



Engaging Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: Highest Awards

Girl Scouts of Utah Leadership Summit, August 2021

What is a Girl Scout Gold Award?

The Girl Scout Gold Award is a **Take Action project** that must include **five elements**. Your project must (1) address a **root cause** of an issue that you feel passionate about that has a (2) **national and/or global link**. Through your actions, you must demonstrate (3) **leadership** while also creating (4) **sustainable** and (5) **measurable impact**.

Knowing the Difference Between Community Service and Take Action

Community Service	Take Action
Short term effort that helps something or someone fulfill an immediate need	Long term project with sustainable and ongoing impact that addresses a root cause of an issue
Done FOR the community	Done WITH the community
Joining an existing effort to solve a problem	Creating a unique initiative to address an issue
Done as part of an existing team (usually as a volunteer)	Creating and leading your own team of volunteers
Working towards a goal that's set by others	Setting the goals and leading a team to achieve them

New Resources

Your Guide to Going Gold – A booklet that will include all of the guidelines for a Gold Award. It takes you step by step through the process of earning your Gold Award. It contains the national standards as well as GSU’s processes. It talks about each of the 7 steps in GoGold and how to set yourself up for success as you are planning your project.

Proposal Rubric – GSU has been using its own rubric to determine if proposals meet the standards of a Gold Award for several years. GSUSA recently released a national rubric to help

with consistency across councils so we will be incorporating our rubric into what GSUSA has proposed.

Timing of Introduction – The Gold Award Committee will be meeting in September to be introduced to the new resources and to discuss some changes to the process. We hope to be able to roll out the new resources to everyone with the new membership year. We aim to be offering a virtual meetup for people to discuss the new resources as well as any other questions they may have regarding Highest Awards sometime in October.

Changes to National Gold Award Girl Scouts/Young Women of Distinction – In order to celebrate all of the Gold Award Girl Scouts across the nation and to get the focus away from just 10 girls, GSUSA no longer will have their National Gold Award Girl Scouts. Instead, all Girl Scouts that have earned their Gold Award during the “year” will be recognized at a virtual event called Girl Scouts Change the World. This year it will be held on October 9th and registration will begin at the end of this month. In addition to recognizing all of the nation’s Girl Scouts and having special sessions for those girls to attend, this event will include sessions for adults that want to help their Girl Scouts earn their Gold and for younger girls to learn more about Take Action projects and to be inspired to earn their Gold.

In addition to this celebration, all Gold Award Girl Scouts from April 2020 – March 2021 will have access to some of the benefits that previous National Gold Award Girl Scouts had access to, such as tools to be an ambassador/spokesperson for Girl Scouts and featured stories on GSUSA’s website. They are also all eligible to apply for a new scholarship. One scholarship will be awarded per council. This year’s scholarship recipients have not yet been announced. Anyone who earned their Gold Award from April 2021 onwards will be eligible for next year’s scholarship opportunity and will be recognized with at the 2022 Girl Scouts Change the World event.

Other Announcements

- New Gold Award Committee members wanted
- Troop leaders should be using the Bronze & Silver Rubrics to make sure that girls projects are meeting the requirements.
- We are working on scheduling Recognition of Excellence for November 2021 and will announce details shortly.
- Deadline for all highest awards is September 30.