



The Girl Scout Silver Award: *FAQ for Troop Leaders*



How can girls earn the Silver Award?

The first step is to complete the prerequisites. Girls must complete one Cadette Journey, including the Journey Take Action project, and attend the Going for the Silver Training. A list of scheduled trainings can be found [here](#).

What are the core components of earning the Silver Award?

A girl first identifies the root cause of a community issue she's passionate about. She then designs and implements a Take Action project that addresses a need in the community and has long-term benefits. The girl must show leadership by guiding a team of volunteers who support her project, which must be sustainable.

Here's more on that:

- Sustainable projects continue to have an impact after the Girl Scout has completed her part.
- Root Cause is a reason or trigger as to why the community issue is happening.

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

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

Pro-tip:

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

What is the time commitment behind earning the Silver Award?

Silver Award projects require a commitment of at least 50 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 Silver Award?

Girl Scouts should be a registered Cadette in grades 6–8. In order to be eligible, girls must have completed one Cadette Journey and the Going for the Silver Training before beginning their Silver Award project work.

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

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



Provide encouragement, but not pressure. The Silver Award is a time commitment. It's not for everyone, and that's OK! A girl's decision to become a Silver Award Girl Scout should be entirely her own.

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 help girls discover how to plan and lead projects, connect with their communities, and drive intentional change.



- **Help girls understand the prerequisites as early on as possible.** You might help them identify Leadership Journeys that align with their interests, or even complete a Journey as a troop.
- **Get to know the safety and fundraising guidelines.** Reach out to your GSME's Program staff for info about the specific requirements.
- **Introduce parents/caregivers to the Silver Award** via the resources on the GSME Silver Award webpage. You can distribute these resources as you see fit.
- **Dedicate a few minutes of meeting time** to updates on girls' Silver Award projects. This gives Girl Scouts the opportunity to talk through challenges, celebrate successes, and find support in brainstorming. And keep in mind though that any decisions about a girls' project should ultimately be their own.
- **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 a girl to a potential community partner?
- **Brainstorm ways your troop members can support one another.** Girls might join forces to money-earn for their projects. They might volunteer on one another's projects—or help recruit volunteers from their schools, teams, and clubs. Assisting with another Girl Scout's project may help fulfill community service requirements for school or religious organizations.