



Girl Scouts
of Maine

Highest Awards Celebration Toolkit





Let's celebrate!

You can recognize Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award Girl Scouts in many different ways—at a troop ceremony, with family and friends, during a service unit meeting, at a bridging ceremony with the entire service unit—or in any other special way you can imagine. Silver and Gold Award Girl Scouts in Girl Scouts of Maine are recognized with:

- A certificate signed by our CEO
- The Silver or Gold Award pin (purchased by Girl Scouts of Maine)
- A packet of congratulatory letters from local and national dignitaries.

Silver and Gold Award Girl Scouts will also be invited to attend and participate in our special, council-wide Award Celebration held each spring.



Basic Award Ceremony

TIP: Keep it Girl-led!

Remember that Girl Scouts includes learning by doing, cooperative learning, and girl-led activities into all that we do. It's always great to include girls in the planning and hosting of any special event or ceremony. Maybe troop members, camp friends, or other peers of the Award recipient would like to help plan!

Opening with Flag Ceremony - Younger troop members or other Girl Scouts lead a flag ceremony. Contact [Customer Care](#) to request flag materials.

Promise and Law – You may incorporate the Girl Scout Promise and Law into the flag ceremony or incorporate a candlelight Promise & Law ceremony at another time during your celebration.

Welcome Message/Keynote speaker – Invite the project advisor, a mentor, or another special individual to speak. The welcome message may be very simple, or it may include a more detailed call to action or motivational message.

Invocation (optional) - If appropriate, invite a spiritual or religious person to lead an invocation. Please keep in mind that Girl Scouts is an inclusive organization and be respectful of all participants.

Introduction of the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award Girl Scout(s) - You may want to offer a special seat to the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award Girl Scout(s) and/or her guests. Include a personalized introduction of each recipient into the ceremony script.

Introduction of Honored Guests (optional) - If special guests are present, you may want to introduce them as well such as family members, Girl Scout staff or volunteers, local elected officials, etc.

Tip: Make it Virtual! – Having a virtual component to the award celebration is a wonderful way to share a girl's accomplishments with those who are not able to attend in-person but want to acknowledge her achievements!

Introduction or Definition of the Award – Explain the award merits and process to all guests. You may want to ask a previous Girl Scout who earned a highest award, troop members, another volunteer, or Girl Scout staff member, to share this.

Focus on the Recipient(s) - Have a person who knows the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Girl Scout speak about the girl's Girl Scout experience, her goals, or other basic biographical information.

Take Action Project Information – Invite the Silver or Gold Award project advisor (or another appropriate person) to talk about the specific Silver or Gold Award Take Action Project(s) being recognized.

TIP: Invite those who are in attendance to acknowledge the girl's achievements by signing a guest book or creating a kudoboard (<https://www.kudoboard.com>) for them to share their congratulations.

TIP: Plan Early! Silver and Gold Award Girl Scouts, be sure to let GSME know the date of the award ceremony at least 8 weeks in advance. This ensures that certificates and award pins will be ready for the ceremony! Note: Congratulatory letters from dignitaries will be presented to girls at the council celebration in the spring or mailed to them if they're unable to attend.

Presentation of the Award – The Silver or Gold Award project advisor, parent/guardian, service unit manager, or Girl Scout staff member (etc.) presents the Silver or Gold Award pin to the award recipient. The Bronze Award may also be presented by Girl Scout leaders.

Acknowledgments from Recipient(s) (optional) - Invite award recipients to speak about their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award experience and Take Action Project. They may also share encouragement or advice for younger Girl Scouts. (Please let recipients know ahead of time so they can prepare.) For the Gold Award, recipients may also choose to present a family member/parent/project advisor with the smaller Gold Award parent pin. (This pin is provided by GSME.)

Gold Award Challenge – For the Gold Award, you may want to present a “challenge” to award recipients. The following page contains challenge wording and additional information.

Congratulations and Closing Comments – Have a volunteer or troop member share additional congratulations and close the ceremony.

Closing Song (optional) - Words can be printed in the written program.

Closing Flag Ceremony - Younger troop members/other Girl Scouts.

Reception (optional) - Offer time for guests to visit. Provide refreshments or host a reception pot-luck style.

TIP: Plan, plan, plan, and plan some more!

- Split up speaking roles for large groups or combine speaking parts for small groups.
- Substitute girls' own words and ideas for the ones printed here, when possible.
- Create visuals, use props, and decorate around a theme.
- Carry your theme through when making invitations.
- Props such as flowers, candles, flags, etc., add an element of fun to ceremonies and make them more attractive.
- In ceremonies that call for candle lighting, be especially careful. Small flashlights, battery-powered tea lights, or flowers can be substituted for candles for ceremonies with young girls.
- Plan some rehearsal time.



