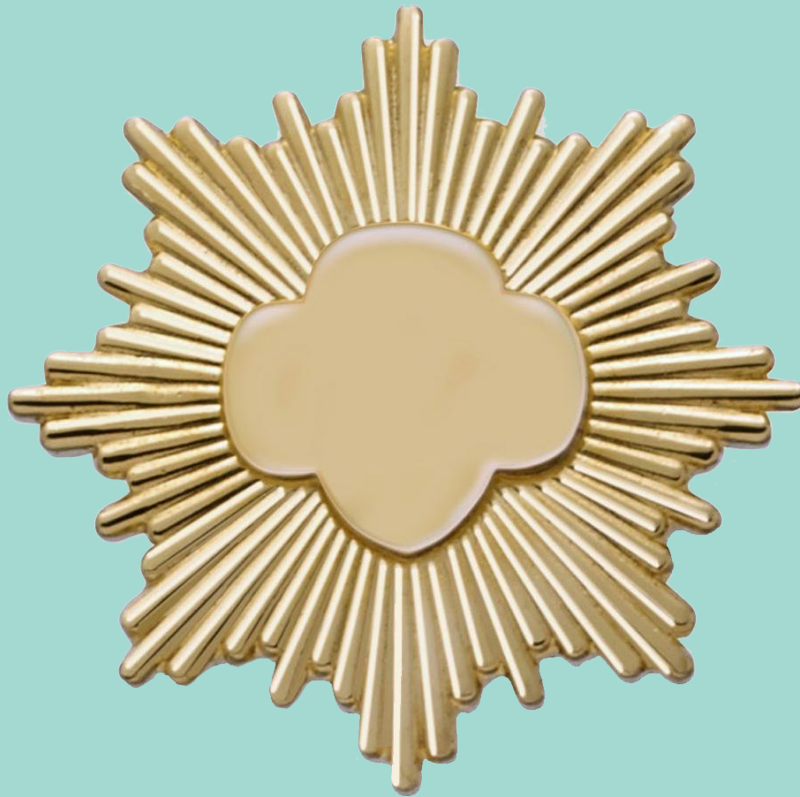




Gold Award Workbook

girl scouts 
of michigan
shore to shore

Welcome

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable. Through pursuing the Gold Award, Girl Scouts change the world by tackling issues they are passionate about to drive lasting change in their communities and beyond while they learn essential skills that will prepare them for all aspects of life.

As a bonus, the Gold Award opens doors to a variety of scholarships, preferred admission tracks for college, strong networking, amazing career opportunities, and much more.

In order to begin earning the Gold Award, a Girl Scout must:

- Be in grade 9–12
- Be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador
- Has earned the Silver Award , OR has earned a Senior/Ambassador Leadership Award or Journey
- And most importantly, the Girl Scout should feel compelled to do something meaningful that will make the world a better place!



This guide is a supplement to GSMISTS's online Gold Award training and should be used to take notes and brainstorm as you work through the self-paced modules. Let's get going and let's Go Gold!

Table of Contents

The Gold Award Defined.....	3
Gold Award Basics.....	4
How Much Time Does it Take?.....	5
Understanding Take Action projects.....	7
5 Key Elements of a Gold Award.....	9
Choosing an Issue.....	12
Investigate.....	15
Getting Help.....	18
Creating a Plan	20
GoGold Online & Submitting a Proposal.....	24
Taking Action after Approval.....	25
The Final Report.....	26
Stay Connected with GSMISTS.....	27
Gold Award Proposal Rubric.....	28
Notes.....	30

The Gold Award Defined

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors in grades 9-12 who demonstrate leadership and initiative by tackling a community issues, developing a sustainable solution, and making lasting impact.

Benefits of becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout:

When you become a Gold Award Girl Scout, you delve deep into your passions, flex your problem-solving muscle, stand up for what you believe in, inspire others, and make a difference. It's an opportunity to do something more and to set your sights on true leadership.

Along the way you'll also:

- **Grow professional skills:**
Gold Award Girl Scouts become pros in team building, problem solving, project planning, and time management. These are invaluable skills that all professionals need—and all people value.
- **Earn scholarships:**
Many universities and colleges award scholarships to Gold Award Girl Scouts. In addition, the **GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship** recognizes and provides financial support to one Gold Award Girl Scout per council.
- Eligible Girl Scouts are notified of application period each spring.
- **Build your network:**
Gold Award Girl Scouts recruit and lead teams to do amazing things! This experience will give you a network of supporters that lasts a lifetime.
- **Enlist at a higher pay grade if you join the U.S. Armed Forces:**
Gold Award Girl Scouts are entitled to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces at a higher pay grade, typically an advanced rank like E-3, as recognition for their leadership and community service achievements.



“A badge is a symbol that you have done the thing it stands for often enough, thoroughly enough, and well enough to be prepared to give service to it.”

