



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.

Girl Scout Gold Award Girl Packet

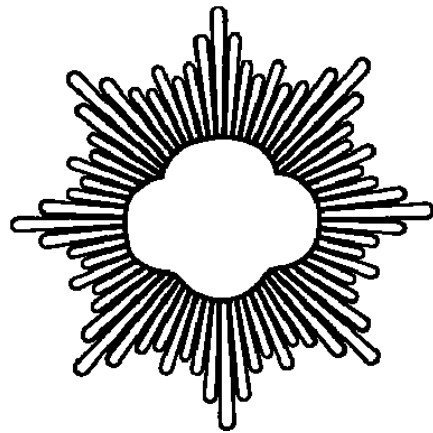


Table of Contents

◆ Welcome Letter	3
◆ History of the Girl Scout Gold Award	4
◆ Benefits of Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award	5
◆ The Girl Scout Gold Award: Process, Overview, and Steps	6-9
◆ Girl Scout Gold Award Resources	10
◆ The Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance	11-14
◆ From Good to Great: Successful Girl Scout Gold Award Projects	15
◆ National Young Women of Distinction	16
◆ M*O*N*E*Y and Your Leadership Project	17-20
◆ Girl Scout Gold Award FAQs	21-25
◆ Ways Parents/Guardians Can Support Girls Working on the Girl Scout Gold Award	26
◆ Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor Volunteer Position Description	27
◆ Girl Scout Gold Award Paperwork Instructions and Project Tips	28



Dear Girl Scout Gold Award Applicant,

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn. Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award requires hard work and the willingness to challenge oneself by taking on significant responsibilities. By earning Girl Scouting's highest award, you are expressing a special commitment to yourself, your community, your work, and your future. Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, career planning, community service, and personal development.

The pre-requirement work towards earning the award will help you develop skills, practice leadership, explore career possibilities, and discover yourself. Once you have received approval from Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc., you can begin working on your project. Your Girl Scout Gold Award project should involve leadership, goal setting, decision making, networking, planning, enlisting the help of others, and more. Utilizing your strengths and passions will result in a leadership project that will help others by meeting an expressed need in your community outside of the Girl Scout community.

This *Girl Scout Gold Award Girl Packet* contains much of the information you will need as you pursue your Girl Scout Gold Award.

Good luck in your pursuit of the Girl Scout Gold Award. If you have any questions, contact the Schofield (Wausau) Service Center at mcarr@gsnwgl.org or 715.355.9850 / 888.747.6945, ext. 4517.

Green Bay Service Center
P.O. Box 9427
Green Bay, WI 54308-9427
920.469.4860

Marquette Service Center
131 W. Washington/Ste. C
Marquette, MI 49855
906.225.8020

Appleton Service Center
4693 N. Lynndale Dr.
Appleton, WI 54913
920.734.4559

Eau Claire Service Center
4222 Oakwood Hills Pkwy.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715.835.5331

Schofield (Wausau) Service Center
3511 Camp Phillips Road
Schofield, WI 54476
715.355.9850

Wisconsin Rapids Service Center
3910 Chestnut St.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715.423.6360

Sincerely,

Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee

History of the Girl Scout Gold Award

The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting, recognizes the leadership, effort, and impact girls 14-18 years old have had on their communities. Only about 5% of eligible girls take the rigorous path towards earning this prestigious award, but those who complete the journey change the lives of others and their own in amazing and significant ways. The roots of the Girl Scout Gold Award are in the history of the organization whose tradition of the highest leadership awards for Girl Scouts have included: Golden Eaglet of Merit (1916-1919), Golden Eagle (1919-1938), First Class (1938-1982), and Curved Bar (1940-1980).

History of the Girl Scout Gold Award

- 1980 The Girl Scout Gold Award was introduced in *You Make the Difference*. Council volunteers and staff received additional information on the Girl Scout Gold Award at the 1980 Program Conferences conducted around the country. This new recognition helped girls focus on four areas: skill development, leadership, service, and career exploration.
- 1987 A new handbook was developed for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts. Minor changes were made to the Girl Scout Gold Award, including an added service project.
- 1990 Delegates to the 1990 National Council Session approved a proposal to keep the name of the Girl Scout Gold Award in perpetuity.
- 1993 The National Council Session approved the establishment of the Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance.
- 1995 New resources for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts were developed with separate handbooks for each age level. Included was clarification on record keeping for the Girl Scout Gold Award project.
- 2001 Research is done on what girls ages 11 to 17 want and need, including suggestions about the Girl Scout Silver and Girl Scout Gold Awards.
- 2002 *STUDIO 2B* materials, the result of the research, are introduced at the GSUSA National Council Session in California. The Girl Scout Gold Award is revised to allow for Girl Scout *STUDIO 2B* Focus books.
- 2004 Girl Scout Gold Awards are revised to reflect girl and Council suggestions and research; new materials are prepared for girls, Advisors, and Councils. Updated requirements are introduced in spring 2004.

