



GIRL SCOUTS -- ARIZONA CACTUS-PINE COUNCIL, INC.
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GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD FAQs

Q: IS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD TRAINING AVAILABLE?

A: Yes. Every 3rd Thursday of every month, (except June-August), Gold Award training is held at the council office. Girls and adults are welcome to attend. Girls in outer areas can be patched into the training via conference call. Please use the STUDIO 2B Activity Registration Form to sign up for Gold Award training. (check website and Program At-A-Glance for exact dates)

Q: WHO CAN EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD?

A: A girl must be a registered Girl Scout and be 14–18 (grades 9–12) to work on STEPS 1-4 leading up to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. She must be 15–18, or grades 10–12, when she works on STEPS 5-7 related to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Remember, as always, the project must be completed by September 30 following the girl's senior year in high school. If she graduates early, she has until she is 18 to complete the project.

Q: CAN A GIRL EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD IF SHE IS IN A STUDIO 2B GROUP OR IS A JULIETTE OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBER?

A: Girls who participate in STUDIO 2B groups and girls who are Juliettes are Girl Scouts. As always, if a girl meets the age and membership requirements, she can work towards her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Q: CAN A GIRL EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD EVEN IF SHE HASN'T BEEN IN GIRL SCOUTS VERY LONG?

A: Yes! She just needs to be a registered Girl Scout and be willing to complete the requirements necessary to earn this award.

Q: DOES A GIRL HAVE TO EARN THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD IN ORDER TO DO THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD?

A: No. However, it's a great foundation for the process.

Q: IS THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT AN INDIVIDUAL PROJECT, OR CAN IT BE WORKED ON BY A GROUP OF GIRLS?

A: This requirement has not changed. The Gold Award is an individual award and group projects must meet very specific requirements. Each girl's part of a group project must be able to stand alone as a Gold Award Service Project, without consideration of the other girls' projects.

To minimize confusion, please discuss any group projects with the Gold Award Review Board before the initial interview.

Q: WHAT IF A GIRL HAS STARTED WORKING ON HER GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND DOESN'T WANT TO DO THE NEW REQUIREMENTS?

A: This is fine. Girls have the choice to complete the old requirements, or to move into the new ones, or to use parts of each of the old and new requirements. Girls who are just starting out must use the new requirements. Please contact the council office for details on specific Gold Award requirements.

Q: I HEAR THAT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD HAVE BEEN DILUTED. IT ISN'T THE SAME AWARD ANYMORE.

A: The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn. The requirements have been adjusted to provide a more cohesive path to the Gold Award and to involve more flexibility, choice, and progression. The time required to complete the Gold Award has increased to 65 hours and the planning process is much more comprehensive.

Q: DO THE CHANGES IN 2004 MAKE THE AWARDS HARDER OR EASIER TO EARN?

A: Some of the steps leading up to the award project have been streamlined so that each step is a progression toward the most important part of the award: the action project. The project has a greater number of hours to complete, but the hours in the Girl Scout Gold 4Bs Challenge can be counted toward the project planning.

Q: DOES A GIRL NEED TO DO THE STEPS IN ANY PARTICULAR ORDER?

A: She can do the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award and the Girl Scout Gold Career Award in any order, even work on them simultaneously, but she should do STEP 4, the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge just prior to working on her Girl Scout Gold Award project, STEP 5. Before she starts on STEP 5, she must complete STEPS 1-4 and be 15 or in 10th grade.

A girl MUST receive council's approval before starting the Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Q: CAN GIRLS CHOOSE THE LEADERSHIP AND CAREER PINS INSTEAD OF THE CHARMS?

A: Yes! Girls can choose the Leadership and Career pins instead of, or in addition to, the charms. They can also use the STUDIO 2B charm holder if they choose the charm and want to pin it to the uniform.

Q: WHAT IS THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD 4BS CHALLENGE?

A: The 4Bs Challenge will help girls be better prepared and informed before choosing a project to spend many hours on. It was initiated to end the frustration girls expressed about the difficulty of coming up with ideas for projects.

