

GSEM Silver Award Rubric for Troop Leaders

Troop Leaders are responsible for approving their Girl Scout Cadette's Silver Award projects to start work. This document is intended to help Troop Leaders determine if the Silver Award project idea meets GSUSA and GSEM's criteria to set their teams up for success early on. This document does **not** need to be submitted to the Council. Please refer to girlscoutsem.org/highestawards for more detailed information and for the Final Report submission form. To be recognized at the annual Reflections Ceremony in June, forms must be received by March 1. Projects that are completed after March 1 are due by September 30 and those girls will be recognized at the next year's Reflections Ceremony. Troop Leaders are responsible for purchasing the Silver Award Pin from the Girl Scout Shop once the Final Report is submitted.

Before you get started, make sure **all** team members fulfill the **prerequisites** of the Silver Award.

Prerequisites	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Silver Award Team is a MAXIMUM of 4 girls , can be an individual Cadette or a group of Cadettes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each member of the Silver Award Team is an officially registered GSEM Cadette Girl Scout
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each member of the Silver Award Team is between grades 6 and 8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each member of the Silver Award Team has completed 1 Cadette Journey (Including the take action project at the end)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each member of the Silver Award Team has read the Silver Award Cadette Guidelines

After prerequisites are completed, girls should start to think about what specifically they want to do. They will need to explore their community and **research** the issue they are interested in. Ask the girls the following questions:

1.	What is the primary issue this Silver Award project is concerned with? Example: Girl Scouts do not like to swim in the local lake because of the blue-green algae, which is also deadly to the fish.
2.	What is the root cause that issue? Example: Through research, the Troop learns that fertilizer run-off in their area increases the blue-green algae problem.
3.	What is the specific project idea and why is this specific project needed? Example: The Troop takes on a lake clean-up project, educating farmers and gardeners about the negative effects of fertilizer run-off on aquatic life. They partner with their local Master Gardener group to offer workshops on safe fertilizing, which are new to the area and informative to the community.
4.	How will this project affect the issue by reducing or eliminating the root cause ? Example: The blue-green algae problem has been addressed because the fertilizer run-off from local farmers and gardeners was reduced by creating a new community resource that helps prevent the run-off in the first place.

Once girls have thought about their project, they may need to make adjustments or conduct additional research to make sure that their ideas will meet the basic requirements of the Silver Award.

Meets Criteria	Does not meet criteria	Basic Requirements
		This project is Take Action* , NOT Community Service
		The project addresses an issue by reducing or eliminating the root cause
		This project is large enough that each girl will be able to complete a MINIMUM of 50 hours of work on the project. It is strongly recommended that Girl Scouts keep a detailed timeline (Girl Scouts may NOT count prerequisite Journey hours, Girl Scout product sales time, travel time, final report writing, or the hours that their volunteer team spent working)
		Rules, regulations, and safety issues are identified, and there are plans to address them
		Girls conduct research to determine what was causing the issue, and what solutions (if any) were already in place to help alleviate the root cause. (Research does NOT stop after asking one person about the issue—girls should talk to community members/experts AND do “library research”)
		The project is either: a new solution because current measures are not working/no solutions to the problem were previously in place , or the project is similar to the solution(s) that are already in place because current measures are working, but are not sufficiently addressing the root cause . (In either cause, the project must be backed up with research!)
		The target audience is clearly identified, and the project reaches both beyond Girl Scouting** and beyond the girl’s immediate community (i.e., their Troop, classroom at school, the street that they live on, et cetera)
		The project actively engages/educates members of the community
		Girls have a volunteer team —they are not doing all the work themselves
		Girls are able to demonstrate leadership while enacting their project. (This means delegating tasks, training volunteers, leading initiatives)
		The project will make a long-term impact on the root cause. (The impact of the project should continue even after the girls stop work on it)
		Girls are able to measure the impact of their project. (Counting the smiles as the workshop, or how many people visit a website does not count as measuring impact—you will need to measure the observable change created by the project!)

*It is very important to understand the difference between **Take Action** project and a **Community Service** project! A Silver Award is Take Action, **NOT** Community Service.

As of October 2018, Silver and Gold Award projects **may benefit the Girl Scouting community. However, such projects **MUST** align with the Council’s strategic goals, and/or property plans, and therefore require Council approval **before** beginning. Contact ndalton@girlscoutsem.org if you have an idea for a Silver Award project to benefit Girl Scouting.

Red Flags to watch out for—your project might NOT qualify for the Silver Award:

- Volunteering for another organization or an existing program is community service, **NOT** a Silver Award project.
- Donating toys, food, books, and other materials to an organization is community service, **NOT** a Silver Award project on its own (even if the items are homemade). Donations make a short-term, rather than a long-term impact on an issue. Making material donations to an organization may be **PART** of a larger Silver Award project.
- Organizing materials/donations/supplies or performing other short-term tasks to benefit Girl Scouts or another organization is community service, **NOT** a Silver Award project. This may be **PART** of a larger project.
- The project **must directly affect the issue**. For example, building a Little Library to address low literacy rates in a neighborhood where literacy rates are high/there is a public library does not actually address low literacy rates.
- Girl Scouts are **NOT** allowed to donate money to other organizations, programs, or individuals in any situation.
- Multiple teams (1-4 Girl Scouts) may **NOT** be collaborating on the same Silver Award project as other teams.