

Bronze Award Guidelines:

Your guide on the path to Bronze!

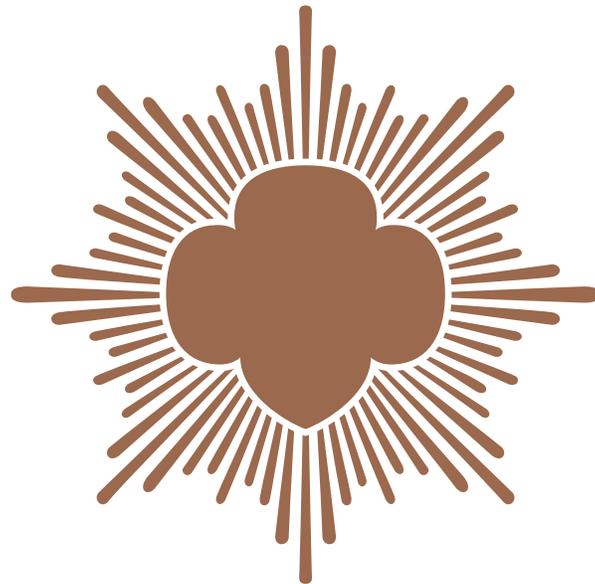


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Girl Scout Bronze Award—Getting Started!

Welcome to the Girl Scout Bronze Award, a leadership adventure for you and more than half a million Girl Scout Juniors around the world. Imagine what you can accomplish when you team up with others, and use your special skills and interests to take action and make a difference!

As you can tell, the Girl Scout Bronze Award adventure is big—in fact, this award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. As you and your team plan and complete your project, you'll develop more confidence, meet new people, and have the kind of fun that happens when you work with other Girl Scouts to make a difference.

Here are the steps you'll take to earn your Girl Scout Bronze Award:

1. Go on a Junior Leadership Journey. This includes completing all of the steps for the Journey awards and completion of the Take Action project.
2. Build your Girl Scout Junior Team.
3. Explore your local community.
4. Choose your Bronze Award project.
5. Make a plan.
6. Put your plan in motion.
7. Spread the word and submit the Bronze Award Final Report to girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org or mail to:

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
Attn: Girl Scout Bronze Award
400 Robert Street South
Saint Paul, MN 55107

When you go for the Girl Scout Bronze Award, you represent what all Girl Scouts can achieve in their communities. You should work on the Bronze Award in a way that's fun for you—and for everyone else involved, too!

Earning the Bronze Award involves taking the time to complete a Leadership Journey, plus a minimum of 20 hours spent building your team, exploring your community, choosing your project, planning it, putting your plan in motion, and spreading the word about your project. The hours help you think about your commitment to doing your very best with each step. You're a Girl Scout, which means you will earn your award with courage, confidence, and character.

Your Girl Scout Bronze Award project must be completed before you bridge to Cadettes and no later than **September 30** of your sixth grade year.

Step 1: Go on a Junior Leadership Journey

The first requirement for earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award is completing a Girl Scout Journey. If you haven't done one yet, now is the time! You can choose: It's Your World—Change It!, It's Your Planet—Love It!, It's Your Story—Tell It!, Engineering Journey, Computer Science Journey, Outdoor STEM Journey, or the Outdoor Journey. Most girls spend three or four months on a Journey, but you should take all the time you need. You must complete all of the steps for the Journey awards and the Take Action project to meet your Journey requirement. Find out more about Journeys at GirlScoutsRV.org.

When you have finished your Journey, you will have earned three special leadership awards. Set aside some time to think about all that you learned and accomplished. Here are some questions you might want to consider:

- How did you use the values of the Girl Scout Law during your Journey?
- What did you discover about yourself?
- Who did you connect with?
- How did you take action, and what did you learn?

Then take your next step—creating your very own Girl Scout Bronze Award adventure.

Step 2: Build Your Girl Scout Junior Team

What is a Girl Scout Junior team? It consists of you and other Girl Scout Juniors who are on this adventure together, plus your troop volunteer/group advisor. If there are no other Girl Scout Juniors in your neighborhood, seek out some friends your age—they can even join Girl Scouts and earn the award with you! More girls equal more friends, more ideas and more ways to make a difference.

After you've built your team, hold a meeting and spend some time getting to know each other. Making new friends is one of the best parts of being a Girl Scout! You can start getting to know your team by playing a game—perhaps one that you played on your Girl Scout Junior Journey, at summer camp, or at school. If you are working with other girls in your troop, you probably already know each other well. Even so, you may don't know everything about each other. You might be surprised at what you learn about girls you've known since kindergarten.