Q: DO THE HOURS PUT INTO PLANNING AND RESEARCHING FOR THE 4BS CHALLENGE COUNT TOWARDS THE HOURS NEEDED FOR THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT?

A: Yes. Even if a girl decides not to do the project she comes up with in the "4Bs visioning process" when she gets down to planning with her advisor, she has not wasted the time in learning the process required to focus on a vision. A girl shouldn't be focusing on a project that she really doesn't want to be doing, or isn't able to do because of something she's discovered in her research or community networking. A girl might even discover a project advisor in the community networking process who sparks a different twist on her vision. The more that is found out about something, the more possibilities there are—the trick is to end up with a project that meets needs of the community and that allows a girl to be effective and passionate in what she is doing. For example, a girl may find that a safety program is not what is needed to prevent accidents in her community—what's needed is a stop light at a dangerous intersection. That will require focusing on a different network as she works with the community to make that kind of a change and her project advisor may need to be someone from the city council instead of a safety educator.

Q: WHAT IF A GIRL HAS ALREADY DONE SOME SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WHILE DOING OTHER GIRL SCOUT AWARDS? CAN THESE ACTIVITIES COUNT TOWARD HER GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD?

A: Activities done prior to working on the Girl Scout Gold Award may not count toward the number of hours for this award. If a girl has earned the charm for a STUDIO 2B Focus book that is one of the requirements for the Gold Award, she will need to set new goals for herself in that Focus book.

Q: HOW CAN WE ASSURE THAT GIRL SCOUT AWARDS REPRESENT QUALITY PROJECTS?

A: The Gold Award Review Board is charged with ensuring that each Gold Award Project meets the Gold Award criteria and is the personal best of the individual girl. Each girl must demonstrate that she uses extensive leadership skills in her project and that her project has a life beyond her involvement in the project. The Gold Award Project Advisors are specially trained to help girls make sure their projects meet the Gold Award standards.

Girls should *NOT* begin work on their Gold Award Project prior to requesting and meeting with a Gold Award Project Advisor.

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TROOP/GROUP ADVISOR AND A GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT ADVISOR IN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROCESS?

A: A troop/group advisor is the adult who is working with an ongoing troop or group. She works with girls in the first three steps of their Girl Scout Gold Award—helping them get initial information, working on the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award, and the Girl Scout Gold Career Award. Some resource consultants may be brought in while girls are working on specific Interest Project Awards and the troop/group advisor may help girls with the initial activities in working on the 4B's.

The Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor is an adult who has received training on how to work with girls on the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. The Project Advisor will help to further develop or refine the project to ensure it meets the Gold Award criteria before a request is made for an Initial Interview with the Gold Award Review Board. At times she may make suggestions on possible resources, time limits and additions to consider. She continues her support of the prospective Gold Awardee up to the completion of the project.

Q: AT WHAT POINT SHOULD A GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT ADVISOR BE IDENTIFIED?

A: The girl should request a project advisor when she begins the Girl Scout Gold 4Bs Challenge. Council Gold Award Project Advisors are generally assigned on a geographic or specialty basis. To get a Project Advisor, she must submit a "Request for a Consultant" form found in the "Going for the Gold" packet. Project Advisor assignments are made within 2-3 weeks of council receipt of the form. After confirmation of the Project Advisor is received from the Gold Award Board, the girl takes responsibility to make contact with her assigned Project Advisor.

Q: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL'S GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD REVIEW BOARD?

A: The Gold Award Review Board is comprised of adult volunteers, including past recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, dedicated to helping a girl succeed. They review the size, scope, and cost of a project and make recommendations to ensure that it is in fact an appropriate project to earn a Girl Scout Gold Award. They might also be aware of community issues and dynamics that impact the project and may be able to introduce a girl to other adults who can assist her in her project. The Gold Award Review Board's primary duty is to ensure that the Gold Award standards are upheld.

Q: IS IT RECOMMENDED THAT A GIRL'S PARENT BE HER ADVISOR FOR THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD?