Benefits of Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award

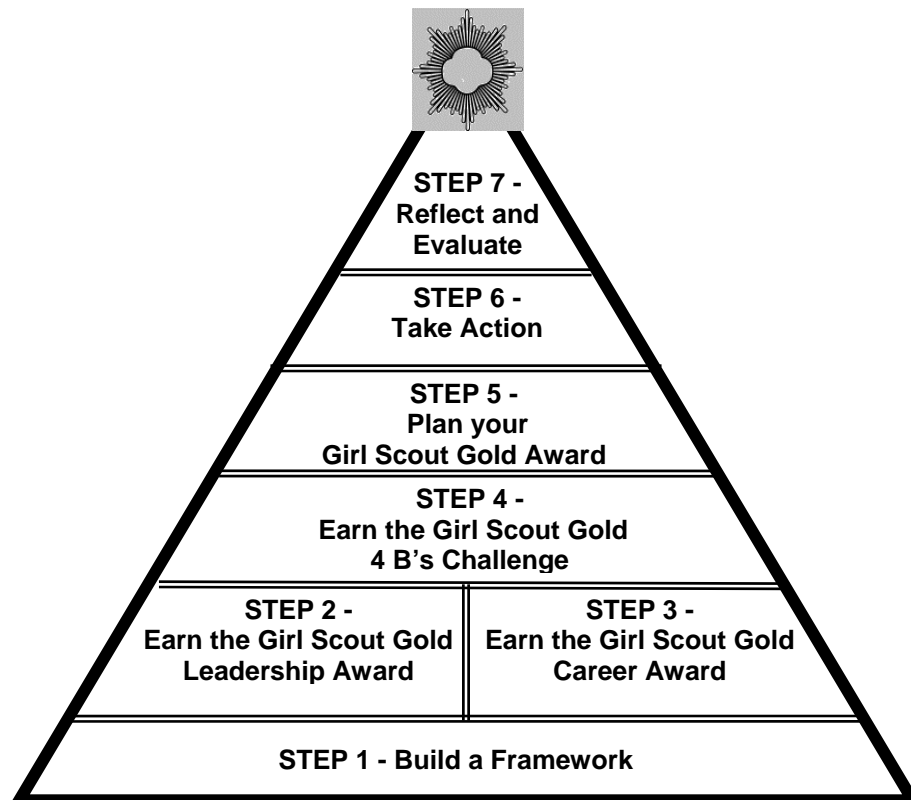
- The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting. It is a national award, with national standards, and it represents girls' time, leadership, creativity, and effort contributed to making their community better.
- A young woman who has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award has become a community leader. Her accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set her apart.
- An increasing number of colleges and universities have recognized the achievements and leadership abilities of Girl Scout Gold Award recipients by establishing scholarship programs for them. Although Girl Scouts of the USA does not award scholarships to Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, GSUSA does publish the *Scholarships for Girl Scouts Directory*, which lists these schools. Copies of the directory are available online at www.studio2b.org.
- Girls who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award often enter the four branches of the United States Armed Services at an advanced level and salary, having been recognized for their level of leadership shown in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- The achievements of Girl Scout Gold Award recipients are acknowledged by many government and nonprofit organizations. A list of these organizations is available for Girl Scout Councils.
- Many state and local organizations also acknowledge the recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award. Upon completion of your project Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. will submit your name for these acknowledgements.
- Girls completing their Girl Scout Gold Award may apply their service hours to the President's Volunteer Service Awards at the Bronze, Silver or Gold levels. (<http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/>)
- The Girl Scout Gold Award projects themselves solve community issues and improve lives.
- The Girl Scout Gold Award process creates assets for the community and the future.

The Girl Scout Gold Award

Process

- There are **seven STEPS** to completing the Girl Scout Gold Award. The first four steps must be completed before the Girl Scout Gold Award project is undertaken.
- A girl must be age 14 or going into grade 9 to work on STEPS 1-3 of her Girl Scout Gold Award. She must be **15 or going into grade 10** to start work on STEPS 4-7. She must complete the Girl Scout Gold Award project and the *Final Report* paperwork before age 18 or by the end of her final girl membership year, September 30. (Note: Since young women who are developmentally delayed may retain their girl membership through their 21st year, they may have until that time to earn their Girl Scout Gold Award.)
- Accomplishments prior to age 14 or prior to going into ninth grade cannot be used toward the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Approval must be given by Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes for any money earning and gift-in-kind solicitation activities (to be done by adults only) associated with the Girl Scout Gold Award project.
- A girl and her Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor must work with the Council on any project that might impact Girl Scouting or Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lake's property.
- The Girl Scout Gold Award project must meet all *Safety-Wise* and Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lake's guidelines.

Overview



The Girl Scout Gold Award, cont'd

Steps

STEP 1: Build a Framework

- Read *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award* insert pages.
- Identify troop/group advisor. Give advisor a copy of the *Girl Scout Gold Award Troop Leader/Advisor Packet*.
- Meet with troop/group advisor OR Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor (a project advisor is necessary for STEPS 4-7, but may be identified as early as STEP 1 and work with the girl on all seven steps) and develop a timeline for STEPS 2-4. Include some thinking about where STEP 5 might fit on your timeline.
- If a project advisor has been identified, make an agreement with the project advisor. If not, make the agreement when project advisor is identified and comes into process.

STEP 2: Earn the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award

The Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award focuses on learning to live specific aspects of the Girl Scout Promise and Law through earning interest project awards and a *STUDIO 2B* Focus book charm and then putting leadership into action.

- Set the spark: Earn three interest project awards found in *Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11-17* or online at www.studio2b.org related to parts of the Girl Scout Law.
- Do it yourself! Choose a *STUDIO 2B* Focus book and set goals to earn a charm.
- Take action: 30 hours in a leadership role.

Use *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert pages to keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with troop/group advisor.

Fast Track: If a girl is pursuing any additional awards, such as Leader-in-Training, Counselor-in-Training, or Program Aide, she may apply her hours to the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award.

STEP 3: Earn the Girl Scout Gold Career Award

- Do one or a combination of the following for a total of 40 hours:
 - Career-shadow one or more people. Option: Partner with one or more Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. staff members.
 - Get an apprenticeship or internship.
 - Visit colleges or trade schools.
 - Organize a career fair.
 - Publish a newsletter or create a web page about careers for school. Use *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert to “journal it” for discussion and evaluation with advisor.

Fast Track: If a girl currently has a paying job or has started her own business and has put in 40 hours on it, she can use this experience in place of the above step.

STEP 4: Earn the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge

- If you haven't done so already, identify a project advisor - an adult with expertise in the area covered by the project who **is not** your parent or guardian. Give project advisor a copy of the *Girl Scout Gold Award Advisor Packet* (it includes advisor tips and *Project Advisor Volunteer Position Description*.)
- Meet with project advisor and develop a timeline for STEPS 4-7. Include where STEP 5 will fit on your timeline.

