

Take Action vs. Community Service

A Take Action project may be different than other projects you've done with your troop or Girl Scout. Taking action means working to understand the root cause of a problem so that a solution can be developed that continues to address that issue—even after the project has been completed.

It's important and helpful for Girl Scouts to understand the difference between these projects before they begin. Here's the difference:

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

Take Action projects have up to five elements: Leadership, Root Cause, Sustainable, Measurable, National and/or Global Link. The Girl Scout Gold Award requires all five; the Girl Scout Silver Award requires three; and the Girl Scout Bronze Award requires two. This way, Girl Scouts learn something new and have opportunities to be challenged in different ways as they earn the Bronze, Silver, and then Gold Awards.

	Leadership	Root Cause	Sustainable	Measurable	National and/or Global Link
Bronze Juniors	◆	◆	●		
Silver Cadettes	◆	◆	◆	●	●
Gold Seniors/Ambassadors	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

Required element ◆ Required element ●