



Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama
Girl Scout Gold Award Planner
2009-2011



Name _____

Date _____ **Troop #** _____ **Service Unit** _____

Only use this planner after completing the online training.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Steps to Take	4
Steps 1-3.....	4
Steps 4-7.....	5
Girl Scout Gold Award Project	6
Project Approval and Implementation	6
Award Ceremony	7
Contact Information	7
Project Proposal*	8
Step 1*	9
Step 2*	10
Step 3*	11
Step 4*	12
Step 5*	13-14
Final Report*	15
Step 6/Project Log*	16
Step 7*	17-18

*These pages will be submitted to GSSA.

Overview of the Girl Scout Gold Award

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement that a girl can earn in Girl Scouting! The Gold Award recognizes your commitment to yourself, your community, the world and your future. There are seven steps and they should not be rushed. You will need to work closely with your adult consultant/advisor as you complete the requirements. You will design and lead a project that takes a minimum of 65 hours, including “planning and doing” time, to complete.

You may begin working on the requirements once you have reached 14 years of age or have entered the ninth grade. Community service performed, requirements or other awards earned prior to this age or grade may not be applied toward the Gold Award. In addition, girls must be 15 or in the 10th grade to begin work on Steps 5-7, which is the actual Gold Award project. You are required to complete all steps in the following order:

Step 1	As soon as you make the decision to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award
Steps 2 and 3	In any order or simultaneously
Steps 4 — 6	You must complete these steps in chronological order, and should take a minimum of 65 hours to complete
Step 7	Complete after steps 4-6

As you work on your Girl Scout Gold Award project, use this planner to help guide you through the process and to help you keep accurate records of your work. The information in this planner will also be used during the recognition ceremony of your Girl Scout Gold Award and for public relations within the community and the council. Once you have completed step 5 you must send you project proposal to the Mobile Service Center for approval at least four-six weeks before you anticipate beginning your project. After the council reviews your paperwork, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with the Gold Committee. You will be notified when your project proposal is approved. When you have completed your project, send the final report and planner to the Mobile Service Center four to six weeks before you anticipate receiving your award. We will then schedule an exit interview with the Gold Award Committee. This will leave time for any additions or revisions the committee deems necessary. Your project proposal, final report and any additional forms should all be sent via e-mail to mbrutkiewicz@girlscoutssa.org or US Postal Mail to the Mobile Service Center.

In addition to this planner, you will need to read the insert *Girl Scout Gold Award – Go For It!*

Don't forget to take and collect pictures of your project! The council uses these pictures for publications, GSSA website, etc.

Steps to Take

STEP 1

ORGANIZE– Build a Framework

- **Read** the insert *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It!* and pay special attention to the Girl Scout Gold Award Q & A's in the "Girls Want to Know" section (pgs. 28-30). *New guidelines to reflect Journeys requirements will be issued Winter 2010.
- **Meet** with your troop advisor and/or Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor (MAY NOT BE A PARENT!). Submit a preliminary timeline outlining your plans for Steps 2-4 and when you will be ready to present your proposal to the Gold Award Committee. Refer to page 9 in the *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It!* insert.
- **Make** an agreement with your advisor.

STEP 2

LEAD - Earn the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award

- **Set The Spark** - Earn three Interest Projects (IP) Awards found in Interest Projects for Girls 11-17 badge book or online at www.studio2b.org. Each IP should relate to the three different parts of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- **Do It Yourself** - Choose a book from the Studio 2B Focus series, set goals with your adult advisor and earn the charm.
- **Put Leadership Into Action** - Spend 30 hours in a leadership role.
- **Put It Together** - Complete the statements found in *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It!* (pg. 13) to keep records and journal what you learned while earning your Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award. You should discuss your journal records with your advisor and be prepared to present a detailed explanation of your leadership experience.

Refer to *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It!* (pgs. 10-13) for details on the Fast Track and journal records.

STEP 3

NETWORK – Earn the Girl Scout Gold Career Award

Be prepared to describe the activities in detail.

Spend 40 hours doing one or a combination of the following:

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

Reflection Write your dream job description after completing 40 hours of exploring the working world. Include this in your planner.

Refer to *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It!* (pg. 15) for details on the Fast Track and Tool Kit suggestions. Remember to keep a journal to record your 40 hours.