This challenge focuses on “become, belong, believe, and build” and how activities relate to these concepts and the Girl Scout Law. The challenge is meant to lead a girl to a relevant Girl Scout Gold Award project.

- ❑ **Become:** Assessment of skill set and setting and achieving two goals related to self-improvement.
- ❑ **Belong:** Create a community profile to find out more about the community needs and assets.
- ❑ **Believe:** Create a vision for change by focusing on community needs. Come up with an actual vision statement for one’s Girl Scout Gold Award project based on *challenge* focusing.
- ❑ **Build:** Focus on developing a specific network of people who might help with the vision.
- ❑ Use page 18 in *STUDIO 2B Focus book, Write Now!*, on building persuasive skills to help persuade others to support your position on this issue.

Use *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert to keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor.

Note: Hours spent on the Girl Scout Gold 4 B’s Challenge can be applied to the Girl Scout Gold Award project hours.

STEP 5: Plan your Girl Scout Gold Award

Planning and action steps should take a **minimum of 65 hours**. Use *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert to keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with advisor.

- ❑ **Identify a Girl Scout Gold Award project.** Ensure it meets the guidelines as outlined in training:
 - Something that you are passionate about.
 - The project must be done to address a problem in your community outside of the Girl Scout community.
 - The project should encompass organizational, leadership, and networking skills.
 - If working with a group, each girl must have a distinct part and put in the hours required.
 - You may enlist others to help you, or work through organizations to put the project in place, but it is your vision and leadership that should make it happen.
 - If the project is to be ongoing, you should plan how it can be sustained or maintained.
- ❑ **Plan it.** Keep record of time and process using *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert.
- ❑ **Know more about it.** Research information on it.
- ❑ **Choose it.** Brainstorm ways to solve problem. Create a budget.
- ❑ **Map it.** Create a timeline of project steps and list of resources needed. Fill out project plan for Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.
 - Work with Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor to develop a project timeline and budget.
- ❑ **Submit a *Project Proposal* to Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. for project approval,** including proposed timeline, budget, and detailed description of project. Follow submission guidelines. A girl cannot start on project until approval is received from Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.
 - The Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee will meet on a quarterly basis (February, May, August, and November). After reviewing the project proposal, the committee might contact the girl/girls to set up an informal interview. For more information, contact the Schofield (Wausau) Service Center 715.355.9850 / 888.747.6945.
- ❑ **Notify project advisor of approval interview date. (If an interview has been planned. This might be done via conference call.)** While the interview is very informal and it is a chance for the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee to better understand your project, you may feel more comfortable preparing for possible questions. Questions may include:
 - Please describe your project in detail.

- Why did you choose this project?
 - What is your leadership role in this project? How will you be using your leadership skills?
 - Who is your project advisor? What expertise can this person provide towards the success of your project?
 - Are there plans for this project to continue to help others in the community after you are finished? If so, what are they?
- Attend approval interview date** and receive feedback from Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee. Council must approve any money earning or gift-in-kind plans related to the project.
 - Adjust plans** if necessary.

STEP 6: Take Action

- Do it!** Put plans into action. Begin working on project.
 - Be flexible. Adjust plans if necessary.
- Meet regularly with your project advisor**, providing progress updates while you carry out your project.
- Don't forget to take pictures, log hours, save receipts, and make sure you're a currently registered Girl Scout.**
- Use *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert** to keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor.

STEP 7: Reflect and Evaluate

- Use *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert** to keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor.
- Create a scrapbook or display board** that shows the concept of your project through pictures and/or journaling for your final interview. It may also be used at training and recognition events.
- Submit a *Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report to Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.***, including final timeline, budget, and detailed description of project. Follow submission guidelines.
 - Completed *Final Reports* must be submitted to the Girl Scout Council. The Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. Mentor Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, beginning of February, May, August, and November. For more information, contact the Schofield (Wausau) Service Center 715.355.9850/888.747.6945.
 - Final Reports must be submitted by February 1st to be recognized at your Service Area "End of the Year" Banquet.
 - If you are a high school senior, you must complete the Girl Scout Gold Award project and submit the *Final Report* paperwork before age 18 or by September 30 of the year you graduate.
- Notify project advisor of final interview date. (If one is needed. This also might be done via conference call.)**
- Attend final interview date.** Don't forget to bring your project display board or scrapbook. Be ready to share your successes, challenges, and skills you utilized and what you learned.

Girl Scout Gold Award Resources

GSUSA GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RESOURCES:

- *Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11-17**
- Interest projects on www.studio2b.org
- *STUDIO 2B* Focus books
- *The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors*
- *Go For It! Girl Scout Gold Award insert*
- *Girl Scout Central: Girl Scout Gold Award*
- *www.studio2B.org Web pages*

*Note: Interest projects in this book may be “reformatted” to the format used online on www.studio2b.org by girls and their advisor.

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE NORTHWESTERN GREAT LAKES, INC. GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RESOURCES:

- *Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal form* from Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.
- *Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report form* from Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.
- *Budget and Timeline forms* from Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.
- *Girl Scout Gold Award Girl Packet* from Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.
- *Girl Scout Gold Award Troop Leader/Advisor Packet* from Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.
- *Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor Packet* from Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.

The Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance

Girl Role	Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. Role	Advisor Role	Project Advisor Role
<p>STEP 1: Build a Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. ▪ Review Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. information ▪ Identify and meet with advisor ▪ Create timeline for seven steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appoint a staff member to coordinate Girl Scout Gold Award process ▪ Market the award to advisors, girls, parents, and the community ▪ Recruit, contract, and orient a Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee to assist girls ▪ Keep <i>Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award</i> inserts and related materials in stock ▪ Provide an overview of the Girl Scout Gold Award for girls, group advisors, and Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisors ▪ Approve Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisors through established volunteer management system ▪ Help girls identify project advisors ▪ (See STEP 5 for further steps regarding building framework) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn the process ▪ Provide support and encouragement ▪ Share new information with girls ▪ Start by reviewing the <i>Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award</i> insert with the girl ▪ Help girl create timeline ▪ Advise on safety and budget matters ▪ Help girl identify options for Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor 	<p>Note: GSUSA recommends identifying project advisors for girls — an adult with expertise in the area covered by the project. This person can get involved early on or later, depending upon the needs of the girl and Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.</p> <p>This role may be assumed by the troop/group advisor; however, if that is the case, GSUSA strongly encourages consultation with individuals in the community with people who have expertise in the project area.</p>
<p>STEP 2: Earn the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three interest project awards ▪ <i>STUDIO 2B</i> Focus book of choice ▪ Leadership role (30 hrs.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make interest project and <i>STUDIO 2B</i> Focus books available to girls ▪ Create collaborations with community groups providing potential leadership opportunities for girls ▪ Provide orientation, if needed, for girls who are not in groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advise on setting goals for each interest project and Focus book ▪ Encourage use of <i>Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award</i> insert ▪ Approve activities and sign off on award ▪ Provide avenue for girl to mark milestone of achievement 	<p>Note: This person may not be on board at this step. If she is, follow advisor role.</p>

The Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance, cont'd

Girl Role	Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. Role	Advisor Role	Project Advisor Role
<p>STEP 3: Earn the Girl Scout Gold Career Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 40 hours career-related activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Network career-related opportunities in the community ▪ Provide orientation, if needed, for girls who are not in groups ▪ Create collaborations within the community for potential career activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advise on related careers ▪ Encourage use of <i>Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award</i> insert ▪ Approve activities ▪ Sign off on award ▪ Provide avenue for girl to mark milestones of achievement 	<p>Note: This person may not be on board at this step. If she is, follow advisor role.</p>
<p>STEP 4: Earn the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Become: Goals 1 & 2 ▪ Belong: Community profile and reflection on project planning ▪ Believe: Develop vision statement ▪ Build: Identify networks ▪ <i>STUDIO 2B</i> Focus book: <i>Write Now!</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help advisors give guidance on steps ▪ Provide resources for community profile ▪ Help identify community networks or create collaborations that will give entry to networks and project advisors for girls (i.e., connect with women's professional groups) ▪ Provide Girl Scout Cookie Program participation opportunity for individual members, so that a fund can be established to take the place of troop/group funds for girls to apply for financial assistance for projects ▪ Set up a process for applying for mini-grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support where needed ▪ Let go when needed ▪ Help project advisor understand role ▪ Help girl identify person who will be her project advisor (or act as project advisor with additional input from community specialist) ▪ Sign off on Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge Award ▪ Provide avenue for girl to mark milestones of achievement 	<p>Note: This person may not be on board at the beginning of this step. Girl may find project advisor during this exploration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advise on project timeline ▪ Assist in shaping vision statement ▪ Work with troop/group advisor, if needed (see troop/group advisor role)

The Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance, cont'd

Girl Role	Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. Role	Advisor Role	Project Advisor Role
<p>STEP 5: Plan your Girl Scout Gold Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put the project plan on paper ▪ Get Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lake's approval through interview process ▪ Make adjustments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make forms available ▪ Review proposed projects ▪ Provide feedback on projects, if needed ▪ Give "go ahead" on projects within a reasonable time ▪ Provide guidance on projects that are done by more than one girl ▪ Approve any money earning or gift-in-kind plans ▪ Provide definition for projects and partnerships which are appropriate for your community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support where needed ▪ Do the asking for any solicitation of funds ▪ Let go when needed ▪ See project advisor steps if acting as project advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contract with girl ▪ Advise on budget and safety matters ▪ Make the "ask" for any solicitation of funds ▪ Establish regular "touch base" meetings with girl ▪ Coach girl in project planning
<p>STEP 6: Take action and track the 65 project hours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be there for Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisors and girls who are working on projects ▪ Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. staff might attend girl event or visit project for photo opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide support ▪ See project advisor steps if acting as project advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coach girl in recordkeeping ▪ Coach girl in project implementation ▪ Coach in safety and topic areas ▪ Sign off on hours for project and project planning

The Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance, cont'd

Girl Role	Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. Role	Advisor Role	Project Advisor Role
STEP 7: Reflect and Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide opportunity for reflection and evaluation via <i>Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report</i> that must be submitted to the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. ▪ Sign off on the project evaluation after the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide support where needed ▪ See project advisor steps if acting as project advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coach girl with self-evaluation ▪ Coach girl for presentation of project, if needed ▪ Sign off on the project evaluation and <i>Final Report</i>
<p>Celebrate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be a role model for younger girls ▪ Create an invitation list for the Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony ▪ Possibly help with the planning process ▪ Attend a Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony ▪ Enjoy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a copy of the Media Contact Form. Available on www.gsnwgl.org. ▪ Provide Girl Scouts Gold Award Ceremony Packet ▪ Provide an official Certificate from GSNWGL, signed by the CEO. ▪ Provide the official Gold Award Pin to be received at the Service Area "End of the Year" Banquet. ▪ Request Girl Scout Gold Award letters of congratulations from community and national organizations ▪ Request Girl Scout Gold Award certificate and folder and CEO/National President letter from GSUSA ▪ Collect data on a girl's achievements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enjoy ▪ Possibly help with the planning process ▪ Possibly do the introduction of the girl at the ceremony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enjoy ▪ Possibly do the introduction of the girl at the ceremony

From Good to Great: Successful Girl Scout Gold Award Projects

A Girl Scout Gold Award project is different from a good community service project. It should involve girl planning, leadership, and decision making and focus on addressing a real need in your community. It encompasses the mission of Girl Scouting - creating “girls of courage, character, and confidence, who make the world a better place.” When working as a group each girl needs to play an individual role. Here are several examples of good service projects that have expanded into great Girl Scout Gold Award projects.

