



## FAQs about the Girl Scout Silver Award

- Q:** What if a girl has already started on her Girl Scout Silver Award. Will she give up anything if she changes to the new requirements?
- A:** All girls have the option to choose whether to stay with the old requirements if they have started or to switch over to the new ones. A girl should discuss her options with her advisor. Girls can also mix and match in the two years of transitioning. Girls can also decide to receive the 2001-2003 award pins and the From Dreams to Reality Patch if they have earned the 2004 requirements — while the supply of pins lasts. A girl contemplating working on her Girl Scout Silver Award this fall should begin with the new requirements.
- Q:** Can girls earn the Girl Scout Silver Award if they are involved in STUDIO 2B?
- A:** All girls, once they have left Junior Girl Scouts and are between the ages of 11-14, can work on their Girl Scout Silver Awards.
- Q:** Do girls need to complete the Girl Scout Silver Award before they are in grade 10 or ages 14 to 18?
- A:** Yes, it can only be earned by girls 11-14 or in grades 6-9.
- Q:** If a group of girls is bridging from Junior Girl Scouts in the spring, can they then begin work on their Girl Scout Silver Award activities?
- A:** If girls celebrate moving from Juniors to the next level at the end of their school year (whether fifth or sixth grade) to whatever they decide to call themselves at the next level, they can start work on activities leading up to the Girl Scout Silver Award, such as Interest Project Awards or STUDIO 2B charms over the summer before they are registered “officially” for the next level. They must, however, be age 12 or in the seventh grade to begin work on steps 5-6 of their Girl Scout Silver Award project (as stated in the new guidelines for the Girl Scout Silver Award.)
- Q:** Can a group of girls work on their Girl Scout Silver Award together?
- A:** Yes! It is important, however, that each girl have an individual leadership role and each girl logs her own hours. Each girl should fill out her own Girl Scout Silver Award STUDIO 2B insert and the GSUSA Girl Scout Silver Award (if required by her council), stating what she did and learned individually (and as part of a group.)
- Q:** How can we assure that Girl Scout Silver Awards represent quality projects? In the past we have had some projects that resemble service projects signed off by advisors.
- A:** Ensure that both the girl and her advisor receive orientation about the award and about the difference between a service project and a Girl Scout Silver Award Project, whether it is through training, Web site information, or a marketing piece. The last thing you want to do is tell a girl her project isn't the caliber of a Girl Scout Silver Award project when the 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 the process.

Q: Do girls need to complete the steps that come before the Girl Scout Silver Award projects in any order?

A: Girls can do the Girl Scout Silver Leadership Award, the Girl Scout Silver Career Award, in any order, but they should do the Girl Scout Silver 4B's Challenge as the last step before doing the project. They must complete STEPS 1-4, be the correct age and be working with an advisor before working on their project.

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

A: The Girl Scout Silver 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 coming up with ideas for projects. It also makes the 4 Bs (the Girl Scout program goals) a more meaningful part of the project and the logical time for the project advisor to step in to help girls once they focus on what they want to do. Since the Girl Scout Silver 4 B's Challenge represents an important part of the project planning process, girls may count the hours working on the 4B's Challenge towards the hours on their project.

Q: If a girl has done similar activities in pursuit of other Girl Scout awards, can these activities count toward the Girl Scout Silver Award?

A: Activities done prior to working on the awards or as activities counting towards other leadership awards can not be counted toward the number of hours for this award. However, if a girl has earned, for example, the charm for a STUDIO 2B Focus Book, which is one of the requirements for one of the awards, **she can set new goals for herself in that book.** Note: Hours earned toward the Girl Scout Silver Award **can** count toward the President's Volunteer Service Awards if your council is participating as a "certifying organization."

Q: Do the changes in 2004 make the awards harder or easier to earn?

A: Some of the steps leading up to the award project have been streamlined so that each step is a progression toward the most important part of the award — the action project. The project has a greater number of hours to complete, but the hours in the Girl Scout Silver 4B's Challenge can be applied to the project.