*Juliette Gordon Low,
Founder of GSUSA*

Gold Award Basics



Fill in the
blank

About Me

Name: _____ Grade: _____

I am a Girl Scout: ☐ Senior ☐ Ambassador

Prerequisite Award Earned



☐ Silver Award



☐ True North



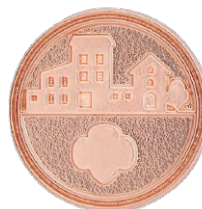
☐ Counselor in Training (I, II or both)



☐ Volunteer In Training



☐ Gold Torch



☐ Take Action



☐ Global Action

Current Senior Journeys*

- ☐ Mission Sisterhood
- ☐ Sow What
- ☐ GIRLtopia
- ☐ Outdoor Journey
- ☐ Think like a Citizen Scientist, Think like a programmer, or think like an engineer

Current Ambassador Journeys*

- ☐ Bliss: Live It! Give It!
- ☐ Justice
- ☐ Outdoor Journey
- ☐ Think like a Citizen Scientist, Think like a programmer, or think like an engineer
- ☐ Your Voice, Your World

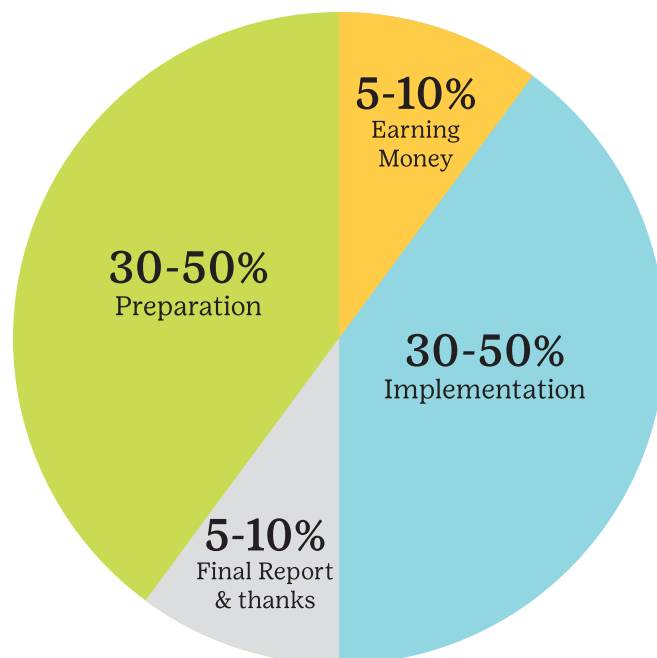
**Journeys will be retired September 2026*

How Much Time Does it Take?

Plan to spend 80 hours bringing your project to life—that's the minimum.

These hours will give you the time you need to properly plan and execute your project—though keep in mind that your schedule and other time commitments will influence how long it takes to complete your project. This is OK, whatever timeline you follow is just fine!

Use this chart—and the definitions below—as a guide to help you plan how to best invest your time for maximum efficiency and impact.



Preparation (30–50%)

Includes time planning pre- and post approval

Pre-approval (up to 25%) is the process of preparing your project plan before council review and approval. This includes some research, contacting possible community partners, investigating potential venues, finding prospective volunteers, and ultimately completing your project proposal. ***After completing your initial research, you **MUST** receive approval from GSMISTS Gold Award Support Team before carrying out any steps of your project.

Post-approval (up to 25%) is the work of finalizing your research and locking in your logistics after your proposal is approved by our council. For example, you might contact your venue and set dates and times for workshops.

Implementation (30–50%)

This is the process of leading and executing the plan you defined in your project proposal and making changes, when necessary, to achieve the project's goal. This includes training your volunteers, leading your team to do your project, and more!

Earning Money (5–10%)

Note this is optional and only includes time you spend earning money for your Gold Award.

Final Report & Thanks (5–10%)

Includes reflecting on your impact and appreciating your team, which are essential parts of the Gold Award, so make these a priority as you wrap up.

Remember to keep these important dates in mind when thinking about your final report.

MAR. 1

Submit completed Gold Award Final Report to be recognized at GSMISTS annual Girl Scout Recognition Ceremony (early June)

Those submitting after this deadline will be recognized at the following year's ceremony.

MAY 1

For High School Seniors

Last day for graduating high school seniors to **receive approval** for the Gold Award Project Proposal.

SEP. 30

For High School Seniors

Complete and **approvable** Gold Award Final Reports must be submitted through GoGold, no exceptions.



Understanding Take Action projects

What is the difference between community service and a Take Action project?

While both are essential to Girl Scouting, there are distinguishing factors between the two.

Community service projects are acts of kindness and important ways to help something or someone right now. They are commonly “one and done” activities. Performing community service almost always multiplies efforts that are already in place.

Examples include collecting food for an existing food pantry, providing clothing or toiletries to people who have suffered a disaster, cleaning up a run-down playground, or picking up trash at a park, forest, or beach.

Girl Scout Take Action projects address an issue by tackling the factors that cause or contribute to it.

As you may expect, these projects have a far-reaching impact. They are designed to change something for the better—forever.

Use this table to help determine whether an idea is a community service or Take Action project:



Community Service

A short-term effort that helps something or someone fulfill an immediate need

Done FOR the community

Joining an existing effort to solve a problem

Done as part of an existing team
(usually as a volunteer)

Working towards a goal that's set by others

Take Action

A long-term project with sustainable and ongoing impact that addresses a root cause of an issue

Done WITH the community

Creating a unique initiative to address an issue

Creating and leading your own team
of volunteers

Setting goals and leading a team to achieve them

Practice your understanding:



Take a look at the sample issues and community service solutions below.
What could a Take Action project look like to solve the issue? Write your ideas in the space below.

Sample Issue 1: Racial tensions exist in the community.

Brainstorm a Take Action project to solve this issue below:

Who might you partner with and why?

How would it be sustainable?

Sample Issue 2: Families in your community are going hungry.

Brainstorm a Take Action project to solve this issue below:

Who might you partner with and why?

How would it be sustainable?

