



The Girl Scout Gold Award: A Guide for Project Advisors

What is the Gold Award?

The Gold Award is the highest award that a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout (grades 9–12) can earn. To become a Gold Award Girl Scout, a girl identifies an issue that's important to her, then develops and carries out an innovative and sustainable solution with measurable impact. Each solution/project must link to a national and/or global issue.

What types of projects are Gold Award-eligible?

A Gold Award project must reflect the following: the Girl Scout has identified the root cause of a community issue she's passionate about, the action she takes must address a real need and have long-term benefits, she must show leadership by guiding a team of volunteers, and the project must be sustainable and measurable with a national and/or global link.

How long does a Gold Award project take to complete?

Gold Award projects require a commitment of at least 80 hours from the Girl Scout. The timeline is designed by the Girl Scout and enhanced with your input.

Who can be a project advisor?

A project advisor is an adult who chooses to be on a Girl Scout's Gold Award team and is an expert on the issue the girl's project addresses. Parents, caregivers, or troop leaders of girls pursuing their Gold Award cannot be advisors. Adult siblings and family members like aunts and uncles can sometimes be advisors if they are

experts on the issue the Girl Scout is exploring. However, we encourage Girl Scouts to branch outside of their families when possible.

What is the role of a project advisor?

A project advisor offers a Girl Scout guidance and expertise as needed, during the planning and execution of the girl's Gold Award project. Note that it's important that the project and its core ideas be the Girl Scout's own.

How can I support a Girl Scout as she completes her Gold Award project?

Although the project advisor role is flexible, here are some ways you can show your support:

- Recognize that the girl's project is as unique as she is, so don't compare her—or her project—to other girls and their Gold Awards.
- Let her interview you to help her better understand the issue she's addressing.
- Refer her to colleagues or acquaintances of yours for interviews or advice.
- As she researches and plans her project, refer her to relevant books, web resources, and/or organizations.
- Offer to act as a sounding board for any questions that may come up over the course of her project.
- Help her brainstorm the metrics most useful in ensuring her project has a measurable impact.
- Offer to review her proposal or final report before it's submitted.

BACKGROUND CHECK FOR GOLD AWARD PROJECT ADVISORS

Thank you for agreeing to assist as a Project Advisor for a Gold Award candidate. We appreciate the time and energy you will devote as she builds her leadership skills and makes the world a better place.

All Project Advisors need a background check through Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. We use Verified Volunteers for this service and it is offered at no charge to you.

Please address any questions about the background check process to the Gold Award Staff Advisor at BSGawards@girlscoutsem.org.

You can complete the background check in two ways:

1. Complete online at verifiedvolunteers.com

- Create an account and log in through the volunteer portal
- Select “Get Verified” and enter GOOD DEED code: **DDGN5LJ**
- Complete the four steps and click COMPLETE

2. Submit a hard copy of the form on pg. 49 of the Appendix to

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri
Gold Award Staff Advisor
2300 Ball Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146



Volunteer Consent and Disclosure

Volunteer Information:

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Phone Number: _____

Driver's License #: _____ Driver's License State: _____

Other Names Used (alias, maiden name, etc.): _____

Address History (Within the last seven years):

Address 1: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Address 2: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Address 3: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Address 4: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Disclosure Regarding Volunteer Background Report

_____ ("COMPANY") may obtain from Sterling Volunteers, 113 South College Avenue, Fort Collins, CO, 80524, (855) 326-1860. www.verifiedvolunteers.com, a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report ("REPORT") that contains background information about you in connection with volunteerism. Verified Volunteers may obtain further reports throughout your volunteerism so as to update your report without providing further disclosure or obtaining additional consent.

The REPORT may contain information about your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living. The REPORT may include, but is not limited to: criminal and other public records and history; public court records; motor vehicle and driving records; and Social Security verification and address history, subject to any limitations imposed by applicable federal and state law. This information may be obtained from public record and private sources, including credit bureaus, government agencies and judicial records, and other sources.

