gold Award project. Step 5 may be started when the girl is 15 or in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and after approval of the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee.

*Q9: What is the difference between a troop leader/advisor and project advisor/consultant? Are both needed?*

A9: A troop leader/advisor is the person who has worked with the girl up until the Gold Award project. They may have helped the girl through the first three steps before beginning her project. The troop leader/advisor may also help the girl identify a project advisor. The project advisor is an adult community member, with some level of expertise that is relevant to the girl's Gold Award project. Both of these people will aide the girl in finishing her Gold Award project successfully.

*Q10: When should a Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor/consultant be identified?*

A10: A girl might want to identify a project advisor at the very beginning of the 7 step process, but the troop leader / advisor can support a girl during Steps 1 through 3. GSUSA highly recommends that a project advisor be identified and available during Step 4 – the 4 B's Challenge, and before the Gold Award initial application is turned in to the Council. The troop leader, Council staff, or Gold Award Mentor Committee members may be resources for identifying a project advisor.

*Q11: May a parent be the project advisor/consultant?*

A11: GSUSA strongly recommends that a parent not be the project advisor, even if a parent is the troop leader. Ideally, an advisor is a community member with expertise in the area of the girl's project.

*Q12: If a girl has already done some activities similar to her project while doing other Girl Scout awards can these activities count toward her Girl Scout Gold Award project?*

A12: Activities done prior to the initial project approval by the Girl Scout Gold Mentor Committee may not count toward the number of hours for the Gold Award. If a girl has earned a STUDIO 2B charm that is one of the requirements for the Gold Award, she will need to set new goals for herself in that Focus book.

*Q13: What is the role of the Council's Gold Award Mentor Committee?*

A13: The committee will review all initial applications and final reports to assure that they fulfill the size, scope, and other requirements of a Gold Award project. Committee members will also be available as resources throughout the Gold Award process. A member of this committee will be assigned as a Liaison for each project. The liaison will follow the progress of the project and act as a communicator between each girl and the rest of the committee.

*Q14: What is the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge?*

A14: The 4 B's Challenge helps to increase ideas for projects and to prepare the girl for choosing a project.

*Q15: Can hours used during the 4B's Challenge be counted toward Gold Award project hours?*

A15: To an extent, hours logged during the process of developing a project can be counted toward the Gold Award for up to 15 of the 65 hours. At least 50 hours must still be direct Gold Award project time and cannot begin until after the initial interview and Gold Award Mentor Committee approval.

## Resources

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines	320-252-2952 1-800-955-6032	www.gslakesandpines.org
Council Gold Award Coordinator	Bemidji Service Center Leadership Program Manager 218-751-4886 1-800-955-6031	tandrews@gslakesandpines.org
Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines Fund Development Director	320-259-2952 ext. 256	Talk to this person about fund raising and donations
Girl Scouts of the USA		www.girlscouts.org
Interest Projects for Girls Scouts Age 11-17	Book available at Council Service Centers	
Studio 2B website		www.studio2b.org
STUDIO 2B Basics: Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It	Book available at Council Service Centers	
Studio 2B Focus Books	Book available at Council Service Centers	
United Way	Youth As Resources grant funding	2700 1 <sup>st</sup> St N St. Cloud, MN 56303 320-252-0227
Central Minnesota Community Foundation	Grant funding	101 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave S St. Cloud, MN 56301 320-253-4380
<b>Some local / area / state resources that may be helpful as you plan your project:</b>		
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (they have an excellent website)	Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other health care facilities	
Community Education centers	Places of worship	
Senior Citizen Centers	City Park and Recreation departments	
Salvation Army or related community services	Nature centers	

## Preparing for Your Gold Award Project

Earning the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting, takes long range planning. The work on the Girl Scout Gold Award requirements and project should take one to two years. This checklist is for your personal use and is designed to help you plan ahead and to make sure you fully meet all of the requirements.

Accurate records of all of your work toward completion of this award are important. Keep track of your accomplishments as your progress to the completion of your project. Journals, resource contacts, letters from career and volunteer service experiences, photographs, scrapbooks, and other documentation are helpful in making your final report complete.