5 Key Elements of the Gold Award

Addresses a Root Cause

Has a National/Global Link

Demonstrates Leadership

Is Sustainable

Has Measurable Impact

Addresses a Root Cause

Root causes are an issue's trigger—they identify **why** an issue is happening. Often, you'll have to look for the "why" in a lot of places in order to find the root causes.

During your **root cause analysis** phase, ask:

- What's really causing this problem?
- Can I demonstrate that the root cause is valid, and not just an assumption?
- Have I talked to people directly affected to understand their perspective?
- Is there a deeper reason behind what I'm seeing?

Root cause example: Andrea is passionate about ocean conservation. She asks why ocean pollution happens and lists several causes, including acid rain, soil runoff, and oil spills. She remembers witnessing the harmful impact of a major oil spill in her local ecosystem and decides to learn more about why oil spills happen.

Andrea reaches out to experts and, after additional research, learns that a lack of safety protocols for oil storage is one of the root causes. She chooses to create a project that addresses how oil storage can be made safer to prevent spills.



Has a National or Global Link

It's likely that the issue you've been working towards addressing is relevant worldwide—it can be found in your own local, regional, or national community and across the globe, whether it's poverty, hunger, illiteracy, homelessness, or pollution.

Identifying a national and/or global link doesn't mean you need to travel or expand your project across the globe.



National and/or Global Link example: For the past four years, Gayle has volunteered at a local animal rescue group. It regularly operates at its maximum capacity and is unable to take in additional animals. Gayle identifies a root cause to tackle this issue.

As she begins her research, she learns that animal rescue groups across the country share similar challenges and discovers various perspectives on animal welfare across the globe. Then, she reaches out to relevant animal welfare organizations to better understand the issue and to access the research that they have available.

She decides to focus on a solution that she can implement at animal rescue groups in her community and share widely.

Demonstrating Leadership

It isn't a leader's job to do everything; rather, it's the leader's job to make sure everything gets done. You will demonstrate leadership by recruiting and engaging a diverse team of volunteers from your network and around the community. Share your vision to help align your team—you can also map out activities, set schedules, create a communication plan, and solve challenges if they arise.

Take Action projects require partnering with the community you're serving, so be sure to enlist appropriate individuals, groups, or organizations before, during, and after your project to ensure they are engaged with and benefit from your project. Ideally, your project will provide the community with a much needed solution so they will help sustain your project.

Practice your understanding:

Think about a leader you know personally. They could be a teacher, coach, or family member. Consider what makes them a good leader. What qualities do they have that inspire you?



Write down 5 qualities of a strong leader:

Why are these strong qualities?

What are some examples of poor leadership? Jot down five examples:

As you work toward the Gold Award, how can you demonstrate leadership?

Your Project's Sustainability



Sustainability means that your project, as well as the work towards addressing your issue, carries on or continues even after you've done your part and earned the Gold Award. In a nutshell: you'll put a plan in place that ensures your Gold Award creates lasting change.

Sustainability is not a one-size-fits-all. Here are three different ways you can ensure your project is sustainable:

1. Create a permanent solution, and ensure it's used.
2. Educate others by inspiring them to change their attitudes, beliefs or behaviors and prove the changes by using a measurement tool and either,
 - Putting a plan into place to continue the education beyond your involvement
 - Enacting a call to action
3. Advocate to change a rule, regulation, or law and engage others in your advocacy.

Something to remember:

When your goal is to change someone's mind, education can be a powerful tool. You can create and deploy a wide range of materials that will educate others about the issue you care about.

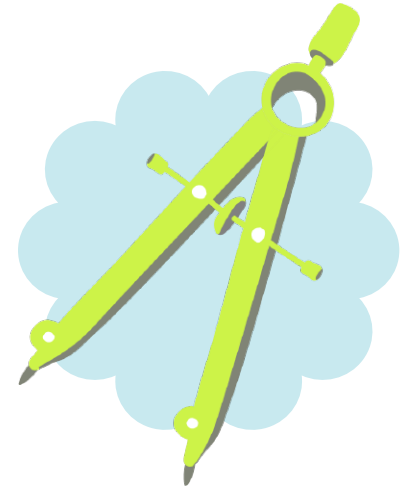
We call this a "force multiplier" when someone makes a significant change to an attitude and/or behavior.

Measuring your Success

What can you count in order to measure the effectiveness of your project? Maybe you can begin by asking "how much?" or "how many?"

If you are introducing a new concept to a group, you can use a pre- and post-questionnaire to measure **how much** they've learned or assess what behaviors they've changed. You can count **how many** people your project helped, involved, or educated, or how many people changed their behaviors or attitudes.

Gold Award projects have goals and measure true impact. You will be able to explain your project's success by having an understanding of "before" and "after".



Scenario: Your Take Action project aims to educate the community about the impact of invasive plants and minimize their spread in the environment.

Come up with 3 ways you can measure the success of this project.



Choosing an Issue

The issue you choose to address with your Gold Award Project should be one you are personally passionate about, not one that someone else told you to do or thinks you “should” do.

For **Gold Award Girl Scouts**, understanding the difference between a perceived issue and a true issue is essential to developing a meaningful and impactful Take Action project.

Perceived Issue	True Issue
What appears to be the problem based on initial observations or public opinion	Is identified and supported by research
Often influenced by surface-level symptoms, emotions, or assumptions	Addressing this leads to a more sustainable and lasting impact
May not address the deeper cause of the challenge	

Scenario:

- **Perceived issue:** “Students are glued to their cell phones during recess”

Take a step back and think about the **true issue**.

