



The Girl Scout Bronze Award: *FAQ for Leaders*



How can girls earn the Bronze Award?

The first step is to complete the prerequisites. Girls must complete one Junior Leadership Award.

Pro-tip:

Help your troop parents learn about the Bronze Award! When they understand the process and see the value, they can help their daughters prioritize it among their other commitments.

What are the core components of earning the Bronze Award?

Girls first identify the root cause of a community issue they're interested in. They then design and implement a Take Action project that addresses a need in the community, which allows them to show leadership as a team.

Here's more on that:

- Girl Scout Juniors show leadership by working together as a team and by working with community members. They also show leadership by taking action to make a positive change in their community.
- Girl Scout Juniors observe their community for issues that interest them. They research these issues and talk with community members to understand the root causes

What is the time commitment behind earning the Bronze Award?

Bronze Award projects require a commitment of at least 20 hours from Girl Scouts, though the girls themselves design the timelines. In some cases, the work is completed over the course of a summer, and in others, over a year.

When are Girl Scouts eligible to begin working toward their Bronze Award?

Girl Scouts should be registered Juniors in grades 4-5. In order to be eligible, girls must have earned one Junior Leadership Award before beginning their Bronze Award project work.

What are some ways that leaders can support girls as they become Bronze Award Girl Scouts?

Help girls understand the value of going Bronze. It's their chance to build life-long leadership skills while making a lasting impact in their communities!

Pro-tip:

The Bronze Award isn't a required prerequisite for the Silver; however, the skills girls develop in earning that award will help prepare them to become Silver and Gold Award Girl Scouts. The Bronze Award helps girls discover how to plan and lead projects, connect with their communities, and drive intentional change.

What resources are available to help girls and caregivers understand the Bronze Award?

Check out GSUSA's Bronze Award webpage for the fundamentals—and visit the GSME website as well, because each council has a unique process that supports girls through their Bronze Award experience!



- **Provide encouragement**, but not pressure. The Bronze Award can be challenging and it's not for everyone, and that's OK! A girl's decision to become a Bronze Award Girl Scout should be entirely her own.
- **Help girls understand the prerequisites** as early on as possible. You might help them identify Leadership Awards that align with their interests, and help them to complete an award as a troop or an individual.
- **Get to know the safety and money earning guidelines.** Reach out to highestawards@gsmaine.org for info about the specific requirements.
- **Introduce parents/caregivers to the Bronze Award** via the resources on the GSME Bronze Award webpage. You can distribute these resources as you see fit.
- **Dedicate a few minutes of meeting time for updates on girls' Bronze Award projects.** This gives Girl Scouts the opportunity to talk through challenges, celebrate successes, and find support in brainstorming.
- **Help girls make community connections.** Girls will seek experts to speak with about their chosen issues. Are there any other volunteers or caregivers who can help or introduce girls to a potential community partners?



For additional Bronze Award resources please visit:

<https://www.girlscoutsofmaine.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/highest-awards/bronze-award.html>