

FAQ's

1. **Why are journeys prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?**

The journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action project.

2. **How do girls know when a journey is "completed?"**

A journey is completed when a girl has earned the journey awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

3. **What makes the awards' guidelines different from the journeys?**

In contrast to journey Take Action projects, which give girls themes on which to base their journey Take Action project, the Girl Scout Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. Girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action project.

4. **What is happening with the prerequisites for the awards (i.e. the signs, interest patches, career and leadership awards)?**

These awards will no longer be prerequisites under the new guidelines. However, girls can continue to earn these awards.

5. **What if we already took Gold Award Workshop A but haven't finished the prerequisites yet? Will there be another Workshop B?**

If you took Gold Award Workshop A, you continue to complete your prerequisites as instructed (i.e. the signs, interest patches, career and leadership awards, and 4B's Challenge). Once the prerequisites are complete, girls will take the *Gold Award Workshop* (formally called Gold "B"). The Gold Award Workshop covers information pertaining to the "Project" phase of the Gold Award, NOT prerequisite information.

6. **What is "Take Action"? Is Take Action a required training?**

The Take Action key and its corresponding outcomes get girls motivated and excited about making an impact in their community that can be felt in the long term. Take Action encourages girls to think bigger and to address problems in such a way that they do not reoccur. And, perhaps most important, a girl's Take Action project changes the world in a meaningful way. Take Action project requires a girl to draw on her experience, education, and personal values. A Take Action Project identifies the root cause of a community issue, involves community partners, and has long-term benefits and sustainable support.

Reasons for Embracing Take Action

- Builds leadership skills in girls
- Helps communities, long term
- Raises the bar (outcomes, measurable and sustainable)
- Impacts our brand and funding

Take Action Projects are integral component to the Journeys and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award processes. While taking the Take Action Workshop is not mandatory, it is extremely helpful for leaders and girls in order to better understand how to plan a successful Take Action project.

7. **When do we need to take the workshop?**

Only Gold Award Workshops are mandatory. Silver Award and Take Action Workshops are optional. Girls pursuing the Gold Award take the *Gold Award Workshop* after they have completed all prerequisites.

8. **My troop is just completed their Silver Award and want to start their Gold, which process should we choose?**
There is no longer a choice, you must follow the new Journey guidelines.

9. **Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) from one Girl Scout level to the next?**

Yes. Girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer.

10. **Can a girl earn her Bronze Award on her own?**

The Bronze Award is a team-based project.

11. **Is sustainability differentiated at each grade level?**

The guidelines give girls tools to examine the underlying root cause of issues, develop a sustainable project plan and measure the impact of their project on their community, the target audience and themselves. There is a progression. While Junior Girl Scouts working on their Girl Scout Bronze Award will reflect on how the project could be kept going, Girl Scout Cadettes plan for sustainability. Seniors and Ambassadors work to ensure the sustainability of their project in order to meet the Gold Award standards of excellence.

While Juniors explore an issue that affects their Girl Scout community, Cadettes create a community map of their neighborhood or school. Meanwhile Seniors and Ambassadors earning the Gold Award assess an issue and its effect more broadly by interviewing community leaders, research using a variety of sources and investigate other community's solutions to a similar problem.

12. **How can we make sure that Girl Scout Awards represent quality projects?**

The best way to make sure that a girl is doing the best of her ability is to ensure that both she and her project advisor receive orientation about the award and understand the difference between a one time community service opportunity or event and a Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Take Action project. It's the responsibility of the troop/group volunteer, council staff member or Gold Award committee (for Gold Award only) to work with the girl to ensure that she meets the quality requirements of the award.

13. **What does it mean to have a sustainable project?**

A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girl's involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl's involvement.

14. **How does a girl measure project impact?**

Girls identify their project goals for their community, target audience and themselves by developing success indicators using a matrix provided in the guidelines.