Sample Gold Award Script Ideas

Welcome/Opening Comments - Gold Award:

Thank you for joining us here today. We're here to honor an exceptional young woman for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. A Gold Award Girl Scout has shown the world, and herself, that if she can dream it, she can do it—and the future is hers. She hasn't just reached the pinnacle of her time in Girl Scouts. She's shown she aims for the stars—and knows how to reach them. Twenty-first century skills? She's got those. By earning her Gold Award, a Girl Scout shows the admissions team at her dream school that she's got what it takes to thrive in college and beyond. A Gold Award Girl Scout is creating a better world and inspiring others in her community to do the same. What does success look like? A confident shade of Girl Scout gold. And when a Gold Award Girl Scout shares the real-world skills she gained from earning her Gold Award—team building, managing a complex project from start to finish, or public speaking, to name a few—her resume sets her apart from her peers. A Gold Award Girl Scout, no matter her background or ability, learns to tap into the world-changing power within her. She takes the lead in designing and enacting a plan for change and makes a positive impact in her community and beyond. Your next strong, empathetic, go-getting leader? She's a Gold Award Girl Scout, and she has what it takes to keep transforming the world for good. Gold Award Girl Scouts are amazing leaders, and we are glad you all can be here to celebrate their achievements

Introduction of the Gold Award:

With a history of more than a century, the Girl Scout Gold Award is the most highly regarded award in the world for girls. It's the mark of the truly remarkable. Becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout marks an important milestone in a girls' Girl Scout career. The same vision, commitment, and leadership that brought her through the Gold Award process will now carry her to new heights. This will distinguish her on scholarship applications, college admission essays, and on her résumé—forever. What she has earned will set her apart, in all the best possible ways! In addition to accomplishing this challenging personal goal, she now joins an esteemed group of Girl Scouts who share this distinction. From its beginning in 1916, the greatest achievement in Girl Scouting has been a symbol of excellence and leadership that recognizes the extraordinary efforts of extraordinary girls. While the Gold Award has gone by many names, now all Girl Scouts who earned the First Class, Curved Bar, Golden Eaglet, or Golden Eagle of Merit are part of the Gold Award Girl Scout Family. Its timelessness has inspired generations of young women to find greatness inside themselves and share their ideas and passions with their communities and the world.

Gold Award Girl Scouts complete two Leadership Journeys before beginning their Gold Award Take Action project. Then she must work individually to design and implement a project that solves a specific community need. While earning the Gold Award, girls connect with experts, community members and other Girl Scouts to create lasting change in her community. Gold Award Girl Scouts devote at least 80 hours to their projects and truly accomplish the Girl Scout mission of developing courage, confidence and character to make our world a better place.

While earning this award, girls explore possible careers, practice public speaking, improve communication skills, research and share their knowledge and gain practical life skills. Earning this award truly represents an incredible undertaking and a great learning experience.

Challenge (option 1):

I challenge you, today's Gold Award Girl Scouts, to accept this Award in the spirit in which it is given to you. Know that with this award comes responsibility. As you enter this covenant of esteemed women, know that you are regarded with honor and respect.

- I challenge you to seek beauty in all around you. Know that art, in all forms, both defines and bridges cultures. I challenge you to honor the earth and its living things.
- I challenge you to respect yourself and to continually strive to improve mind, body, and spirit.
- I challenge you to remember the founder of Girl Scouting, Juliette Gordon Low and the beginning of Girl Scouting in the U.S.A. Know that Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world are part of your family.
- I challenge you to give service. Give freely of yourself, expecting nothing in return. Celebrate the diversity of those around you. Seek to improve life for others.
- I challenge you to strive for excellence in all you do. Recognize the accomplishments of yourself and those around you. Know how today's achievements affect the world around you.
- By accepting this challenge, you become a changed woman. You become part of an elite group who recognize that receiving this Gold Award is not one celebratory moment, but a lifetime commitment.

If you accept this challenge, please repeat after me:

- I affirm my dedication to live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- I understand my obligation to live with honor and to lead by example because the highest award of Girl Scouting has been entrusted to me.
- I will do my best to support other Girl Scouts on their road to Gold.
- I will give back to Girl Scouting what it has given me.
- I will respect others and live worthy of respect, as one forever bound to the ideals of Girl Scouts.

Challenge (option 2):

I challenge you, today's Gold Award Girl Scouts, to accept this Award in the spirit in which it is given to you. Know that with this award comes with responsibility. As you enter this covenant of esteemed women, know that you are regarded with honor and respect. Live worthy of this by living by the Girl Scout Law.