Ask yourself:

- Why do my teachers say students using cell phones in school is a problem?
- Are cell phones influencing how students socialize?
- What other ways might cell phone use at school be a bad thing?

By gathering evidence and researching this perceived issue, you might conclude that the **True Issue** is the decline in interpersonal skills between high schoolers, potentially exacerbated by students’ dependency on cell phones.



Brainstorm



Use the chart below to brainstorm and make a list of eight issues you care about. Think about your interests and the needs of your community.

What things are you passionate about?	What are issues impacting this subject?	How do these issues effect your community?

Decision Bracket



Take a moment to reflect on your personal talents and skills.
Then reflect on the issues important to you. Fill in the boxes to combine
a pair that will create your take action project.

Step 1: Fill in the boxes to the *left* with your talents and skills.

Step 2: Fill the boxes to the *right* with the things you identified as important to you

Step 3: For each bracket, choose one subject to advance further

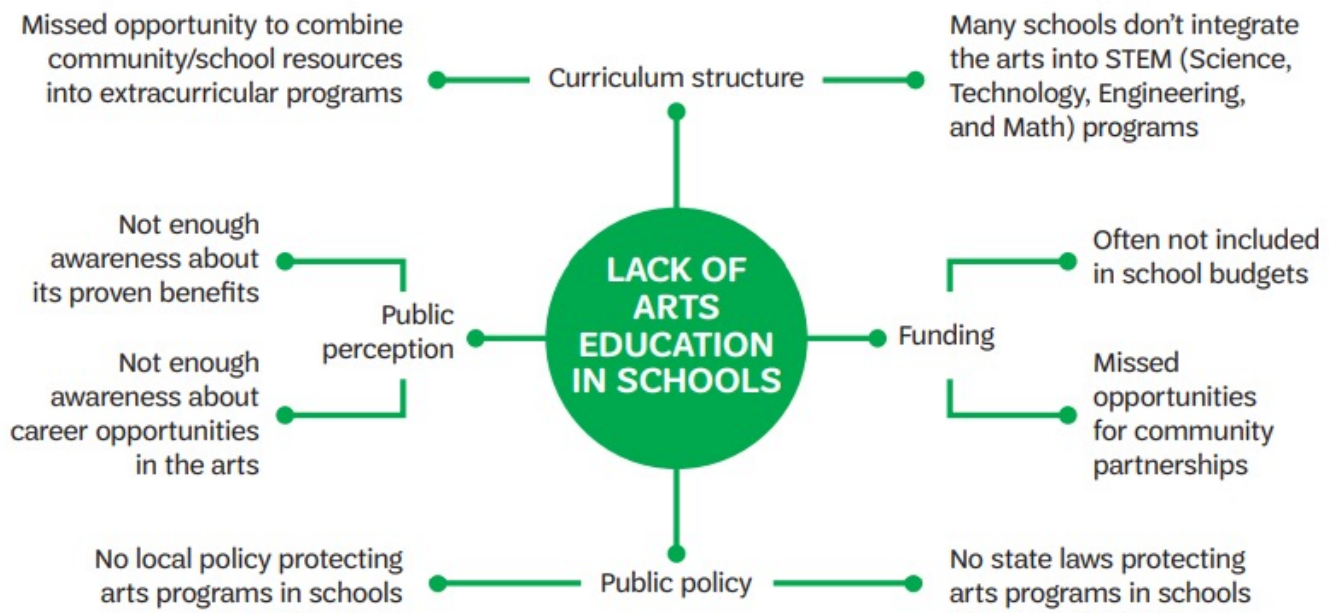
Step 4: Continue until you have a final pair to combine for your project.

The diagram is a decision bracket. In the center is a circle containing two boxes: "I am most passionate about:" and "My biggest strength is:". To the left of the circle is a vertical column of 8 boxes. To the right is a vertical column of 8 boxes. Lines connect the boxes in a bracketing fashion. On the left, the top two boxes connect to the first box on the right of the center circle. The next two boxes connect to the second box on the right. The next two boxes connect to the third box on the right. The bottom two boxes connect to the fourth box on the right. On the right, the top two boxes connect to the first box on the left of the center circle. The next two boxes connect to the second box on the left. The next two boxes connect to the third box on the left. The bottom two boxes connect to the fourth box on the left.

Investigate

Now you've identified one or two community issues that you're interested in exploring further. You'll need to trace back the issues to their **root causes** for your project and then connect with experts to plan your project. By addressing the root causes of your issue and involving your community in the solution, you'll be primed to make a sustainable impact.

Start by using a mind-mapping tool to explore the root causes of the issue you've chosen. Here's an example mind map:



Notice that the community issue “lack of arts education in schools” is placed in the center and that things that could trigger it, like funding, public policy, public perception, and curriculum structure are explored further.

When you explore further, you find root causes. In this example the root causes are in the outer prongs. For example, the root causes of the public's perception of lack of arts education in schools include not enough awareness about proven benefits and not enough awareness about career opportunities in the arts.

