



Silver Award

Why Silver

The Silver award is a national award that encourages:

- **Leadership skills:** By designing and carrying out project girls gain leadership experience
- **Community connections:** Getting to know community Change makers opens doors for the future
- **Being a role model to younger Girl Scouts**
- **Making the world a better place and following the Girl scout Law**

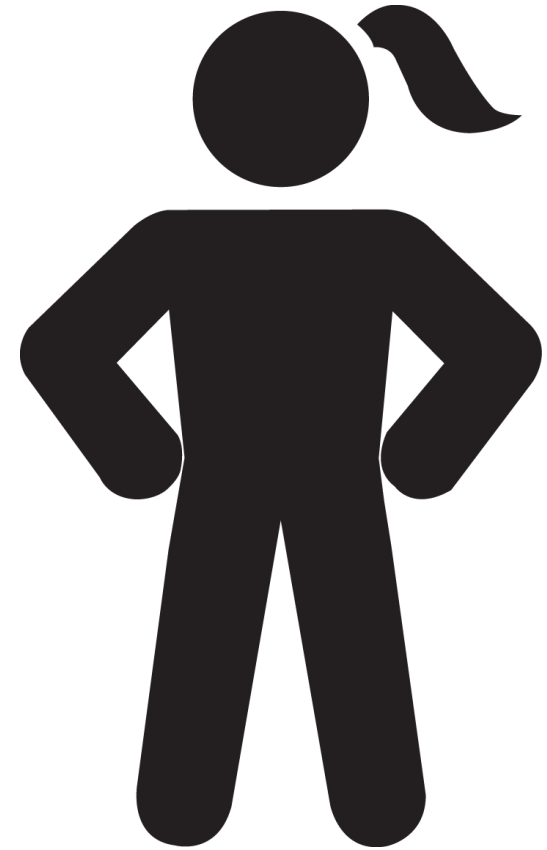
The Silver Award counts as a prerequisite for the Girl Scout Gold Award

Silver Awardees are more likely to Go For Gold



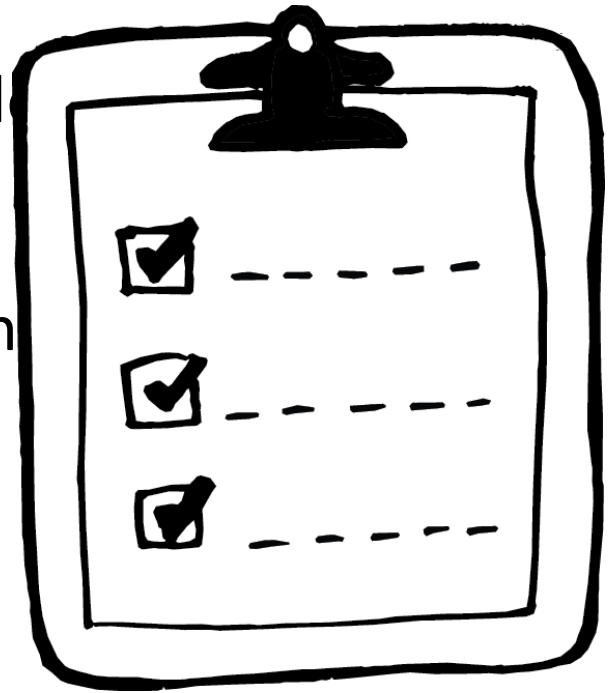
Overview

- Can Be Earned by Cadette Girl Scouts 6th-8th Grade
- Pre Requisites- One Cadette Journey
- Can Be Worked on as an individual Girl or a small group (4 Girls or less)
- Suggested 50 hrs **per Girl**



Get Started

- Step 1: Complete the Training modul
- Step 2: Review the Silver awards Guidelines & Resources from GSUSA
- Step 3: choose your team If you wan one. (4 Girl Maximum)
- Step 4: Start Planning & Brainstorming



Expanding the team

Even if Girls are working solo on their Silver project they are still going to want a team of people willing to help out.

Some people who might be a part of a Silver Award team

- Troop Leader
- Project Advisor- Not a troop leader or family member
- Friends
- Family



Explore your community and find root causes

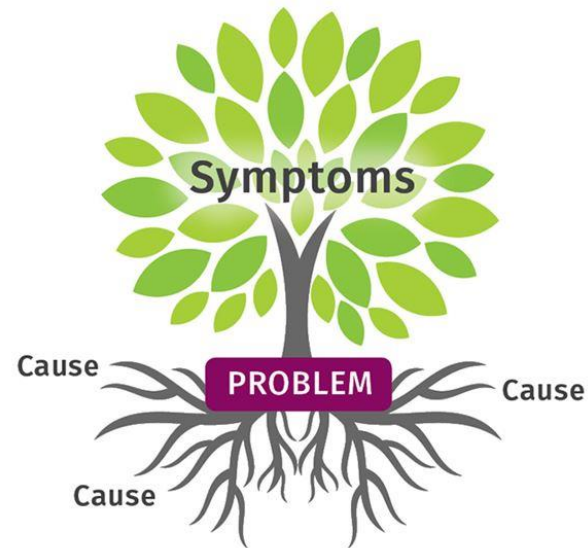


- Girls should become detectives and create an observation list of problems in their community.
- What issues does the team see?
- Who can the team talk to, to find out about issues that they have not thought about?
- What causes these issues?
- Can girls address the root cause of this issue?