### Girl Scout Gold Award pre-application requirements:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a Girl Scout age 14 to 18, registered with Girl Scouts on Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have obtained the Girl Scout Studio 2B Go For It insert and reviewed the planning process outlined and have documented my progress in Girl Scout Gold Award Guidelines and Forms.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have earned the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award (this includes the Interest Projects).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have earned the Girl Scout Gold Career Award.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have earned the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge Award.

### Girl Scout Gold Award Project – Planning

<input type="checkbox"/>	Based on my strengths, skills, talents and interests, I have chosen a project that I believe meets the Gold Award project guidelines for leadership and community service and that I will be able to complete.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have selected my project advisor (it is recommended that this not be the troop leader or parent).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have checked <i>Safety-Wise</i> and addressed any safety issues in my project proposal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have proposed money earning projects that meet established Girl Scout Council guidelines.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a proposed budget.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have obtained preliminary permissions from community groups / leaders if required for project completion.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have secured any necessary transportation needed for my project completion.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have completed the Girl Scout Gold Award Initial Application in a word-processed format.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have submitted the Girl Scout Gold Award Initial Application to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center (due by the 1 <sup>st</sup> of the interview months of January, March, June, September or November).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a confirmed date and time for my application interview. Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	I will bring my copies of my Girl Scout Gold Award application documentation to my interview.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a proposed timeline.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have made a copy of all documentation before sending it to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have received initial approval from the Gold Award Mentor committee (letter to follow) and can begin logging project hours.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines Gold Award Mentor Committee has assigned a liaison to me.
<b>Girl Scout Gold Award Project – Actual Project</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am recording all time spent by myself and others related to my project using a time log for myself and a volunteer time log for others.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have obtained any additional insurance needed for completion of my project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have secured a site for working on my project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have secured necessary volunteers to assist with my project completion. The majority of my volunteers are non-family members (community members or other Girl Scouts) and include adult volunteers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have secured any needed refreshments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have secured all of the supplies needed for my project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have had a minimum of monthly contact with my Gold Award Mentor Committee liaison(s).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have notified my liaison of a date and time to visit my project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have completed 65 hours of planning and actual project contact hour time.
<b>Girl Scout Gold Award Project – Final Interview</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have submitted a final budget detailing money earned and expenses in a spreadsheet format.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have completed a detailed final analysis of my project in a word processing format in the Final Project Report Form.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have my photographs / scrapbook / video to bring to the final interview.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have made a copy of all documentation before sending it to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have submitted the Gold Award Final Project Report Form to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center (due by the 1 <sup>st</sup> of the interview months of January, March, June, September or November).

<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a confirmed date and time for my final interview-- Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have received an indication of project approval from the Gold Award Mentor committee.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have received my letter of final approval letter from GSMWLP.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have filled out the Biographical Information Form and sent the Bemidji Service Center.
<b>Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have planned my Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have contacted the Council and my Liaison regarding the date and time of the ceremony.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have secured a place for the ceremony.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have contact the media or submitted an article to the local / area newspaper regarding my Gold Award project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have sent thank you's to all who assisted with my project.

## Girl Scout Gold Award Initial Application

### Paperwork and Completion

The Girl Scout Gold Award Initial Application form must be submitted to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center by the first day of the interview month prior to the start of your project. This application includes a timeline and plan for the project. The Gold Award Mentor Committee will review your proposal. They may make suggestions based on safety, timeline, or project standards. You can't start your project without approval from your Gold Award Mentor Committee.

The Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report must be filled in and submitted to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center by the first day of the interview month. All paperwork must be completed and submitted to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center by your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or September 30 after high school graduation, whichever is later.

Word process your application. Full and complete paragraph answers are expected and the forms are designed so that the boxes for your responses will expand as you type the information. Make a complete copy of your application documentation for yourself and bring it to the interview with you.

Send and email a complete copy of your application documentation to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center. Do not begin tracking hours for your project until you have received council approval.