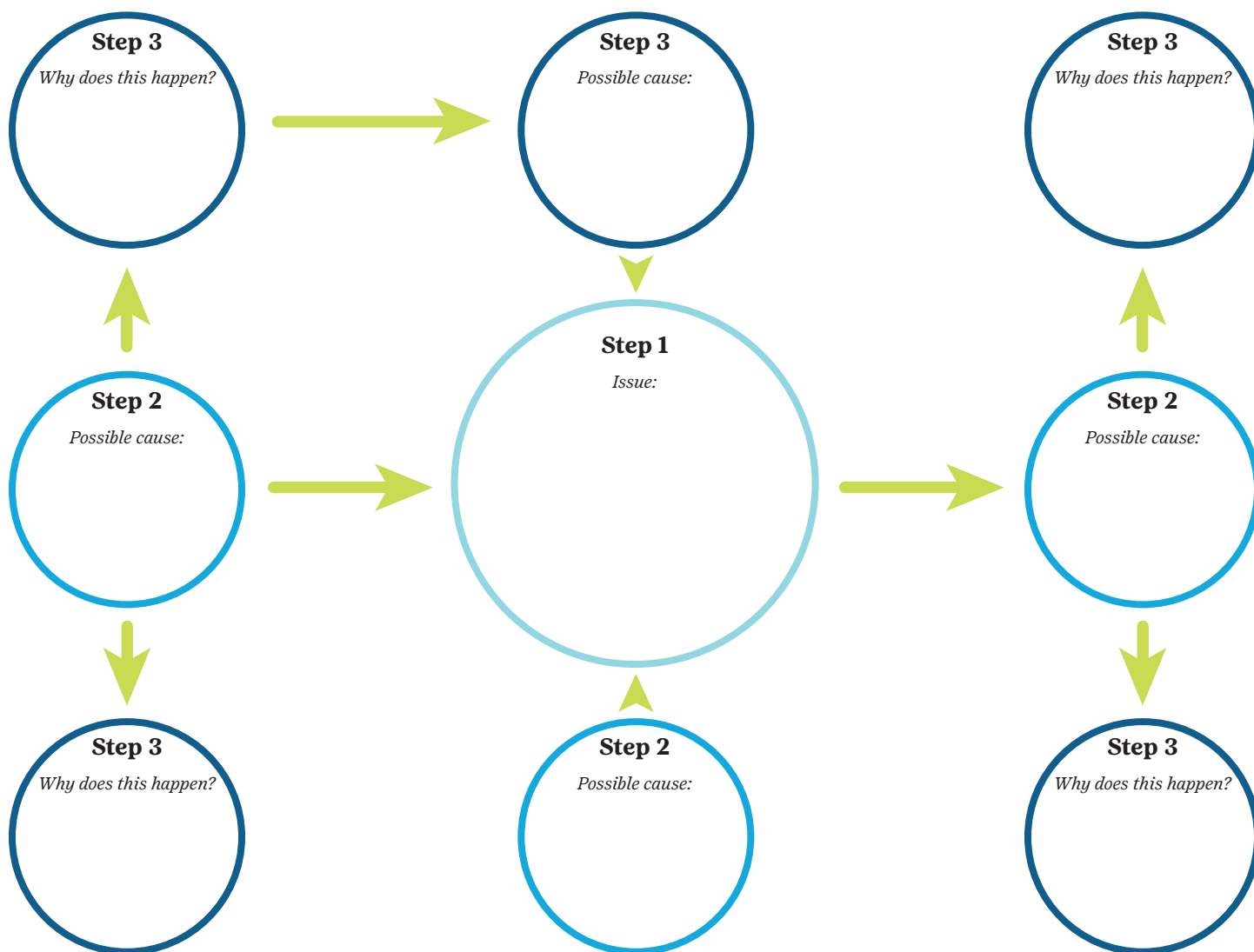
Mind Mapping



Step 1: Write your community issue. Place the answer in the inner circle.

Step 2: Ask: “What could be causing this issue?” Then, explore further. Place answers in circles just outside the community issue.

Step 3: To find the root cause, investigate: “Why does this happen?” Place answers in outer circles.



Reflect on your mind map

What root cause do you feel best equipped to address? Rank your answers from 1-3 with 1 being most important.

1.

3.

2.

Opportunities / Challenges

As you continue investigating an issue for your Gold Award project, take time to explore both the exciting opportunities and the real challenges you might face. Understanding these obstacles from the start will help you think strategically, advocate confidently, and build a project that is not only meaningful but also sustainable.

Take a look at the sample chart below for example opportunities and challenges when thinking about *“A lack of Arts Education in schools”*

Opportunities	Challenges
• Community Partnerships Local artists, makerspaces, or museums may be eager to collaborate or sponsor the project • Schools are an outlet to implement a program My project could increase engagement from students by introducing lesson plans, clubs, or workshops that the school adopts long-term. Students who struggle with STEM may become more interested when creative elements like design, storytelling, or music are involved.	• School Buy-In Teachers or administrators may be hesitant to add something new to an already packed curriculum. I may need to show research or data on the benefits of STEAM to convince stakeholders. Lack of Expertise; Not all teachers may feel confident teaching art • Funding & Materials Arts materials (like paint, 3D printers, or musical instruments) can be expensive or limited in underfunded schools.

Continue with Research

Now that you know a root cause you want to address, deepen your understanding with supplemental research.

- **Get online:** Check news and organizations’ sites related to your issue. Explore how the media in other countries cover your issue.
- **Get reading:** Find books that offer in-depth analysis of your issue, read your local newspaper, and look for magazine articles that offer different perspectives.
- **Interview experts:** Talk to friends, neighbors, teachers, business owners, community partners, and others who can offer information or insight about the issue you’ve chosen.