Understanding What a Root cause is

- Think of a plant, the roots are the start of the plant, What holds it into the ground and gives it life.
- The root cause of the problem is what causes the problem in the first place.
- A Silver Award Take Action project should not address symptoms of a problem, it should address the root cause.
- Projects should address the root cause so the surface issue won't return.



Root Cause Examples

Community Issue	Potential Root Causes
Too Much Waste in School Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No compost or recycling program in place• Students use plastic bag lunches instead of reusable bags for lunch• Students don't eat what is served
Car Accidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distracted driving• Texting and driving• Bad road signage• Bad Weather
Community lacks arts and music programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public not aware of the important benefits of art and Music• Art and Music projects are cut from school in an effort to save money



Picking Your Project

- Before you pick your project:
 - Review your Issues Chart, interviews, and notes.
 - Can't decide? Make a pro/con list for each project.
 - Choose a project based on what matters most to you, the community needs, and where you can make positive change.
- After you choose your project answer these questions:
 - What is the project?
 - Why does it matter?
 - Who will it help?



Take Action vs. Community Service

A Take Action Project:

- Will be long lasting
- Will fix the root of the issue
- Will create change
- Will be sustainable
- Will inspire and educate others
- Will be measurable

Community Service:

- Is short term
- Might only be a 1 day event
- Will only help at the surface
- Won't address bigger issues
- Won't inspire larger change
- Helps people but hard to track the effects



Take Action Vs community service examples

A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT COULD BE:



Collecting donations for a food bank during the holidays



Cleaning up your local park



Weeding and planting seeds in a community garden

A TAKE ACTION PROJECT COULD BE:



Developing a PR campaign that addresses the food bank's year-round needs



Lobbying your parks department to add more trash and recycling bins



Building a compost bin and creating brochures about composting



Girl Led Projects are the goal

Leadership is demonstrated by:

- Taking ownership of a major aspect of the project
- Speaking with advisors
- Composing letters or emails
- Interacting with the community
- Directing volunteers



Money and the Silver Award

- Girls may not ask for Money or Donations
- Donations (Secured by an adult member of the troop) May not be greater than \$250 without working with the GSU philanthropy department.
- Troop Money can be used for a project if all girls in the troop agree on the use of funds
- Girls cannot raise money for other organizations



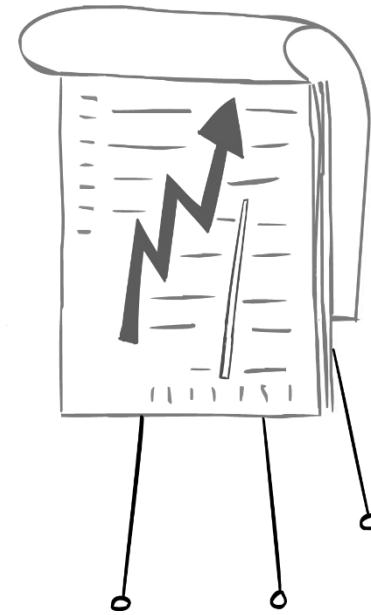
What does Sustainability mean for a Take Action project?

- Something sustainable is long lasting!
- Not just a one day project, that's one and done
- Take Action projects are sustainable while a non-sustainable project is community service.
- If you were moving tomorrow, would your project be able to continue?
- This doesn't mean that YOU have to keep doing your project forever. It just means you need to figure out a way for your project to continue without you.

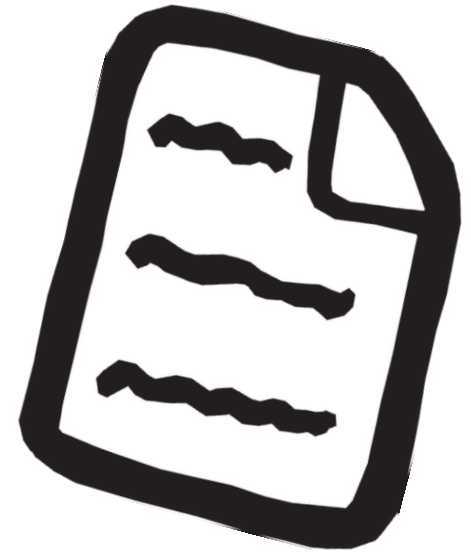


What Does Measurability Mean for a Take Action Project

- It means having goals like:
 - How much
 - How many
 - Numbers
- Are goals reasonable?
 - Can you achieve these goals
- Are goals objective?
 - Are they specific?
 - Is there a specific reason you need to meet that goal?



Completing your project



- Carry out your plan!
- Tell people about your project!
- Each girl must spend at least 50 hours working on the project
- Take notes & pictures to help with your Final Report
- Track your spending and hours
- Fill out your Final Report when your project is complete



Help for getting started

- GSUSA Silver award Guide
- Take action VS Community Service
- Adult Guide
- [Form to fill out](#) if your project is to benefit a GSU Property
- [Final Report](#)