# Girl Scout Gold Award Initial Application Form

Name of Applicant:			
Address:			
City:			
State:		Zip Code:	
Phone:			
E-mail:			
Age:		Grade:	
School Name:			
Service Unit		Troop / Group #	Are you a Juliette? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Troop Leader/Troop Advisor Name:			
Project Advisor Name (different from leader)			
Project Advisor Address:			
Project Advisor: City State: Zip Code:			
Project Advisor Phone – day			
Project Advisor Phone – evening			
Project Advisor E-mail:			
Type of Project: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group	If a group project, list all names:		
Title of project:			
Proposed project start date:		Proposed project completion date:	

## Step 2: Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award

Submit this information with your initial application.

To enter your information, click in the box and type. The box will expand to fit your answer. Please make your answers detailed and complete.

### Interest Project Patch #1:

This interest project patch helps me practice living by following this part of the Girl Scout Law: (check one)		<input type="checkbox"/> Honest and fair		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Friendly and helpful		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Considerate and caring		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Courageous and strong		
Name of Interest Project Patch Earned:	Describe what was done	Describe the ideas or skills you learned	Amount of time	Leader / Advisor Sign & Date Completed
Skill Builder #				
Skill Builder #				
Technology #				
Service Project #				
Career Exploration #				
Choice #				
Choice #				
Describe how you put the Girl Scout Law (above) into practice:				
Describe how this will make you become a better leader:				
Date Started		Leader or Project Advisor Signature		
Date Completed				

### Leadership Award - Interest Project Patch #2:

This interest project patch helps me practice living by following this part of the Girl Scout Law: (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Responsible for what I say and do			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Respect myself and others			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Respect authority			
Name of Interest Project Patch Earned:	Describe what was done	Describe the ideas or skills you learned	Amount of time	Leader / Advisor Sign & Date Completed
Skill Builder #				
Skill Builder #				
Technology #				
Service Project #				
Career Exploration #				
Choice #				
Choice #				
Describe how you put the Girl Scout Law (above) into practice:				
Describe how this will make you become a better leader:				
Date Started	Leader or Project Advisor Signature			
Date Completed				

**Leadership Award - Interest Project Patch #3:**

This interest project patch helps me practice living by following this part of the Girl Scout Law: (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Use resources wisely			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Make the world a better place			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Be a sister to every Girl Scout			
Name of Interest Project Patch Earned:	Describe what was done	Describe the ideas or skills you learned	Amount of time	Leader / Advisor Sign & Date Completed
Skill Builder #				
Skill Builder #				
Technology #				
Service Project #				
Career Exploration #				
Choice #				
Choice #				
Describe how you put the Girl Scout Law (above) into practice:				
Describe how this will make you become a better leader:				
Date Started		Leader or Project Advisor Signature		
Date Completed				

**Leadership Award – Studio 2B Focus Book:**

Type in the box and it will expand as you write. Make your answer thorough and detailed.

Name of Studio 2B Focus Book	
Describe your Focus Book experience:	
List the goals that you set:	
Describe what you learned about setting goals:	
Describe how what you learned will make you a better leader:	
Advisor Signature:	
Date Started:	Date Completed:

**Leadership Award – Lead It (30 Hours):**

<b>Did you (check one or more):</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Be an officer in a group or club at school	<input type="checkbox"/> Play a leadership role in your town	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chair or be a captain of an extra-curricular activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Play a leadership role at your place of worship	
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner with or shadow a leader in your community	<input type="checkbox"/> Assist in leading a Girl Scout troop	
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve in a leadership role for your Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed Leader in Training	
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve with adults on a Council committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed Counselor in Training	
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the “By Girls, For Girls” national advisory, or the local equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed Program Aide	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):	<input type="checkbox"/> Serve as a delegate to the national Council	
To enter your information, click in the box and type. The box will expand to fit your answer. Please make your answer detailed and complete.		
Describe your “Lead It” project and what you learned from it:		
Describe how you demonstrated a real understanding of the Girl Scout Law by applying it to a situation in your life:		
Describe several characteristics of a successful leader:		
Describe the accomplishments that you have made as a leader and are proud of:		
Describe how you have shown your personal integrity and honor in this project:		
Advisor Signature:		
Date Started:	Date Completed:	

**Step 3: Girl Scout Gold Career Award**

Submit this information with your initial application.