You, your family, or your friends may be well aware of an issue – it can be obvious because you experience it every day. However, you will still need to explain it and prove change is needed. Members of the community may not know about or realize your issue IS an issue. **Save record of all the research you find – you will need to cite your findings in your in your Gold Award Project Proposal.**

Getting Help

In order to complete your Gold Award, you'll recruit a team of volunteers. Working together to put your plans into action allows you to flex your leadership muscle and make a bigger impact than you would on your own. Choose a diverse group of volunteers with different skill sets who will work to put your project into action and support you until you're done.

Here are some important members of your team:

- **Your project advisor:** the most important person on your team! This is an adult who has some level of expertise in one or more areas of the issue your project addresses. Think of your project advisor as a professional consultant; they can guide you as you plan and implement your project. The project advisor does not design your project but does offer valuable insight, advice, and guidance.

***NOTE:** Parents/guardians and troop volunteers cannot be project advisors. Sometimes adult siblings or family members such as aunts or uncles can be approved project advisors if they are experts on your issue.*

GSUSA's [Project Advisor Guide](#) will help your advisor understand their role and how they can support you.

- **GSMISTS Gold Award Support Team and staff:** these team members will communicate with you throughout the Gold Award process, offering support and check-ins to help with your progress. All communication will be through email, so please be sure to check your inbox! Girl Scouts, not their parents or troop leaders, are expected to communicate directly with the GSMISTS Gold Award Support Team and staff.
- **Parents or guardians:** They are amazing supporters! They can act as cheerleaders, sounding boards, and chauffeurs. They can also help you out with safety, transportation, and travel guidelines.

The [Guide for Adults](#) lists helpful ways your parents or caregivers can help you.

- **Troop volunteers and individually registered member mentors:** can help make sure you've met Gold Award prerequisites and may also agree to be a part of your volunteer team. They can also review Gold Award funding, safety, and travel guidelines with you. The [Guide for Leaders](#) will get them started!
- **Friends and family:** may want to help you implement your plan. Fellow Girl Scouts, relatives, friends, siblings, and cousins can all make terrific team members. Feel confident about giving them hands-on roles and delegating tasks to them, too!



Brainstorm



Use the chart below to brainstorm a list of 5-6 people who can be on your team. Be ready to identify each volunteer's role. How can they help you?

Who I know	How can they help?

A good leader identifies specific team members with varied backgrounds and skill sets to assist with specific tasks associated with their project. While you may be inclined to primarily enlist your peers, adult support can help you form partnerships with organizations, access resources, and provide important safety measures.

When you expand your circle, you expand your impact. You may feel a little bit uneasy to approach and invite those outside your network to join your team, but remember to use your proposal as your guide to explain your plans. Chances are they will be impressed!

Creating a Plan

In order to complete your project proposal, you'll need to bring together the work and research you did and show how you will achieve your project's purpose in your project plan.

You'll work out specific details of your project proposal, including a project description, proposed budget and timeline, and your thoughts on how the project will impact you, your target audience, and your wider community. You'll also define your project's national and/or global link, set goals to measure your impact, and plan how you'll sustain your project.

Your project plan is a **separate typed document** that will be included with your project proposal submission.

To evaluate the quality of your project plan, review the Gold Award Proposal Rubric on pages 28-29.

Providing as much detail as possible is critical!

This helps the GSMISTS Gold Award Support Team evaluate your timeline and proposed scope of work. Ensure you've clearly articulated your ideas and plans, identified your team, set clear goals, and determined how your impact will be measured.

The Gold Award Support Team will likely not know you, your community, or the local organizations you hope to work with - be specific so your vision is clear to them!

Make a Checklist

When starting to write your project plan, you should already have thought about and be knowledgeable about the following information. Note items #1-5 is the information that answers the "What" and "Why" questions about your project. Items #6-15 are questions to answer that help the Gold Award Support Team understand the "How, When, Where, and Whos" of your project.

- ☐ **1. Project Title**
 - I have a solid title for my project.
 - This title reflects the project's purpose.
- ☐ **2. Your Information**
 - I've included my name.
 - My Girl Scout Council.
 - My Troop Number or Juliette.
 - My Contact Information.
- ☐ **3. Project Advisor Information**
 - I've included their name.
 - I've identified the organization they work with, as well as their title/role.
 - Their contact information is included.
 - I've clearly communicated how this individual is qualified to assist me and my project.
- ☐ **4. Project Description**
 - I have clearly identified and explained the issue I choose to address.
 - I have written about why it is important to me.
 - The people or communities affected by this issue are identified.
 - I've included citations to show my research and support the statements in my plan.