A: GSUSA and our council strongly recommend against it, even if a girl's parent is her troop/group advisor. Each girl should have a Gold Award Advisor that has experience with the Gold Award process. Retaining an outside Gold Award Project Advisor also avoids situations where parents do a girl's work, even when it comes to calling and asking questions and completing paperwork.

Q: WHAT IF A GIRL IS 16 AND GRADUATING? CAN SHE COMPLETE HER PROJECT WHEN SHE IS IN COLLEGE?

A: Yes, this has been the case all along. A girl has until she turns 18 or until the end of the Girl Scout membership year when she is a senior in high school.

Q: WHAT IF A GIRL GRADUATES AND IS 18 AND DOESN'T HAVE HER PROJECT COMPLETED?

A: In this case, the girl would have until September 30 of the year she graduates. She would need to have her final interview the first week in September.

Q: CAN A GIRL WHO IS MENTALLY CHALLENGED EARN THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD? DON'T WE NEED A DIFFERENT SET OF REQUIREMENTS?

A: The Girl Scout Gold Award is something done to the best of a girl's ability. It is totally possible to work with someone who needs to adapt the program with the existing requirements. For example, a young woman who will never hold a job because of the severity of her disabilities was able to adapt the career component, turning it around so that she learned how to select her personal caretaker, how to evaluate her caretaker, and how to let her go. Her project focused on a community awareness program involving the group home that she lived in and was overseen by her caretaker. Her troop/group helped do the "legwork" and she provided the vision. There is not a need to have special requirements for girls who are handicapped or mentally challenged—the Gold Award Review Board assigns advisors who are able to meet the individual needs of the prospective Gold Awardee. Specific questions on adaptations can be directed to the Gold Award Review Board.

Q: WHAT IF A GIRL'S PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL CEREMONY TIME?

A: In order to be recognized at Girl Scouts—Arizona Cactus-Pine Council's Gold Award Celebration in June, she must have completed her Gold Award Requirements and her Final Interview by the first Thursday in May. Girls who complete their projects after the first week of May will be invited to attend the Gold Award Celebration held in the following year. Girls and their advisors are encouraged to work within the council timeline; however, the celebration time does not dictate whether a girl is able to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award or not. A girl is officially a recipient of the Gold Award when she successfully completes her final interview.

Q: HOW DO WE GET LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS?

A: The council office requests letters of congratulations and certificates from Girls Scouts of the USA, as well as government and outside organizations that recognize the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Please do not contact GSUSA directly to receive letters of congratulations. All inquiries about girl recognition should be directed to the council office.

Q: WHO PURCHASES THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD FOR THE GIRL?

A: The Girl Scout Gold Award Pin and one (1) miniature guardian pin is provided by the Girl Scouts -- Arizona Cactus-Pine Council for all Gold Award recipients. At the June Gold Award Celebration, each girl will receive her pin, presented to her by the current President of our Council Board of Directors.

Q: WHERE DOES A GIRL WEAR HER RELATED GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARDS?

A: If a girl wears the Girl Scout uniform for girls 14-18, she can choose to wear her earned charms on the STUDIO 2B Bracelet or on the STUDIO 2B Charm Holder pinned to the sash or vest with other earned insignia. The Girl Scout Gold Award goes to the left of the Girl Scouts of the USA Membership Pin. She can wear the STUDIO 2B Bracelet and Charm Holder and the Girl Scout Membership Pin and Girl Scout Gold Award with regular clothing as well. See "Girl Scout Central" on www.girlscouts.org for more information.

Q: ARE GOLD AWARD RESOURCES AVAILABLE?

A: Yes

Available upon request from the council office:

- *Going for the Gold* girl information and forms packet

Available at the Council Shop:

- *Go For It!* The Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B Insert
- *Interest Projects for Girls 11-17*
- *Safety-Wise*
- STUDIO 2B *Focus* books

Web Links:

- Girl Scout-Arizona Cactus Pine Council, Inc.: www.girlscoutsaz.org
- Girl Scouts of the USA: www.girlscouts.org
- STUDIO 2B: www.studio2b.org