<b>Did you (check your chosen activity):</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Get a paying job	<input type="checkbox"/> Do a career internship or apprenticeship
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize & hold a career fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Career shadow one or more people
<input type="checkbox"/> Start your own business	<input type="checkbox"/> Publish a newsletter or create a web page for your school about careers
<input type="checkbox"/> Visit colleges or trade schools	<input type="checkbox"/> Partner with one or more Girl Scout Council staff people regarding career
<b>To enter your information, click in the box and type. The box will expand to fit your answer. Please make your answer detailed and complete.</b>	
Describe in detail your 40 hours of career-related activity and what you learned from them:	
Now that you have spent time exploring the world of work, write your dream job description:	
Advisor Signature:	
Date Started:	Date Completed:

## **Step 4: Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge Award**

Submit this information with your initial application.

To enter your information, click in the box and type. The box will expand to fit your answer. Please make your answers detailed and complete.

Give a detailed description of your challenge activities.

**\*\*Bring your completed packet for the challenge to your initial interview with the Gold Award Mentor Committee.**

**The issue that you identify in this section is the driving force of your Gold Award project.**

**Belong:** Describe what you found out about your community and the people who live there. Tell us the source(s) of your information.

**Believe:** List and describe the top five needs in your community and how you know that these are true community needs.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Describe why these needs exist.

Describe a project that can be done to address the root causes for these needs.

Describe where you fit in to addressing these causes.

Describe what your community will look like after the project is completed.

Describe what the long term effects of this project on the community.

Write and describe your vision statement of change for one aspect of the community needs that you identified.

**Build:**

List the other people in your community who care about this issue. Include their title or relationship to the community.

List the individuals and groups of people in the community that are affected by this issue and how they are affected.

List the people that have the power to help solve this issue and their title or relationship to the community.

List individuals and groups who support young people and community service.

List the political community leaders and their titles or affiliations.

List the community leaders who are not elected officials and their titles or affiliations.

Describe how you can gain the support of the people that you need to support your vision.

Advisor Signature:

Date Started:

Date Completed:

### Step 5: Girl Scout Gold Award Project Initial Application

Submit this information with your initial application.

To enter your information, click in the box and type. The box will expand to fit your answer. Please make your answers detailed and complete.

Describe your Gold Award project
Discuss your reasons for selecting this project.
Discuss the goals of the project. Include specific people and/or groups that will benefit and why.
Describe how this project meets the community involvement requirements of a Gold Award Project?
Describe how this project meets the leadership requirements of a Gold Award Project?
Describe how this project meets the longevity requirements of a Gold Award Project?
Explain how this project relates to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
Describe the personal strengths, talents, and skills that you will use to complete this project.
Discuss how this project will challenge you to develop additional strengths, talents, and skills.
Tell us about your project advisor:  Discuss your reasons for selecting this person  Describe the expertise this person will bring to the project  Describe how this person will support you during your Gold Award project.

List and describe in **DETAIL** the steps you will follow to complete your project. Include the facilities and equipment that you will use during your project as well as any special permission you will need to complete the project.

Step	Detailed description
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	



Develop a preliminary budget. Please include all foreseen sources of income and expenses. Use the "Proposed Budget form included in these guidelines (page 38).
Describe how you will document your Gold Award project:
Describe the methods or tools you will use to evaluate the success of the completed project?
If you have completed your Silver Award, please describe what your project was and your role in completing the project.