Good Service Project ►	GREAT Girl Scout Gold Award Projects!
Volunteering many hours at a park service site picking up litter.	Reseeding an area with native vegetation and ridding area of non-native vegetation. Creating an interpretive guide on what the area was like 50 years ago and why it is important to preserve native species.
Working at the local library doing children’s story hours or conducting a book drive for the juvenile detention center.	Creating a reading program for a migrant work camp in the summer. Assuring that each child receives a book (bilingual) of their own. Matching young children with volunteer tutors from the high school Spanish Club to create an ongoing service project.
Volunteering to collect games and food at the mall for a teen center.	Creating a health access booklet for teens in the community; culminating with a teen health fair with various organizations presenting their services. Admission is canned goods for a teen center.
Acting in a play to commemorate the 100 th anniversary of a community.	Researching and writing a script for a cemetery tour focusing on the founders of the community. Casting parts, creating costumes and arranging for a series of evening cemetery tours to kick off the founding of the community.
Planting flowers in a park during a community service day.	Working with the city parks department to start a public gardening project in your community. Providing food to a food bank from the garden. Using a greenhouse at a school to start plants yearly with kids and retired folks as mentors.

National Young Women of Distinction

Each year, Girl Scouts of the USA recognizes the achievements of Girl Scout Gold Award projects by honoring a select group as the year's National Young Women of Distinction for their extraordinary leadership demonstrated through their exemplary Girl Scout Gold Award projects. The following examples of Young Women of Distinction projects listed below should inspire you to develop and lead a great Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Amrita and Shrutika - Amrita and Shrutika set out to promote education in an effort to end the cycle of poverty in the rural village of Kuthambakkam, in Tamil Nadu, India. Shrutika identified sponsors, gained support from village elders, and improved the school's infrastructure. Amrita focused on improving the quality of education for the students by providing educational materials, building the school spirit, and implementing an organized house system.

Ashleigh - In response to the growing issue of low self-esteem (which can increase risky behaviors), Ashleigh designed a workshop for girls ages 11-18 from six school districts and created a booklet with positive messages. Currently, the booklets are used at several schools, churches, and the Delta Sigma Theta sorority in Georgia.

Lauren - As a martial arts black belt and instructor, Lauren recognized the positive effect it can have on self-esteem. She developed a series of self-defense classes with homeless women living in a safe-haven shelter for victims of physical abuse. Lauren consulted with the Buffalo Police Department to determine the most common assaults against women before developing the course. The sessions were so well received that the shelter continues offering the program.

Lauren - After finding little information on her friend's Human Papillomavirus (HPV) diagnosis, Lauren spearheaded an educational campaign on the disease, which directly affects many young women. Lauren's campaign included discussion groups, health fair booths, and educational materials for young women ages 13-20. Today, she still works with the HPV Awareness Foundation to spread awareness on the causes of HPV and its connection to cervical cancer.

Rebecca - Rebecca's environmental crusade moved full speed ahead. This high school student was seriously concerned with the deterioration of natural reefs along the coastal waterways. Under the direction of the Department of Environmental Resource Management, Rebecca took action by constructing and deploying artificial reefs along the coast of Florida. Her awareness campaign includes an educational program for middle and high school students.

M*O*N*E*Y and Your Leadership Project

(Adapted from *Go for It! STUDIO 2B Girl Scout Gold Award* insert)

One of the challenges facing every girl “going for the Gold” is financial. Often, when the planning gets serious, adjustments have to be made in the doing. On the one hand you are asked to meet a need in your community; on the other hand, you have some major constraints outlined in *Safety-Wise* and by Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. So, what’s a girl to do?

Okay, the reality first, then some possible ways to approach it. Think of those who have gone before you. They figured it out, and so can you! Then clear the adjustments you have made in your plan with the Council.

1. You can’t ask for money as a girl member of Girl Scouts. You can’t ask for materials or services (technically called gifts-in-kind) either. This asking is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout policies - and for a lot of reasons (legal and otherwise) adults are the only people who can raise money for Girl Scouting.
2. You can’t raise money for another organization as a Girl Scout. That means you can’t have a bake sale and tell people that you are giving the proceeds to a homeless shelter for meals; you can’t ask for pledges for a walk-a-thon to benefit breast cancer research; and you can’t hold a benefit dance to raise money for Sally’s kidney operation.

What you can do: This is where it gets a bit tricky. Your troop/group **can** hold a bake sale or birdhouse sale and can charge a fee to an approved event that you put on to earn money **for your troop/group’s activities**. However, **your troop/group must have Council permission for any money-earning activity. Your troop/group may then decide to use that money toward** the completion of a Girl Scout Gold Award project, such as the purchase of materials. It must be a troop/group decision on how to allocate the funds, which can be used for group or individual projects.

If you are an individually registered member, things are slightly different. You cannot earn money as an individual Girl Scout for yourself. The money you earn must go into an account held by a group (troop/group, Service Area, or Council). Next, you must present your need for funds to that group. There is no guarantee that you will get back the amount of money you earned for the group, as the dispersal of funds will be a group decision. We suggest you first check with the Council about the options open to you.

In addition, the Council may have a list of grants from community organizations for which any girl earning her Girl Scout Gold Award may apply. Check with the Council as to what is available.

Hot Group Money Earning Ideas

Reminder: All Girl Scout activities should meet *Safety-Wise* and Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. guidelines and be approved by Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.

1. Participate in Girl Scout Cookie Program. (Think big - arrange for booths at sports events or college dorms or sell cases of cookies to businesses as special treats for their staff. You end up helping your Girl Scout Council as well as your group.)
2. Recycle aluminum cans. (How about a community can-a-thon? Involve small businesses as well as families.)
3. Put on a gigantic garage sale. Don't forget to make refreshments to sell!
4. Offer clown activities and face painting at family events or malls.
5. Wrap gift packages at holiday fairs.