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

A: A troop/group advisor is the adult who is working with an ongoing troop or group. She works with girls in the first three steps of their Girl Scout Silver Award —helping them get initial information, working on the Silver Leadership Award, and the Girl Scout Silver 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 an 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 the girl and herself.

The Girl Scout Silver Award project advisor is an adult who has received training or will receive training on how to work with girls on the project. She will have specific experience related to the project. For example, if a girl is doing a project to benefit a homeless shelter, her project advisor might be the person who runs the shelter, or if girls are doing a literacy project, the project advisor might be a librarian. If girls are doing a day camp for girls, their advisor might be someone who has run day camps in the council or the community. It is possible that the troop/group advisor can work in partnership with the project advisor.

- Q: How do girls get a Girl Scout Silver Award advisor if they are not in a troop or group? Can they do the first steps on their own?
- A: Individually registered girls (Juliettes) should check with their Girl Scout council or service unit. There should be an adult in place to help girls through the process. Once girls commit to working toward a Girl Scout Silver Award, they should have a Girl Scout Silver Award advisor assigned to them. That person will work with a girl through all of the steps or up to when a Girl Scout Silver Award project advisor is recruited or that person may act as the project advisor as well. This is because many of the steps involve discussion and analysis where feedback is needed.
- Q: Is it recommended that a girl's parent be her project advisor for the Girl Scout Silver Award?
- A: For a number of reasons it is best to find a project advisor who is not the girl's parent. It is not always possible to get the full benefit of the leadership experience if working with a parent. If the mother is the person working with a group project, she might bring in a project advisor to assist her in the planning or implementation process, or make sure her daughter is working directly with her co-advisor. 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." Girls can ask family members to help with their projects.
- Q: Do girls need to submit a plan to the council for approval?
- A: For many Girl Scout councils girls will not have to, but others may require it. Girls may also need to submit a project report at the end of their work. This form is available through the council office or on [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org). It needs to be signed by the advisor. However, if the project requires money earning or involves the council in any way (such as use of council property, a public event for the community or a partnership with another non-profit group) the council must give permission for the project to go ahead.
- Q: Do girls need to complete the Girl Scout Silver Award before they work on the Girl Scout Gold Award?
- A: A girl cannot work on her Girl Scout Gold Award before the age of 14. A girl doesn't need to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award to begin the Girl Scout Gold Award. However, it is helpful, as some of the processes are the same, and many of the skills that are learned in working on the Girl Scout Silver Award are a foundation for working on the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Q: What if girls want to help raise money for their local hospital, because someone in the troop is sick. Can they do this?
- A: Girls need to follow national and council guidelines related to fundraising and money earning. Girl Scouts cannot raise money for another organization according to GSUSA

policy. However, girls can volunteer for that organization or decide to use money from their treasury to fund the work of their Girl Scout Silver Award (like buy paint to paint a homeless shelter). Instead of marching in a walkathon, girls can volunteer to help with registration or first aid, or make sure everyone has water and a snack along the route. Any money earning MUST be reviewed and approved by the council BEFORE it is done.

Q: Are there projects besides fund raising that girls should not do for their Girl Scout Silver Awards?

A: If there is a question about whether it can be a Girl Scout Silver Award project, girls and their advisors should check with the council. Avoid projects that are just simple service projects, projects that involve Web sites (usually a lot of legal issues involved), or like creating a "council's own" patch.

Q: Where does a girl wear her Silver Award awards?

A: If a girl wears the Girl Scout uniform for girls 11-14, 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. The Girl Scout Silver Award goes to the left of the Girl Scouts of the USA Membership Pin. She can wear the STUDIO 2B Bracelet and Charm Holder and the Girl Scout Membership Pin and Girl Scout Silver Award with regular clothing as well.

Note: See also Gold Award FAQs and section on "Money Earning for Leadership Projects" under Gold Awards.