If an investigative consumer REPORT is obtained, in addition to the description above, the nature and scope of any such REPORT will be for personal references.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

A Summary of Your Rights under the fair credit reporting act

Para informacion en espanol, visite www.ftc.gov/credit o escribe a la FTC Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20580. The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Here is a summary of your major rights under the FCRA. **For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.ftc.gov/credit or write to: Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20580.**

• **You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.** Anyone who uses a credit report or another type of consumer report to deny your application for credit, insurance, or employment – or to take another adverse action against you – must tell you, and must give you the name, address and phone number of the agency that provided the information.

• **You have the right to know what is in your file.** You may request and obtain all the information about you in the files of a consumer reporting agency (your “file disclosure”). You will be required to provide proper identification, which may include your Social Security number. In many cases, the disclosure will be free. You are entitled to a free file disclosure if:

- A person has taken adverse action against you because of information in your credit report;
- You are the victim of identify theft and place a fraud alert in your file;
- Your file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud;
- You are on public assistance;
- You are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days.

In addition, by September 2005 all consumers will be entitled to one free disclosure every 12 months upon request from each nationwide credit bureau and from nationwide specialty consumer reporting agencies. See www.ftc.gov/credit for additional information.

• **You have the right to ask for a credit score.** Credit scores are numerical summaries of your credit worthiness based on information from credit bureaus. You may request a credit score from consumer reporting agencies that create scores or distribute scores used in residential real property loans, but you will have to pay for it. In some mortgage transactions, you will receive credit score information for free from the mortgage lender.

• **You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.** If you identify information in your file that is incomplete or inaccurate and report it to the consumer reporting agency, the agency must investigate unless your dispute is frivolous. See www.ftc.gov/credit for an explanation of dispute procedures.

• **Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete or unverifiable information.** Inaccurate, incomplete or unverifiable information must be removed or corrected, usually within 30 days. However, a consumer reporting agency may continue to report information it has verified as accurate.

• **Access to your file is limited.** A consumer reporting agency may provide information about you only to people with a valid need - usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business. The FCRA specifies those with a valid need for access.

• **You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.** A consumer reporting agency may not give out information about you to your employer, or a potential employer, without your written consent given to the employer. Written consent generally is not required in the trucking industry. For more information, go to www.ftc.gov/credit.

• **You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.** Unsolicited “prescreened” offers for credit and insurance must include a toll-free phone number you can call if you choose to remove your name and address from the lists these offers are based on. You may opt-out with the nationwide credit bureaus at 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688).

• **You may seek damages from violators.** If a consumer reporting agency, or, in some cases, a user of consumer reports or a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency violates the FCRA, you may be able to sue in state or federal court.

• **Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.** For more information, visit www.ftc.gov/credit.

States may enforce the FCRA, and many states have their own consumer reporting laws. In some cases, you may have more rights under state law. For more information, contact your state or local consumer protection agency or your state Attorney General. Federal enforcers are:

TYPE OF BUSINESS:	CONTACT:
Consumer reporting agencies, creditors and others not listed below	Federal Trade Commission: Consumer Response Center - FCRA - Washington, DC 20580 1-877-382-4357
National banks, federal branches/agencies of foreign banks (word “National” or initials “N.A.” appear in or after bank’s name)	Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Compliance Management Mail Stop 6-6 Washington, DC 20219 1-800-613-6743
Federal Reserve System member banks (except national banks and federal branches/agencies of foreign banks)	Federal Reserve Board Division of Consumer & Community Affairs Washington, DC 20551 202-452-3693
Savings associations and federally chartered savings banks (word “Federal” or initials “F.S.B.” appear in federal institution’s name)	Office of Thrift Supervision Consumer Complaints Washington, DC 20552 800-842-6929
Federal credit unions (words “Federal Credit Union” appear in institution’s name)	National Credit Union Administration 1775 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-519-4600
State-chartered banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Consumer Response Center 2345 Grand Avenue, Suite 100 Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2638 1-877-275-3342
Air, surface, or rail common carriers regulated by former Civil Aeronautics Board or Interstate Commerce Commission	Department of Transportation Office of Financial Management Washington, DC 20590 202-366-1306
Activities subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921	Department of Agriculture Office of Deputy Administrator - GIPSA Washington, DC 20250 202-720-7051