STEP 4

EXPLORE – Earn the Girl Scouts Gold 4B’s Challenge

- **Become** - Assess your skill sets then set and achieve at least two goals for personal growth.
- **Belong** - Create a community profile to find out more about the community needs and assets.
- **Believe** - Create a vision statement for change by focusing on community needs. This statement should be your actual vision statement for your Girl Scout Gold Award project.
- **Build** - Focus on developing a specific network of people who might help you develop your vision.

Use the *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It!* insert and write a persuasive essay (100-200 words) with an opinion, reasons, and explanations of the reasons. Be sure and completely cover each of the 4 B’s.

Note: Hours Spent on Step 4: Girl Scout 4B’s Challenge, can be recorded toward your total project hours.

STEP 5

CREATE - Plan your Girl Scout Gold Award Project

- **Plan It** - Review everything you’ve done in Steps 1 - 4 and decide what community problem you want to focus on for your project. Talk to your advisor and keep records of the time you spent planning as well as making notes of the process.
- **Know More About It** - Research more information on your project and what you will need to proceed.
- **Choose It** - Brainstorm different ways to solve the community problem and choose the best solution.
- **Budget It** - Create a budget for your project. Review funding sources with your council and get approval for any money earning projects or gift-in-kind plans related to your project.
- **Map It** - Create a timeline of project steps and a list of resources needed. Fill out and submit your project proposal to the council (pgs. 8-14 of this planner). Make sure you follow the council submission guidelines and deadlines.

Do NOT begin implementing your project until you receive your approval letter from GSSA.

Refer to *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It!* (pgs. 22-25) for detailed information and journal records.

STEP 6

ACT - Take Action

- **Keep a log** (pg. 16) of hours spent planning and taking action on the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. You will have to submit this with your final report to the Council. Make sure you spend at least 65 hours planning and implementing your project (You may count hours spent during step 4-6).
- You may have to make changes and adjustments as your plan goes into action.

Once the project has been approved, any major changes to the project should be submitted to GSSA for review by the committee.

STEP 7

Reflect - Reflect and Evaluate

- **Complete** your Final Report (pgs. 15-18), and submit it to the council for final review. Try to include pictures.

Refer to *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It!* (pg. 27) for reflection questions.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project

The Girl Scout Gold Award Project is an opportunity for you to put your leadership skills, career interests and personal values together in order to serve your community. Your project should expand upon the skills that you have gained by completing the first four requirements.

- Your project is required to meet an expressed need in the community outside of Girl Scouting.
- You must select a project consultant/advisor (should not be a parent) with expertise in the field of your project.
- Always check *Safety-Wise* when planning your project.
- Create a timeline and consult GSSA on submission deadlines.
- Check with your consultant/advisor on the details of your project.
- You may enlist others to help you or work through organizations to put your project in place, but it is your vision and leadership that should make it happen.
- Consider the cost of the project and how the funds will be raised. Create a budget.
- Do not implement your plans until you receive approval of your project from GSSA.
- Your project should take 65 hours to complete, at a minimum. Keep a log of hours spent planning, making contacts, training others and implementing the project.

Project Approval and Implementation

Submit a copy of pages 8-14 of this planner along with any additional pages needed to document the details of the project to the Mobile Service Center at least four weeks before the proposal interview. Make sure to check with the GSSA on interview deadlines. Your project proposal will be reviewed by the Gold Award Committee and you will schedule a time to meet with the committee to discuss your project. A letter will be sent notifying girls of feedback from the committee and/or giving approval of the project.

Once it has been approved you may begin working on the project. Do not begin work on the project until the approval letter has been received.

Once the project has been approved, any major changes to the project should be submitted to GSSA for review by the committee.

Use the log, page 16 of this planner, to keep a record of all the hours involved with your project.

Final Report

When the Gold Award Project is finished, complete the final report on pages 15-18 of this planner.

Mail a copy of the final report from this planner and any additional pages needed to complete the report to the Mobile Service Center at least six to eight weeks before the final interview date.

Award Ceremony

Once you have earned your Girl Scout Gold Award, you can choose from one of the following options for the presentation of your award:

- Annual Council Meeting
- Older Girl Recognition Event
- Any event at the local level (any time)

Council staff is always available to present awards. Please give at least four weeks' notice. In order to receive congratulatory letters and certificates from government officials, please allow six to eight weeks from final approval of the Gold Award until the ceremony.