Do *not* engage in the following kinds of activities:

1. **Money earning projects where you are performing an activity that someone normally gets paid to do** - in other words, taking jobs away from people, such as store workers, maintenance staff, or service providers. (**However**, if certain activities - for example, cleaning a stadium after a game or gift wrapping at a store - have previously been defined clearly as opportunities for nonprofits to earn money, you can undertake these activities **after receiving Council approval**.)
2. **“Cheap labor” projects disguised as money earning projects.** At first it may sound like a great idea, but you are actually being taken advantage of and taking away the job of someone who should be paid more money than you are being offered. That's why there are child labor and minimum wage laws!
3. **Money earning projects where Girl Scouts of the USA might be perceived as endorsing a product or political viewpoint or cause.** This includes getting paid to pass out flyers for political candidates or freebees at a business opening. When in doubt, check with the Council.
4. **Money earning projects where the money goes to individuals rather than to your group as a group donation.** You cannot be employed as a Girl Scout to earn money.
5. **Selling anything on the Internet as a Girl Scout.** Safety and Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. boundaries are of primary concern here.

Some Frequently Asked Questions about Money

Q: Can I use my own money on the Girl Scout Gold Award project?

A: Yes. If you want to use your own money, you can. You may receive help from your family, too. However, we encourage you to work with others to earn the money. That's part of the process. "Going for the Gold" is not meant to be a hardship on a family or individual.

When designing your project, it's important to think creatively about how you can make a difference with little or no money. Then, talk to the Council and your advisor about ideas for financing the project or arranging for the donation of materials and services.

Some individual activities with great potential:

1. car wash
2. gardening
3. gift wrapping
4. house cleaning
5. lawn care
6. tutoring
7. bake sale
8. brat fry
9. face-painting booth
10. recycling for cash
11. flower/plant sale
12. handmade/homemade items such as, jewelry, quilts, and soaps.

Q: Can I ask friends and neighbors for help?

A: You shouldn't ask for donations of money, but you can ask for donations of time and stuff, such as clothing for a clothing drive or that pile of bricks left over from your neighbor's backyard project. **However, if the neighbor wants to claim the donation as a tax deduction, he or she will need to make the donation to Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. for IRS purposes and get a receipt signed by a Council staff person.**

Q: What if what I want to do costs too much?

A: It's better to succeed with a smaller project that is within your budget than to be unable to complete a larger project because it exceeds your budget. Be realistic about what you can and can't do. Work with your adult advisor to develop a reasonable budget for your project. If your resources are not sufficient for you to realistically accomplish your goal, then you need to rethink the project. Planning is the key to a good Girl Scout Gold Award project. You should be prepared with a budget for your project before you meet with the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee. Think it through and do your homework! Your Council has the right to put a cap on spending, as well as requesting that large donations go through them. Work with them. See your *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert for more on creating a realistic budget.

Q: Is it all right to seek help from other organizations when doing my Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: Yes, with some qualifications. Many service organizations have budgets for community projects. You can use their interests (i.e., Lions Club International may focus on vision care, while Soroptimists may have a committee on literacy) as leverage to support your project and get volunteers to help you. Do some research on local service organizations. Even

some businesses give workers time for community service hours and projects. However, remember the rule about having the adult doing the “ask” for actual money and gifts-in-kind, and clearing your joint approach with the Council. (The Council may be asking the same group for a major donation and you don’t want to interfere with their “ask.”) Don’t let the organization’s agenda drive your vision for your project.

Q: I know you can’t raise money as a Girl Scout for other organizations, but can I do it on my own?

A: As an individual, you can volunteer for other organizations, but you should not identify work that you do to raise funds for another organization as part of your time going toward the Girl Scout Gold Award. Additionally, you may not present yourself as a Girl Scout to the public in this process since you are a volunteer for another organization. For example, if your local Red Cross needs money to purchase training dummies, you may participate under their supervision as an individual volunteer to raise funds, but you cannot count that service as part of your time toward any Girl Scout award or service hours. However, you can plan a Girl Scout Gold Award project using the equipment that was purchased as part of your efforts as a volunteer for that organization.

Q: Can we charge for a Girl Scout event to earn money?

A: If it is a service project, a fee can be collected to cover the cost of materials. The project ceases to be a service project if you are charging a fee for the event above cost, in which case the hours cannot go toward service hours in any award. If you are doing an event as a Girl Scout (i.e., a badge workshop, bike rodeo, etc.) and are planning to charge a fee **above** the cost of materials, it must be cleared with the Council. Provisions should be made for scholarships for troop/groups or individual girls who cannot afford fees to your event and you must be clear in your advertisements and materials that this is a money earning event for your troop/group. If your actual project is an event for the public, you can charge a fee to cover the cost of materials.

Girl Scout Gold Award FAQs:

(Some FAQs were adapted from the *Girls Want to Know* section in *Go for It! Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B* insert, others were from lessons learned)

Q: Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: Girls must be a registered Girl Scout and be age 14-18 (grades 9-12) to work on STEPS 1-3 leading up to the Girl Scout Gold Award project. Girls must be age 15-18, or grades 10-12, when they work on STEPS 4-7 related to the Girl Scout Gold Award project. Remember, as always, the project must be completed by September 30 following a 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 who is home-schooled or who has skipped grades start her work on the Girl Scout Gold Award prior to age 14 if she is in an advanced grade? Can she start her project prior to age 15?

A: No. The Girl Scout Gold Award is meant to be earned between those ages.

Q: Can a girl work on the prerequisites for her Girl Scout Gold Award the summer after she has bridged, rather than wait until the new membership year begins October 1.

A: YES! We want girls to be excited about these awards and to use the time they have, rather than trying to cram it all into the school year or lose the momentum and interest over the summer. However, a girl must be age 14 to start work on the award and age 15 to start on the project.