Date preference for initial interview with Council Gold Award Mentor Committee:	Time preference for initial interview:	
<input type="checkbox"/> January	<input type="checkbox"/> AM (9 – noon)	
<input type="checkbox"/> March	<input type="checkbox"/> PM (noon – 3:30)	
<input type="checkbox"/> June		
<input type="checkbox"/> September		
<input type="checkbox"/> November		
Any other information we should consider when scheduling your interview:		
Applicant Signature	Date	
Project Advisor Signature	Date	

### Girl Scout Gold Award Significant Project Changes

Please complete and send this form to your council liaison as soon as you realize that significant changes need to be made with your project. Remember, the changes need approval from the Council Gold Award Mentor Committee before you can continue on the changed project.

<b>Applicant Information</b>		
Your Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Home Phone:	(    )	
Best time to call:	AM:	PM:
Email:		
<b>Project Advisor Information</b>		
Name of Project Advisor:		
Advisor Phone: Include area code	Home: (    ) Work: (    ) Cell: (    )	
Advisor Email:		
<b>Project Information</b>		
Type of Project: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group	If a group project, list group names here:	
Project Title:		
Changes to be made: Please describe in detail. Why are changes needed? What specifically is being changed?		
Girl Signature:		Date:
Project Advisor Signature:		Date:





## Girl Scout Gold Award Proposed Budget

(Use a spreadsheet and give detailed budget items and a total)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Expenses		
Date	Item	Cost
<b>TOTAL</b>		

Income		
Date	Source of Income / Items Donated	\$ Amount OR \$ Value of Donation
<b>TOTAL</b>		

## Girl Scout Gold Award Final Budget

(Use a spreadsheet and give detailed budget items and a total)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Expenses		
Date	Item	Cost
<b>TOTAL</b>		

Income		
Date	Source of Income / Items Donated	\$ Amount OR \$ Value of Donation
<b>TOTAL</b>		

## Role of Girl Supporters

### Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance

#### Council Role

The designated GSMWLP staff member will facilitate the Girl Scout Gold Award process at the Council level. This includes:

- Market the award to troop leaders, Girl Scouts, parents and community members
- Recruit, orient and coordinate a Council Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor committee to facilitate the project process
- Keep Girl Scout Gold Award information in stock and available
- Provide an overview of the process to girls, troop leaders, and advisors
- Create collaborations with community groups providing potential leadership opportunities for girls
- Identify, develop and maintain a resource list of community-based project advisors

#### Liaison Role

The Liaison is a member of the Council Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee. This role includes:

- Act as a resource regarding the Gold Award project process
- Facilitate communication between the girl and the council and Gold Award Mentor Committee members
- Keep a record of all contacts with Gold Award applicants
- Give help, support and guidance when requested. It is the girl's responsibility to establish and maintain contact with her liaison.
- Will attend or visit the project. In the event that they cannot attend or visit the project, they will name the Committee representative that will attend in their place.
- Attend Gold Award ceremonies for their liaisons. In the event that the liaison can not attend the ceremony, they will seek another committee member to attend.
- If feasible, will participate in the ceremony as requested by the girl.

#### Project Advisor/Consultant Role

The project advisor is an adult with expertise in the approved project subject / area. This person may become involved early or later in the project, depending on the needs of the girl and the Council. GSUSA strongly encourages girls to consult with community individuals who have expertise in their project area. Some functions of the project advisor include:

- Advise on the project timeline
- Assist in shaping the vision statement
- Work with the troop leader if needed
- Contract with the girl on the project plan
- Advise on budget and safety issues
- Assist in requesting donations of funds or supplies
- Coach the girl in project planning
- Establish regular meetings with the girl
- Coach the girl in record keeping
- Coach the girl in project implementation
- Sign off on hours for project planning and project contact hours
- Coach girl with self evaluation
- Coach girl for her project presentation
- Sign off on the project evaluation and final report
- Participate in the girl's Gold Award ceremony, if feasible

**Leader / Troop Advisor Role**

GSUSA strongly recommends that the troop leader not act as project advisor. The troop leader continues to provide support and mentoring throughout the Girl Scout Gold Award process. Some of the roles that the leader may take on include:

- Learn the process
- Provide ongoing support and encouragement
- Share new information with the girl(s)
- Review the Studio 2B Go For It! Information
- Help the girl create a timeline
- Advise on safety and budget issues
- Help the girl identify options for her project advisor
- Advise on setting goals for each Interest Project and Focus Book
- Approve and sign off on activities
- Provide a way of acknowledging girl achievement during the process
- Advise on related careers
- Let go when needed
- Assist the project advisor as needed
- Assist in requesting donations of funds or supplies
- Assist with planning the ceremony as needed
- Participate in the ceremony as requested

# Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report

Name of Applicant:			
Address:			
City:			
State:		Zip Code:	
Phone:	(        )		
E-mail:			
Age:		Grade:	
School Name:			
Service Unit #:	Troop / Group #	Are you a Juliette? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Troop Leader/ Advisor Name:			
Project Advisor/ Consultant Name			
Project Advisor Address:			
Project Advisor:	City	State:	Zip Code:
Project Advisor Phone – day			
Project Advisor Phone – evening			
Project Advisor E-mail:			
Type of Project: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group	List names of all girls and hours spent on project:		
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Time (Hrs)</b>	
Title of project:			
Project start date:		Project completion date:	

Describe your Gold Award project:
Describe the community issues that your project addressed and the methods that you used to meet the proposed project objectives:
Describe the impact that your project had on the community:
Describe the impact that your project had on the Girl Scout organization:
Describe the impact that your project had on you personally:
Describe the most successful aspect of your project:
Describe things that did not go according to your initial plan and how you problem-solved to complete your project:
Describe things that worked well in accomplishing your project:
Describe one thing that you would do differently if doing the project again:
Describe how the project challenged you and how you went beyond your comfort level and previous skills to complete it. Include one challenge that you did not anticipate at the start of the project:
Describe your personal growth and development (including skill development) as a result of completing your project:
Describe what you learned about working with others: (if this was a group project address both working with members of the group AND with members of the community):
Describe how your project was evaluated:

**\*\*Include “Final Budget” (page 40), “Time Log” (page 37) and “Volunteer Log” (page 38) forms with your Final Project Report. You may also include any other exhibits that will assist the committee in evaluating your project. Please keep a copy of all paperwork and exhibits submitted to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center and bring your copy to the final interview.**

Date preference for final interview with Council Gold Award Mentor Committee:	Time preference for final interview:
<input type="checkbox"/> January	<input type="checkbox"/> AM (9 – noon)
<input type="checkbox"/> March	<input type="checkbox"/> PM (noon – 3:30)
<input type="checkbox"/> June	
<input type="checkbox"/> September	
<input type="checkbox"/> November	
Any other information we should consider when scheduling your interview:	

Applicant Signature		Date	
Project Advisor Signature		Date	

# Girl Scout Gold Award Applicant Biographical Information

**\*\*Return this form with your Final Project Report**

Name of Applicant:			
Title of Project:			
Address:			
City:			
State:		Zip Code:	
Phone:	(            )		
E-mail:			
Age:		Grade:	
School Name:			
School Address:			
School City/State/Zip			
Principal Name:			
School District Superintendent:			
Superintendent Address:			
Superintendent City/State/Zip			
Service Unit #:	Troop / Group #	Are you a Juliette? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Troop Leader/ Troop Advisor Name:			
City/Town Mayor:			
Mayor Address:			
Mayor City/State/Zip:			
State Legislative District #			
District Representatives			
District Senator			

## Recognition Information

### Photo:

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines recognizes Girl Scout Gold Award recipients on their council website. Please email a vertical “head shot” photo along with any necessary permission from the photographer to use the photo in council publications and for publicity purposes.

### Biographical Information:

Please submit the Biographical Information form in the Girl Scout Gold Award packet to the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center. This information will be used for articles in Council publications and to notify state and national organizations of your Gold Award. Please include a wallet-sized photo.

### Press releases:

You can submit an article on your achievement of the Girl Scout Gold Award and / or your Girl Scout Gold Award project to local and area newspapers. Your parents, troop, or service unit leader may assist you with this.