Note: The Program Department must approve invitations and programs for the presentation of the Gold Award before printing.

Contact Information

This project proposal, final report and any additional pages should be submitted to the Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama Mobile Service Center.

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama

Program Department

3483 Springhill Avenue

Mobile, AL 36608

mbrutkiewicz@girlscoutssa.org

800-239-6636, extension 1202

Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal

Please fill out by typing or printing in black ink. Make copies for your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor, your troop advisor and for yourself. Submit the original to GSSA by the submission deadline and at least **four weeks** prior to the anticipated proposal interview. **Do not** begin your project until you have received a letter of approval from GSSA. Check with GSSA for deadlines.

GIRL INFORMATION

Name _____ Birthplace _____
Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone: Home # _____ Cell # _____
E-mail Address _____ Age _____
Grade _____ School Name _____ Graduation Month and Year _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Names _____
Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone: Work # _____ Cell # _____
E-mail Address _____

GIRL SCOUT ADVISOR INFORMATION

Name _____ Troop # _____
Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone: Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____
E-mail Address _____

GOLD AWARD PROJECT ADVISOR INFORMATION

Name _____
Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone: Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____
E-mail Address _____

STEP 1

Organize

Build a Framework

Write or attach the timeline developed by you and your advisor.

Step 5

Create

Plan your Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Use as much detail as possible and answer all of the following questions thoroughly in your proposal. This must be typed.

Title of Project _____

Proposed Start Date _____ Proposed Completion Date _____

A. Describing your Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Use extra paper as necessary. Type at least 50 words per question.

1. Describe your Girl Scout Gold Award Project with as much detail as possible. _____

2. Describe the issue your project will address, what you hope to achieve and who will benefit. Provide specific information. _____

3. What were your reasons for selecting this project? _____

4. Identify people who will advise you or help you with your project. _____

5. Describe your role as a leader in this project. How will you locate, recruit, train, and involve other volunteers?

6. How will your project educate or inform the public about your issue? _____

7. How can your project be sustained after you complete it? _____

B. Attach your proposed budget. All fund raisers must be approved by the council eight weeks in advance. You may use cookie or fall product sale funds. Donations from family members or friends should be minimal.

1. If applicable, how do you plan to raise funds for this project? _____

C. Attach a realistic timeline for the project itself. Include resources (people, facilities, equipment). Refer to page 25 in the *Girl Scout Gold Award: Go For It* planner.

Additional pages may be used if more room is needed to complete each question.

Girl's Signature _____ Date _____

Girl Scout Advisor's Signature _____ Date _____

Note: *After* receiving a letter of approval, you may begin to implement your project.

For Office Use Only

Date Received _____ Date Reviewed _____

Project Proposal Approval _____ Date of Project Proposal Approval _____

Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report

Please fill out by typing or printing in black ink. Make copies for your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor, your troop advisor and for yourself. Complete the final report (pages 15 – 18) and submit the original to the Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama Mobile Service Center at least six to eight weeks before the final interview.

If any information has changed from your project proposal, please submit on an additional page.

Name _____

Title of Project _____

Beginning Date _____ Date of Completion _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Total # years in Girl Scouts _____

Education plans beyond High School _____

Presentation of Girl Scout Gold Award _____

See page 7 of this planner for information on Girl Scout Gold Award presentation options and deadlines.

Attach an additional page to your final report with the following information:

1. List major accomplishments, awards and recognitions you have received in Girl Scouts.
2. List organizational, religious group or club memberships.
3. List volunteer and employment history.

Please include a head shot and any pictures of other items we can use to write an article about your project.

F. Evaluate the impact of your project. Include the benefits your project provided to others. By what method (observation by you, observation by others, comments from others, smiles, etc.) did you reach those conclusions? _____

G. What did you learn about yourself as a result of this project? _____

H. What aspects of your project would you change or do differently? _____

I. What was the most successful aspect of your project? _____

J. Attach your project's final budget and explain the source of your project's funding. _____

Girl's Signature _____ Date _____

Girl Scout Advisor's Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only

Date Received _____

Date Reviewed _____

Project Approval _____

Date of Project Approval _____