Q: Can girls earn the Girl Scout Gold Award if they are in a *STUDIO 2B* group or are a Girl Scout Juliette or an individually registered member?

A: Girls who participate in a *STUDIO 2B* group 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: Is the Girl Scout Gold Award project an individual project, or can it be worked on by a team of girls?

A: It is highly recommended that a girl plan an individual project. However, girls may work with other girls, but they must keep track of their specific work and hours. Working on a project team is a life-skill and there are many different ways of assuming leadership. (See next question.)

Q: How could this project be expanded into a group project? Example: An art therapy project for nursing home residents.

A: For more than one girl to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award doing a similar project, the girls might:

- Meet with and form collaborations with other community organizations that focus on serving the elderly.
- Expand the number of nursing homes served.

- Design a way for the activities to continue even after the girls have earned their awards, for example, working with the local colleges and the nursing homes to set up internships for college credit for students who participate in the project.
- Offer a greater menu of art therapy activities.
- Train a wider pool of volunteers.
- Create a tool kit or packet for nursing homes and residents that defines the project, lists available activities, and provides community contacts.

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 hours necessary to earn this award.

Q: Does a girl have to have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award in order to do the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: No, not at all. However, it's a great foundation for the process.

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, prior to working on the Girl Scout Gold Award project, (STEP 5). STEPS 1-4 must be completed and the girl must be age 15 or in 10th grade to begin STEP 5. **A girl MUST receive Council approval before starting the Girl Scout Gold Award project (STEP 5).**

Q: What is the difference between a troop/group advisor and Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor in the Girl Scout Gold Award process? Do girls need both?

A: A troop/group advisor is the adult who is working with an ongoing troop or group. She can work 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, but the advisor will help girls keep on track and lay out their 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. However, the troop/group advisor may act as the project advisor if she can fulfill that role and it is a decision arrived at by both she and the girl. It is highly recommended that leaders/advisors who are parents of the girl NOT act as a girl's Girl Scout Gold Award Advisor. The whole idea is to connect with the community when doing one's Girl Scout Gold Award. That means working beyond the family and the troop/group and Council.

The Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor is an adult who has specific experience related to the project. For example, if a girl is doing a project to address a concern about AIDS in her community, the advisor might be someone from a nonprofit that works with teens and health issues or an AIDS educator. If girls are doing a literacy project for children of migrant workers, the project advisor might be an "English as a second language" teacher or a social worker giving assistance to the migrant camp. It is also possible that the troop/group advisor can work in partnership with the project advisor.

Q: At what point should a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor be identified?

A: Your Council can assist you in recruiting project advisors. It's great to have a project advisor to expand the network of adults and provide expertise for a girl's project. If a girl has an idea before she starts any work on her Girl Scout Gold Award, she might want to identify her project advisor from the very beginning. A girl's group advisor can act as the project advisor on the Girl Scout Gold Award through STEP 4, but GSUSA highly recommends that a project advisor be available when the project starts to come into focus during STEP 4, the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge phase. The project advisor must be identified in the planning phase before the Girl Scout Gold Award *Project Proposal* is turned into the Council. If a girl is having difficulties identifying an advisor for the project, she or her troop/group advisor should feel free to contact the Council for assistance **before** the *Project Proposal* is submitted. A troop/group advisor may assume the role of project advisor if necessary or if she is truly qualified to oversee the topic area chosen.

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. However, if a girl has earned the charm for a *STUDIO 2B* Focus book that is one of the requirements for one of the awards, she will need to set new goals for herself in that Focus book.

Q: What is the role of the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee?

A: This is a group of adult volunteers, including past recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, dedicated to helping a girl succeed. They will 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.

Q: What is the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's Challenge?

A: The 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 the difficulty of coming up with ideas for projects.

Q: Do the hours put into planning and researching for the 4 B's 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 "4 B's visioning process" after 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 learned about something, the more possibilities there are. The trick is to end up with a project that meets the needs of the community and 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: The Focus books seem to be so easy compared to Interest Project Awards.

A: The *STUDIO 2B* Focus books look deceptively simple (it must be all the pictures!); however, the most important component of each booklet is the goal setting. Yes, it is possible to breeze through one, but if a girl is really true to the concept, and working “on her honor” she will set goals that involve stretching and learning - allowing for a thorough exploration of the topic in order to meet her goals. The role of the advisor is key to the goal setting process.

Q: How can we assure that Girl Scout Gold 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 assure that a girl is doing the best of her ability is to ensure that both she and her advisor receive orientation about the award and about the difference between a service project and a Girl Scout Gold Award project - whether it is through training, website information, or a marketing piece. The last thing a Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee or Council wants to do is to be put in the position of telling a girl her project isn't Girl Scout Gold Award worthy when the *Final Report* comes in. The project at that point reflects on the adults who are advising her and it would be unacceptable to refuse her the award if she had put in the hours and gone through with the process.

Q: Is it recommended that a girl's parent be her advisor for the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: GSUSA strongly recommends against it, even if a girl's parent is her leader/advisor. Ideally, she should have an advisor that has experience in the area of her project. 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.”

Q: What if a girl is 16 and graduating? Can she complete her project when she is in college?

A: Yes. 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.

Q: Can a girl who is developmentally disabled/delayed 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 is able to adapt the career component, turning it around so that she learns how to select her personal caretaker, how to evaluate her caretaker, and how to let her go. Her project focuses on a community awareness program involving the group home that she lives in and is overseen by her caretaker. Her troop/group helps do the “legwork” and she provides the vision. There is not a need to have special requirements for girls who are handicapped or mentally challenged; encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the girl individually. Specific questions on adaptations can be directed to the Girl Scout Gold Award Consultant or Disabilities Consultant in the Mission to Market Group at GSUSA.

Q: How do we get letters of congratulations?

