

## GSEM Bronze Award Rubric for Troop Leaders

Troop leaders/adult volunteers are responsible for approving the Bronze Award project from start to finish. This document is intended to help Troop Leaders determine if the Bronze Award project meets GSUSA and GSEM's criteria to set their teams up for success early on. This document does **not** need to be submitted to Council. Please refer to [girlscoutsem.org/highestawards](http://girlscoutsem.org/highestawards) for more detailed information and for the completion form to submit when the project is finished. To be included in the annual recognitions celebration in June, submissions must be received by March 1st. Projects that are completed after March 1st will be celebrated at the next year's award event. For Girl Scouts in 5th grade in the school year, projects need to be completed and submitted by September 30. Troop Leaders/Caregivers can purchase the Bronze Award Pin in our Girl Scout Shop for their Girl Scout(s) after the completion form has been submitted.

### Requirements and Prerequisites

- A Junior Girl Scout may earn the Bronze Award with a troop of Juniors, or individually.
- The Junior is a **current registered Girl Scout member**.
- The Junior is in **4th or 5th grade**
- The Junior has completed **ONE prerequisite**: either a Junior Journey or a Junior Leadership Award
- The Juniors and adult volunteers have read the **Bronze Award Guidebooks**.

After the prerequisite is completed, Juniors should start to think critically about what specifically they want to do for their Bronze Award Project. They will need to understand the following **key terms and phrases**:

- **Take Action Project:** a project that helps solve an issue by either reducing or eliminating the root cause of that issue. It has a long-term impact on the issue, rather than a one-time/short-term impact
- **Issue:** an important topic or problem that needs to be addressed on a larger scale
- **Root Cause:** the most fundamental reason a problem exists; the source of the issue
- **Impact:** the effect a project has on the issue. What is different because of the project?
- **Measurable:** change created by the project can be observed and tracked in a meaningful way
- **Sustainable:** change created by the project is long-term; the positive impact will continue even after Girl Scouts have completed work on their project

GSEM believes that **Girl Scouts can change the world**, but does not expect them to completely resolve a world issue for their Bronze Award projects! At the Bronze Award level, it is most important that Girl Scouts are beginning to understand and can practice implementing the concept of the Take Action project, and that the key pieces of "Take Action" are emerging in their work. This will set them up for success when they go on to pursue the Silver and eventually the Gold Award, which have increasingly stricter criteria to be awarded. See [girlscoutsem.org](http://girlscoutsem.org) for more information.

Once Juniors understand what the Bronze Award project will entail, they can choose an issue that they are interested in addressing. To help **develop the project**, you can ask the Girl Scouts the following questions:

1.	What <b>causes</b> do you care about? What <b>issues</b> do you feel passionate about addressing? <b>Example:</b> The Juniors may give answers like “animals!” (animal welfare) or “litter!” (protecting the environment)
2.	What is an <b>issue</b> in our community that we might be able to affect or change? <b>Example:</b> The Juniors may be aware of a trash/littering issue in a local park
3.	What is the <b>root cause</b> of the issue we have chosen? <b>Example:</b> The Juniors determine that a lack of trash and recycling bins in the park worsens the littering issue
4.	What is our <b>specific project idea</b> ? <b>Example:</b> “We want city permission to add another trash and recycling bin to the park, and install a no littering sign”
5.	How can our project affect the issue by <b>reducing or eliminating the root cause</b> ? <b>Example:</b> Adding another trash and recycling bin will make more space for trash to go. A no littering sign will encourage people to be aware of their impact on the environment
6.	How will we <b>measure the success of our project</b> ? How will we know if it worked?
7.	How will we know if the <b>project could be sustainable</b> , or make a long-term impact?

**Ultimately**, the Bronze Award project needs to meet the following criteria to be approved:

<b>Basic Requirements</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The project is led by a <b>Junior Girl Scouts</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Candidates meet all requirements and prerequisites</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The <b>target audience</b> that the project will benefit is <b>clearly identified</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The project provides an <b>opportunity for Girl Scouts to lead others</b> , and <b>their team is identified</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Each</b> Junior spends a <b>MINIMUM of 20 hours of work</b> on the project
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Juniors <b>understand the issue they are helping to reduce</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Juniors <b>understand the root cause</b> of the issue, and are trying to affect the root cause
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rules, regulations, and safety issues</b> are identified, and plans are included on how to address them