- ☐ **5. Root Cause Analysis**
- I've investigated and have communicated the root cause of this issue.
 - I can explain my research and how I came to this conclusion (i.e. Interviews, research, data, or expert input.)
- ☐ **6. Proposed Solution**
- I have painted a clear picture about what my project is and how it will address the root cause.
 - I have written about how this project will make a lasting impact.
- ☐ **7. Project Goals and Impact**
- I have identified SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-specific.)
 - I have explained how my project will project benefit the community.
 - My target audience is clearly defined.
 - I have written about how I will measure my project's success.
- ☐ **8. Sustainability Plan**
- My project's plan for sustainability is clearly defined.
 - I've identified **who** will help sustain it after I am done.
 - I've explained **how** they will sustain it after I am done.
- ☐ **9. Global/National Link**
- I have written about how my issue impacts a larger audience.
 - I can speak to how other communities face similar challenges on a national or global level.
 - I've explained how my project can be replicated or adapted elsewhere.
- ☐ **10. Create a Detailed Timeline**
- My timeline includes month-by-month or week-by-week detail.
 - My timeline factors in any planning I need to do, approvals I will need to get.
 - I've thought about and conveyed how long I expect my project to take.
 - I have spelled out working tasks vs. leadership tasks.
 - Working = building, hands on, creative.
 - Leadership = delegating tasks, recruiting help, speaking to community organizations.
- ☐ **11. Create a Detailed Budget**
- I have an estimated total cost of my project.
 - I have included a detailed breakdown of expenses (supplies, materials, printing, etc.)
 - I have explained how funds will be obtained.
 - "Supplemental documents for GSMISTS money earning guidelines are accessible on GSMISTS.org."
- 12. Team and Support**
- ☐ • Additional members of my support team are identified.
- ☐ • Their roles and how they will help me are included.
- ☐ • I have explained why they will be part of my support team.
- ☐ **13. Leadership**
- I have identified how I will demonstrate leadership.
 - I have written about how I will delegate and manage the project.
- ☐ **14. Materials and Resources Needed**
- I've included all the anticipated tools, supplies, and equipment I will need.
- ☐ **15. Communication Plan**
- I have explained my plans for communicating with volunteers, partners, and the community.
 - My ideas for promoting or publicizing my project are included.

GoGold Online & Submitting your Proposal

GoGold is the GSUSA web app you will use to track your progress towards completing the Gold Award—from idea to proposal, to taking action and final report—online!

While you will have a separate, typed project plan narrative, **entering information through GoGold is the ONLY way to formally submit your Gold Award for approval.** Information asked in GoGold may overlap with things you’ve already brainstormed or included in your plan – but don’t worry! GoGold formally captures this information so it can be securely stored and accessible to any Girl Scout staff, volunteers, or team members who will be working with you on your project.

The system includes options for your troop leader to virtually sign off on your prerequisites, and for your project advisor to verify your proposal is ready for your council’s review process.

Think of GoGold as an interactive, informative, and enormous filing cabinet up in the cloud—where every single Gold Award proposal and final report is proudly safeguarded and cataloged for all Girl Scouts on this amazing journey.



New Password Needed

Reset your password by selecting the “Forgot Password” button on the login page

Two screenshots of the GoGold 'Reset your password' page. The top screenshot shows the initial reset page with the GoGold logo, the text 'Reset your password', a link to click the button below to reset the password, a yellow 'RESET PASSWORD' button, and a note that the link will expire in an hour. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Reset Password' form with the GoGold logo, the text 'Reset Password', an email input field, a reCAPTCHA checkbox labeled 'I'm not a robot', a reCAPTCHA logo, and a yellow 'Reset Password' button.

Taking Action after Approval

You've submitted your work through GoGold, you've included your typed Project Plan narrative, now what?

Once you've received approval, bring your project to life! Keep track of the following:

- Hours worked & towards what piece of the project (i.e. 3 hours spent researching)
- Detailed incomes and expenses put toward your project
- Capture photos of your progress
- Journal your progress and what you're learning along the way

All of these pieces will help you when you write your Final Report!

Reminder:

All Project Proposals **MUST** receive approval by GSMISTS's Gold Award Support Team before you can begin implementing your project.

Take a look at the sample chart below and use the blank template on pages 24-25 to help keep track of your project details.

Hours worked towards what piece of the project	Incomes and Expenses	What did I learn today?
1.5 hours spent interviewing experts and researching potential community partnerships.	0	There is a lack of space for children with ADD/ADHD to decompress when they're feeling overwhelmed
2 hours spent gathering supplies and tools for the "calming room"	\$200 donated from a local ACE Hardware for supplies including paint, brushes, wall decals	When considering a new wall color I learned that color theory has an impact on mental health and wellness
2.5 hours spent taking a safety course to use tools such as a drill, electric saw and sander	\$75 expense to pay the cost of the safety course	How to safely use power tools which will improve the quality of the calming space I am working to build

Keeping Track



As you bring your project to life, use this chart to help keep track of your project details. Remember to also take pictures as you go and be detailed in your tracking as it will help when writing your final report.

Hours worked towards what piece of the project	Incomes and Expenses	What did I learn today?

Educate & Inspire – Sharing your success through the Final Report

You've successfully implemented and measured the success of your project.

The final step before earning your Gold Award is submitting a final report via GoGold and discussing your success with the Gold Award Support Team.

Just like your project plan, your final report should be detailed and help paint a picture of your Gold Award project.

Things to address in your final report should include, but are not limited to:

- What didn't go as planned?
- What challenges did you face?
- What changes did you have to make?
- How did you measure success?
- Detailed budget and spending information.
- What your target audience learn or benefit from your project?
- How will your project be sustained now that you're done?
- What did you learn?



Reminders:

The Gold Award Support Team will schedule a final interview with you to discuss your project.

Note: If your submitted final report lacks detail you may be asked to re-write it!

At your Gold Award Support Team interview you will be asked to present your project with a Tri-Fold board. This tri-fold will be used in the future at Girl Scout award ceremonies and other opportunities to share your Gold Award success with others.

Stay Connected with GSMISTS

As you take the next exciting steps in your journey, we encourage you to stay connected with Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore (GSMISTS).

Your Girl Scout experience doesn't end after completing a Gold Award – you're forever part of this incredible sisterhood! Stay in the loop by following us on social media and subscribing to our monthly digital newsletters. You'll find updates on events, volunteer opportunities, and inspiring stories from fellow Girl Scouts who, like you, are making a difference in the world.