### Annual Meeting:

All Girl Scout Gold Award recipients will be invited to attend the next Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines Annual Meeting to be recognized for their accomplishment.

## Ceremony Information

- When you earn the Girl Scout Gold Award you can plan your celebration ceremony. This event can be as individual as you are. You are encouraged, however, to invite younger Girl Scouts as well as community members to raise awareness about the Gold Award.
- You will receive one Girl Scout Gold Award pin and one miniature Girl Scout Gold Award pin from Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines. When you notify the Leadership Program Manager at the Bemidji Service Center of the date and time of your ceremony, arrangements will be made for these to be available for you.
- Additional miniature pins are available for purchase from the Bemidji Service Center.
- Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines will reimburse you for up to \$50 for an individual ceremony or up to \$100 for a group ceremony for your ceremony expenses. This may include costs for hall rental, decorations, refreshments, invitations, or food. Additional aid may be available from your troop or service unit.
- Note: if you print programs please remember that copyright laws prohibit you from printing the words to the songs on your program without copyright permission.
- Some individuals that you may choose to send invitations to include:
  - Council staff
  - Your Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee Liaison
  - The Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee members
  - Your Girl Scout troop members
  - Other troops in your area or service unit
  - Previous Girl Scout Gold Award recipients from your area
  - Local / State elected and / or religious officials
  - Family and friends
- You may want to contact a friend or family member to take photographs of and / or video tape your ceremony.

## **To claim reimbursement for your ceremony expenses:**

Send a detailed itemized list of expenses with receipts to:

Leadership Program Manager  
Bemidji Service Center  
750 Paul Bunyan Drive NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

\*\*Please make copies of the itemized list and receipts before sending them in to the Council.

## **Public Recognition Information**

Upon receiving the Gold Award, you will be recognized by a number of organizations/individuals. GSMWLP has a system set up to inform these groups of your accomplishments and you will receive a congratulatory letter from them. Please be patient as the process can take up to six months.

Girl Scouts of the USA, New York, NY  
The President of the United States  
The Governor of Minnesota  
The Department of Health and Human Services, Washington DC  
The Postmaster General, Washington DC

All branches of the armed services acknowledge the accomplishments of Girl Scout Gold Award recipients by placing them at a higher E-2 level upon entry into military service.

Many American Legion organizations will award Gold Award recipients with an American flag; you will need to contact your local Legion to find out if they participate.

The Girl Scout Gold Award may also help you to find get scholarships:

GSUSA recognizes ten girls annually with the "Young Women of Distinction" Award. All GSMWLP Gold Award recipients are encouraged to submit their application for this award; information is available in March at [www.studio2b.org](http://www.studio2b.org) or the Bemidji Service Center.

The American Legion Auxiliary gives one national scholarship to a girl who has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and their appropriate religious award.

Many colleges and universities offer scholarships for the Gold Award and/or volunteerism. Information is available at [www.studio2b.org/gossipyouneed/scholarship\\_form.asp](http://www.studio2b.org/gossipyouneed/scholarship_form.asp) and at [www.gslakesandpines.org](http://www.gslakesandpines.org).

The Boy Scouts of America give five national Young American Awards nationally to individuals who exemplify excellence in leadership, academics, arts, community service, religion, humanities, or sciences.

## **How to Wear the Gold Award Insignia on Your Uniform**

Pin the Girl Scout Gold Award to the left of the Girl Scouts of the USA Membership Pin on the blouse or vest. The Girl Scout Gold Award signifies the highest award in Girl Scouting and completion of a Girl Scout Gold Award project.

The Girl Scout Silver Award should be moved to the line reserved for Religious and Other Awards, underneath the official Girl Scout nametag when the Girl Scout Gold Award is earned. It is important, however, that girls wear the awards they consider most important in this area to avoid a cluttered look.

Girl Scout badges, patches, awards, and other insignia that are earned for the accomplishment of skill-building activities or any set requirements should be presented, worn, or displayed only after Girl Scouts have completed the requirements outlined in the appropriate program materials. The STUDIO 2B bracelet and charm holder can also be worn with regular clothing.

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