



GIRL SCOUTS – ARIZONA CACTUS-PINE COUNCIL, INC.

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GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD FAQs

Q: IS GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD TRAINING AVAILABLE?

A: Yes. Every 3rd Thursday of every month, (except summer months), Silver 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 Silver Award training. (check website and Program At-A-Glance for exact dates)

Q: WHAT IF A GIRL HAS ALREADY STARTED ON HER GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD. WILL SHE GIVE UP ANYTHING IF SHE CHANGES TO THE NEW REQUIREMENTS?

A: All girls have the option to choose whether to stay with the old requirements if they have started or to switch over to the new ones. A girl should discuss her options with her advisor. Girls can also mix and match in the two years of transitioning. Girls can also decide to receive the 2001-2003 award pins and the From Dreams to Reality Patch if they have earned the 2004 requirements — while the supply of pins lasts. Beginning in January 2005, a girl contemplating working on her Girl Scout Silver Award should begin with the new requirements. Girls who began working on their Silver Award before January 2005, must submit the Silver Award Final Project Report found in the *Going for the Silver* packet **before** attempting to purchase the Silver Award pin from the council shop.

THE SHOP WILL NOT SELL THE SILVER AWARD PIN WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SILVER AWARD REVIEW BOARD.

Q: CAN GIRLS EARN THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD IF THEY ARE INVOLVED IN STUDIO 2B?

A: All girls, once they have left Junior Girl Scouts and are between the ages of 11-14, can work on their Girl Scout Silver Awards.

Q: DO GIRLS NEED TO COMPLETE THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD BEFORE THEY ARE IN GRADE 10 OR AGES 14 TO 18?

A: Yes, it can only be earned by girls 11-14 or in grades 6-9.

Q: IF A GROUP OF GIRLS IS BRIDGING FROM JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS IN THE SPRING, CAN THEY THEN BEGIN WORK ON THEIR GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD ACTIVITIES?

A: If girls celebrate moving from Juniors to the next level at the end of their school year (whether fifth or sixth grade) to whatever they decide to call themselves at the next level, they can start work on activities leading up to the Girl Scout Silver Award, such as Interest Project Awards or STUDIO 2B charms over the summer before they are registered “officially” for the next level. They must, however, be age 12 or in the seventh grade to begin work on steps 5-6 of their Girl Scout Silver Award project (as stated in the new guidelines for the Girl Scout Silver Award.)

Q: IF A GIRL HAS DONE SIMILAR ACTIVITIES IN PURSUIT OF OTHER GIRL SCOUT AWARDS, CAN THESE ACTIVITIES COUNT TOWARD THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD?

A: Activities done prior to working on the awards or as activities counting towards other leadership awards can not be counted toward the number of hours for this award. However, if a girl has earned, for example, the charm for a STUDIO 2B Focus Book, which is one of the requirements for one of the awards, **she can set new goals for herself in that book**. Note: Hours earned toward the Girl Scout Silver Award **can** count toward the President's Volunteer Service Awards.

Q: CAN A GROUP OF GIRLS WORK ON THEIR GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD TOGETHER?

A: Yes. The Silver Award is a demonstration of leadership skills, which may be difficult to demonstrate in a group project. If you choose to do a group project, please remember that **each** Silver Award applicant must:

- Submit a project plan and final report which will include 40 hours of service (documented on each girl's log sheet)
- All Silver Award team members must have equal amounts of responsibility and demonstrate leadership.
- Be responsible for a part of the project that stands alone.

Q: HOW CAN WE ASSURE THAT GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARDS REPRESENT QUALITY PROJECTS? IN THE PAST WE HAVE HAD SOME PROJECTS THAT RESEMBLE SERVICE PROJECTS SIGNED OFF BY ADVISORS.

A: The best way to ensure that a girl is working to the best of her ability is to submit a project plan to the Silver Award Review Board. They may approve the project with no changes or make suggestions on possible resources, time limits and/or additions to consider.

The last thing a Girl Scout Gold Award Review Board wants is to be put in the position of telling a girl her project isn't a Girl Scout Silver Award when the final report comes in.

Girls should **NOT** begin work on their Silver Award Project prior to submitting a project plan to the Silver Award Review Board.

Q: DO GIRLS NEED TO COMPLETE THE STEPS THAT COME BEFORE THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD PROJECTS IN ANY ORDER?

A: Girls can do the Girl Scout Silver Leadership Award, the Girl Scout Silver Career Award, in any order, but they should do the Girl Scout Silver 4B's Challenge as the last step before doing the project. They must complete STEPS 1-4, be the correct age and be working with an advisor before working on their project.

Q: WHAT IS THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER 4B'S CHALLENGE?

A: The Girl Scout Silver 4 B's 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 coming up with ideas for projects. It also makes the 4 Bs (the Girl Scout program goals) a more meaningful part of the project and the logical time for the project advisor to step in to help girls once they focus on what they want to do. Since the Girl Scout Silver 4 B's Challenge represents an important part of the project planning process, girls may count the hours working on the 4B's Challenge towards the hours on their project.