A: GSNWGL has a system in place for requesting letters of congratulations and certificates from GSUSA. **Advisors and Service Areas cannot make such requests.** Please, no personal invitations to GSUSA's CEO and National President to which to respond from troops/groups or individuals. GSNWGL also requests other letters on council letterhead to be presented to girls. Girls should be advised of procedures for inviting attendance at ceremonies. Invitations might be sent to parents/guardians, Troop/Group Advisors, Girl Scout Award Advisors, Troop/Group Sponsors, key volunteers, or someone representing recipients of project, etc.

Q: Who purchases the Girl Scout Gold Award for the girl?

A: GSNWGL will purchase one Girl Scout Gold Award Pin per recipient, which will be presented at the Ceremony. Recipients will also be invited to the Council Annual Meeting. If attending, recipients should wear their Girl Scout Gold Award Pin. Award certificates and folders as noted on page 4 will be ordered by GSNWGL.

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. 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.

If a girl has chosen to accept the traditional Girl Scout Gold Award related pins in place of the Charms (the Girl Scout Leadership Pin, the Girl Scout Challenge Pin, and the Girl Scout Career Exploration Pin) she should wear them on her uniform as shown in diagrams.

The official Girl Scout Gold Award Pin goes to the left of the Girl Scouts of the USA Membership Pin on the girl uniform and can be worn on the right side of the adult Girl Scout uniform in line with membership pins or on regular clothing. The miniature pin can be worn on the lapel of regular clothing.

Ways Parents/Guardians Can Support Girls Working on the Girl Scout Gold Award

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting that girls 14-18 can earn. It represents a girl's commitment to herself and to her community, as she focuses on leadership, career exploration, personal challenges, and completing a lasting project that will benefit her community. It takes many hours of preparation, planning, and work to accomplish the goals a girl sets for herself.

Parents/guardians play a significant role in supporting a girl's path to the Girl Scout Gold Award. As a parent you may be called upon to be a coach, mentor, cheerleader, sounding board, and/or chauffeur. As a parent, you are not expected to be a taskmaster; this is the girl's project. However, you can assist a girl by:

- Reading through the materials provided to girls regarding the Girl Scout Gold Award, so that you feel comfortable offering support.
- Helping her choose a topic that will become the basis for her project if she asks for ideas. Remember, however, that the topic is based on her passion, not yours.
- Encouraging and supporting her, but not pressuring her. "Going for the Gold" is something that a girl has to want to do herself.
- Recognizing that your daughter is capable, competent, and worthy of respect as she assumes greater citizenship and responsibility. You can help provide her with positive and constructive support on this journey.
- Aiding her in accessing a network of adults who can lend insight, provide contacts, and point to resources. You may work with someone who has just the skill set your daughter needs in an advisor, or someone who belongs to a service club that your daughter and her advisor can approach for financial assistance.
- Practicing good parenting when it comes to making sure she gets enough rest, eats well, and is supported by the whole family in her endeavor.
- Helping and supporting girls with any Girl Scout safety or money earning guidelines during her path to the Girl Scout Gold Award. These are important to ensure the safety of your daughter and the integrity of the Girl Scout program.
- Allowing your daughter to stumble and learn the lessons that come with the Girl Scout Gold Award project. She will be working with a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor, an adult who has been trained to assist her in partnership and has skills specific to the project, and the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee.
- Helping with the project as asked or cheerleading from the sidelines if appropriate.
- Joining in the celebration as she is honored for her accomplishment.

Girl Scout Gold Award Paperwork Instructions and Project Tips

- TYPE or use blue or black ink to complete your *Project Proposal* and *Final Report* paperwork.
- Before you submit your *Project Proposal* or *Final Report* to Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc., be sure you have the necessary signatures and you have made a copy for yourself. Submit the originals to the Council.
- Completed *Project Proposals* and *Final Reports* must be submitted to the Council. Mail paperwork to “Gold Award,” Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc., Schofield (Wausau) Service Center, 3511 Camp Phillips Road, Schofield, WI, 54476, or drop it off/or mail to the nearest Girl Scout Service Center. The Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. Mentor Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, beginning of February, May, August, and November. For more information, contact the Schofield (Wausau) Service Center 715.355.9850 / 888.747.6945.

Green Bay Service Center
P.O. Box 9427
Green Bay, WI 54308-9427
920.469-4860/800.747.6945

Marquette Service Center
131 W. Washington/Ste. C
Marquette, MI 49855
906.225.8020

Appleton Service Center
4693 N. Lynndale Dr.
Appleton, WI 54913
920.734.4559

Eau Claire Service Center
4222 Oakwood Hills Pkwy.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715.835.5331

Schofield (Wausau) Service Center
3511 Camp Phillips Road
Schofield, WI 54476
715.355.9850

Wisconsin Rapids Service Center
3910 Chestnut St.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715.423.6360

- Submit a *Proposed/Final Project Time Log* (proposed/actual dates, tasks and hours), *Budget* (proposed/actual income and expenses), and a proposed/actual detailed project description with your *Project Proposal* and *Final Report*.
- Anticipate questions that you may be asked by the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee to help you prepare for the interviews.
- Ensure your Girl Scout membership remains current while you are working on all steps of the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Be sure to follow all policies, standards, and guidelines for Girl Scouts of the USA and Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. This includes, but is not limited to *Safety-Wise*, money earning and gift-in-kind solicitations, additional insurance, contracts, and agreements.
- Notify the Council of any changes to your Girl Scout Gold Award project, such as, but not limited to: description, budget, project advisor, location, date, and time.
- Don't forget to take pictures throughout your project. Submit pictures on a CD with your *Final Report* paperwork.
- Work with the Council regarding press releases to the media.
- Be aware of all the deadline dates. Meeting all deadlines is your responsibility.
- Create a scrapbook or display board that shows the concept of your project through pictures and/or journaling for your final interview. It may also be used at training and recognition events.
- If you are a high school senior, you must complete the Girl Scout Gold Award project and submit the *Final Report* paperwork before age 18 or by September 30 of the year you graduate.