



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 has set 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 coach, mentor, cheerleader, sounding board and 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 in any Girl Scout safety or money earning guidelines during her path to the Girl Scout Gold Award. These are important to assure 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 who has skills specific to the project, and a council 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 accomplishments.