No matter where life takes you, GSMISTS is here to support and celebrate your continued growth as a leader and changemaker!

Digital Newsletters

In the Know: A monthly newsletter sent to your e-mail or available on gsmists.org. In the Know is for troop leaders and service unit team members to stay informed on GSMISTS happenings and activities.

Shore Shout Out: A quarterly newsletter sent to your e-mail or available on gsmists.org. Shore Shout Out is for Girl Scout families to share GSMISTS happenings and activities.

What's Inside?

- Membership Info
- Product Program
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Upcoming Events
- Ways to Support GSMISTS
- Shop Updates
- and more!

Want to be added to the e-mail list?
Contact communications@gsmists.org



Follow Us!

For uplifting stories and council updates, check out our socials.



@gsmists | #gsmists

Gold Award Proposal Rubric

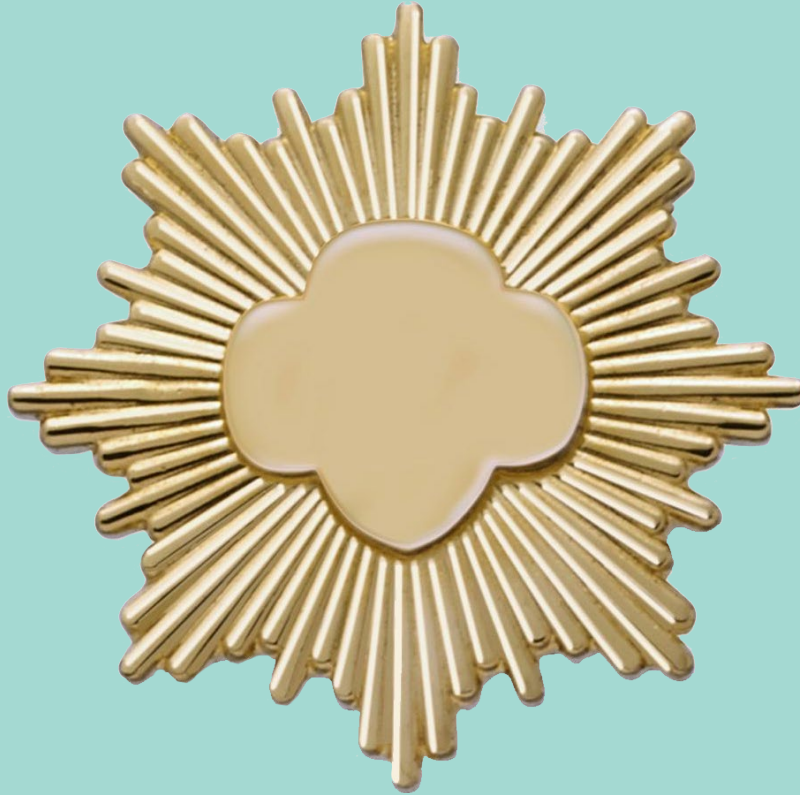
CRITERIA	Approved	Conditionally Approved	Request for Revision	Does Not Meet Standards
Innovation	Project is an original idea	Project is an original idea	Original idea is present but needs developing to be a full project	Project repeats or continues an existing or past project
Community Need	Identified credible community need	Credible Need but already being fulfilled	Issue based on personal interest and not need	No credible need identified
Root Cause	Root cause identified with a plan to address it	Root cause addressed with a short-term plan	Root cause identified but no plan for it	No root cause identified
Target Audience	Target audience Identified and solution benefits it	Target audience Identified and marginally benefits it	Project plan is designed FOR audience and not WITH it	No target audience
Research	1-2 resources cited	Research implied with no sources	No research	No research
National/Global Link	Broad evidence of link	Evidence of limited link	No evidence of implied link	No Link
Team Members	3-5 non GS team members	Self, Family and GS only	Less than 3 team members	Self and Family only
Project Advisor	Advisor is an expert	Advisor is part of GS family but also an expert	Advisor is a relative or troop leader/has no knowledge of issue	No Advisor Selected

Gold Award Proposal Rubric

CRITERIA	Approved	Conditionally Approved	Request for Revision	Does Not Meet Standards
Project Description	Clearly Described and demonstrates approach to issue	Clearly described but doesn't demonstrate issue being solved	Vaguely Described; Unclear what is being done	Project not described at all
Measurability	Impact is defined and measurable with a clear measurement tool	Impact is defined but no clear measurement tool	Impact is not realistically measurable	Impact does not relate to the issue
Goals	1 goal is defined, realistic, and connected to impact	1 goal defined but lacks detail	Goals are not connected to impact	No goals identified
Sustainability	Clear plan on sustainability beyond GS	Clear plan that depends on someone else	Unclear plan on sustainability	No plan or inability to be sustained
Timeline	Realistic plan with 80 hours and 8 hours with the Target Audience	Realistic plan with 80 hours and no Target Audience hours	Incomplete Plan with less than 80 hours	Unrealistic plan without 80 hours
Leadership	Strategy to engage teammates is comprehensive	Strategy planned but omits specific roles	Strategy limited but attempted	No strategy to lead
Budget	Detailed description of project costs and how they are met	Vague description but costs/expenses balance	Unclear on how costs are met or are beyond the scope of the project	Budget incomplete or unrealistic

Notes

Notes



Girl Scouting builds girls of courage,
confidence, and character who make the
world a better place.