- I challenge you to remain honest and fair in all your dealings in this world. Never sell out and never give less than your very best. Always remain true to yourself. Always guard your honor.
- I challenge you to be friendly and helpful to everyone you meet as you go through life. Celebrate the diversity of your fellow human beings. Give service freely, expecting nothing in return. Seek to improve life for others.
- I challenge you to be considerate and caring to all living things, human and animal. Always being mindful of those in need, and the feelings of others. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- I challenge you to be courageous and strong in all you do. Stand strong in the face of adversity and share your courage with those around you, especially those smaller and weaker than you.
- I challenge you to be responsible for what you say and do. Think before you speak and act. Be sure everything you say and do reflects well on you and your family.
- I challenge you to respect yourself, so you may respect others. Continually strive to improve your mind, body and spirit. Strive for excellence in all you do and recognize the accomplishments of others.

- I challenge you to respect authority. Follow the laws of your country and nature. Be mindful of your rights as well as your responsibilities as a citizen of this great nation. Remember that freedom is not free.
- I challenge you to use resources wisely. Never waste the resources of nature or those of yourself and the people around you. Use your talents to better the world, and to protect our planet. Seek out the beauty that is all around you.
- I challenge you to make this world a better place. Use all your abilities to leave this world in a better condition than you found it. By your words, actions and deeds you can make a difference.
- I challenge you to be a sister to every Girl Scout. Help younger girls to reach the top as you have. Support them on their road to the Gold. Do your best to give back to Girl Scouting, that which has been given to you, and a little more.

We invite you to accept this challenge along with your Gold Award. You become part of an elite group who recognize that receiving this Gold Award is not one celebratory moment, but a lifetime commitment.

If you accept this challenge, please repeat after me:

- I affirm my dedication to live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- I understand my obligation to live with honor and to lead by example because the highest award of Girl Scouting has been entrusted to me.
- I will do my best to support other Girl Scouts on their road to Gold and to give back to Girl Scouting, what it has given me.
- I will respect others and live my life by the Girl Scout Law.
- I will remain worthy of respect as one forever bound to the ideals of Girl Scouting.

Closing

Thank you and congratulations, Gold Award Girl Scout(s). We will now end with a closing song (include song title & words), followed by a closing flag ceremony. Then, we invite all participants to join us for refreshments. Thank you for being here and supporting these amazing young women along their Girl Scout journey.





Sample Silver Award Script Ideas

Welcome/Opening Comments - Silver Award:

Thank you for joining us here today. We're here to honor these exceptional girls for completing their Girl Scout Silver Award. The Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. These girls have shown they are committed to working toward the goals they set for themselves and improving the world around them. These girls have dedicated tremendous amounts of energy to discovering the needs in our communities, connecting with experts and volunteers and taking action to create true and meaningful change in our world. They are amazing leaders and we are glad you all can be here to celebrate their achievements.

Introduction of the Silver Award:

The Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette (grades 6-8) may earn. The Silver Award was first introduced in 1980 at the National Program Conferences, and requirements for the award were first found in the book "You Make the Difference: Handbook for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts," published in June of that year. Silver Award Girl Scouts complete one Leadership Journey before beginning their Silver Award Take Action project. Then girls work either individually or in a small team to design and implement a project that solves a specific community need. While earning the Silver Award, girls connect with experts, community members and other Girl Scouts to create lasting change in her community. Silver Award Girl Scouts devote at least 50 hours to their projects and truly accomplish the Girl Scout mission of developing courage, confidence and character to make our world a better place.

While earning this award, girls explore possible careers, practice public speaking, improve communication skills, research and share their knowledge and gain practical life skills. Earning this award truly represents an incredible undertaking and a great learning experience.

Closing

Thank you and congratulations, Silver Award Girl Scout(s). We will now end with a closing song (include song title & words), followed by a closing flag ceremony. Then, we invite all participants to join us for refreshments. Thank you for being here and supporting these amazing young women along their Girl Scout journey.



Sample Bronze Award Script Ideas

Speaker: The Girl Scout Bronze Award is an award that girls can earn, over and above badges and Journey awards. These awards are not earned easily, and the girls must make a commitment to themselves, their leaders, and their sister Girl Scouts to dedicate their time and effort in earning this award. We are very proud to have girls who will be receiving the Bronze Award tonight.

The Bronze Award is the highest award to be achieved by Junior Girl Scouts. To earn the Bronze Award girls must complete a Junior Leadership Journey and plan and carry out a Bronze Award project of at least 20 hours. Most of these girls have completed their projects as a group effort and in doing so have learned a little more about themselves, the world around them, and the impact they can have on others.

- Read troop project(s)
- Invite Troops forward that are receiving Bronze Awards.
- Bronze Recipients come up with leader & receive pins.

Speaker: Congratulations to our Bronze Award Girl Scouts!

**Contact Us! To invite a staff representative or for additional support,
please contact us via CustomerCare@gsmaine.org or (207) 772-1177.
We're here to help, and we hope to hear from you!**