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 Silver 4B's Challenge can be applied to the project.

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TROOP/GROUP ADVISOR AND A GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD PROJECT ADVISOR IN THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD PROCESS? DO GIRLS NEED BOTH?

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 Silver Award —helping them get initial information, working on the Silver Leadership Award, and the Girl Scout Silver Career Award. Some resource consultants may be brought in while girls are working on specific Interest project awards, but the advisor will help girls keep on track and lay out an overall timeline. The troop/group advisor may help girls with the initial activities in working on the 4B's. Once a girl (or girls) develops her vision statement, the advisor might help her identify a person in the community who might be a great project advisor. Girls are encouraged to go beyond the group when seeking specific knowledge for a project.

The troop/group advisor may act as the project advisor if it is a decision arrived at by the girl and herself.

Troop/group advisors who wish to fulfill the role of Silver Award Project Advisors must request the "Silver Award Project Advisors Resource Guide" packet from the council office.

Q: HOW DO GIRLS GET A GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD ADVISOR IF THEY ARE NOT IN A TROOP OR GROUP? CAN THEY DO THE FIRST STEPS ON THEIR OWN?

A: Individually registered girls (Juliettes) should check with the Silver Award Review Board. Once girls commit to working toward a Girl Scout Silver Award, they should have a Girl Scout Silver Award advisor assigned to them. That person will work with a girl through all of the steps or up to when a Girl Scout Silver Award project advisor is recruited or that person may act as the project advisor as well. This is because many of the steps involve discussion and analysis where feedback is needed.

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

A: For a number of reasons it is best to find a project advisor who is not the girl's parent. It is not always possible to get the full benefit of the leadership experience if working with a parent. If the mother is the person working with a group project, she might bring in a project advisor to assist her in the planning or implementation process, or make sure her daughter is working directly with her co-advisor. Avoid situations where parents do a girl's work, even when it comes to calling and asking questions. If money earning is involved, the girl and her advisor can act as a team, with the girl doing the planning and the adult doing the "ask." Girls can ask family members to help with their projects.

Q: DO GIRLS NEED TO COMPLETE THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD BEFORE THEY WORK ON THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD?

A: A girl cannot work on her Girl Scout Gold Award before the age of 14. A girl doesn't need to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award to begin the Girl Scout Gold Award. However, it is helpful, as some of the processes are the same, and many of the skills that are learned in working on the Girl Scout

Q: WHAT IF GIRLS WANT TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THEIR LOCAL HOSPITAL, BECAUSE SOMEONE IN THE TROOP IS SICK. CAN THEY DO THIS?

A: Girls need to follow national and council guidelines related to fundraising and money earning. Girl Scouts cannot raise money for another organization according to GSUSA policy. However, girls can volunteer for that organization or decide to use money from their treasury to fund the work of their Girl Scout Silver Award (like buy paint to paint a homeless shelter). Any money earning **MUST** be reviewed and approved by the council Silver Award Review **BOARD BEFORE IT IS DONE.**

Q: ARE THERE PROJECTS BESIDES FUND RAISING THAT GIRLS SHOULD NOT DO FOR THEIR GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARDS?

A: If there is a question about whether it can be a Girl Scout Silver Award project, girls and their advisors should check with the Silver Award Review Board. Avoid projects that are just simple service projects, projects that involve Web sites (usually a lot of legal issues involved), or like creating a "council's own" patch.

Q: DO GIRLS NEED TO SUBMIT A PROJECT PLAN AND/OR FINAL PROJECT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL?

A: Yes. This form is available in the "Going for Silver" packet. Girls need to submit a project plan to the council Silver Award Review Board before they begin work on their Silver Award project. The Silver Award Review Board will review the project plan and it needs to be signed by the advisor.

Girls who began working on their Silver Award before January 2005, must submit the Silver Award Final Project Report found in the *Going for the Silver* packet **before** attempting to purchase the Silver Award pin from the council shop. **THE SHOP WILL NOT SELL THE SILVER AWARD PIN WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SILVER AWARD REVIEW BOARD.**

Q: HOW DO GIRLS GET LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND COUNCIL RECOGNITION?

A: Once final project approval has been completed by the Silver Award Review Board, the council will forward an official letter of congratulations signed by a representative of the Silver Award Review board and council staff. In addition, girls will be recognized in the council publication *Listening Post*.

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 SILVER AWARD FOR THE GIRL?

A: The Silver Award Pin may be purchased by the girls' troop/group advisor or project advisor after submission and approval of the final project plan to the Silver Award Review Board. The Review Board will sign off on the project and alert the Council Shop to make the pin available to the troop/group or project advisor.

Q: WHERE DOES A GIRL WEAR HER SILVER AWARD AWARDS?

A: If a girl wears the Girl Scout uniform for girls 11-14, 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 Silver 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 Silver Award with regular clothing as well.

Q: ARE SILVER AWARD RESOURCES AVAILABLE?

A: Yes

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE COUNCIL OFFICE OR AT OUR WEBSITE:

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

AVAILABLE AT THE COUNCIL SHOP:

- *Go For It!* The Girl Scout Silver 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