It's also a good idea to think about what you each enjoy doing most. Soon, your team will explore and choose an idea for a Bronze Award project. Create a list of what each team member loves to do; it will help you in a few ways:

- You will know the special talents each of you can bring to the project you choose.
- You will learn more about each team member so that you can be a great team together.
- You may even discuss something that could be the beginning of your Bronze Award project.

Here are some questions to help you pinpoint your interests:

- Do you read everything you can get your hands on—even the back of the cereal box?
- Do you love playing with your pets?
- Do you spend hours painting, singing, or dancing?
- Are you always in motion—riding your bike, swimming, or playing soccer?

Really spend some time thinking about all the things you love to do, from conducting science experiments, to taking care of younger kids, to whipping up fruit smoothies for your friends!

At the end of your first meeting, talk about what everyone thinks the group should do to be a great team like, "listen to others without interrupting" or "help out at each meeting." Write the ideas on a large piece of paper and post it on the wall whenever you have team meetings.

Step 3: Explore Your Community

There are many ways to make a difference, so what's the best project idea for your team? One that you come up with yourselves, of course! How do you think of an idea? The first step is to take a close look at what's going on right around you. Maybe your Girl Scout Junior Journey gave you some ideas—was there a project you didn't have time for but would like to try now?

Start by exploring your community: Your block, your neighborhood or your school. As you walk or bike around town, keep your eyes open for ways you can make positive changes. As you take a bus to school or ride in the car with your parents, look for problems that should be fixed. You might even spot something that could make everyone's daily ride on the school bus a little bit better! As you spend the day in school, take note of how things could be improved.

Here are a few tips:

- In addition to observing on your own, you can make this a team activity. Get together as a group to walk around your school or your block, and talk about what you see.
- Keep a notebook handy to jot down what you see and any ideas you discover for potential Bronze Award projects.
- Keep an open mind as you look around! Sometimes, ideas come from seeing a problem that needs to be fixed, such as people wasting paper in your school. Sometimes they come from seeing a chance for improvement, such as painting a wall mural that celebrates your neighborhood's history.
- Feeling stuck? Think about something that would make your life better; chances are other people have the same idea! For example, maybe you would like to exercise more because you know it will make you healthier, but you don't know how to get started. Other people might feel the same way. How about creating a "Let's Move It!" club that meets once a week after school? You can jump rope, play hopscotch, run races—anything that keeps you active.

The following observation list is a great way to keep track of your observations. Write your observations in the left-hand column, and then write your possible solutions in the right-hand column. A few examples are listed to get you started. After you have filled in your chart, circle the three ideas that matter most to you. But don't worry if you don't have many "Maybe We Could" ideas yet. The important thing is to identify what you care about and how you want to take action.

Observation List

Observation: What do you see and hear around you? What do you observe in your daily life?	Maybe we could... (How can you make a difference?)
<i>Our Girl Scout meeting space isn't very "green" or fun for younger Girl Scouts.</i>	<i>Determine how much energy our troop uses during meetings. Add fun, environmentally friendly decorations.</i>
<i>A recent flood damaged more than 100 homes in town.</i>	<i>Find out how people prepare for floods and think of ways to share what we learned.</i>

Here are a couple of examples to show how an observation led to a Bronze Award project (steps 4–6 will give you more tips about how to do the same thing yourself):

Example 1: Lucia and her Junior team were working on their Girl Scout Bronze Award, so they all agreed to be extra observant of everything going on around them. Here’s what Lucia observed and how it turned into her team’s Bronze Award project:

1. First, Lucia noticed that cars whizzed down the street near their school very quickly. She noticed it happened a few days in a row—it seemed to be a real problem.
2. Then, she heard on the news that in the last year there had been several accidents in that area.
3. The Junior team asked their troop volunteer to help them find out how people in their community decide where stop signs are needed.
4. After a visit to both the police station and a local government office, the team wrote a petition asking for a new stop sign on the road near their school, got local residents to sign it, and then presented it to their local government officials. The result: A new stop sign, slower traffic, fewer accidents, and safer kids! An added bonus is that a stop sign is a permanent solution.

Example 2: Tanya and her Junior team also decided to be extra observant for a week or two. When they got together to share what they observed, Tanya asked her friends, “Have you ever noticed how hard it is for older people or people with disabilities to get around the grocery store?” The team agreed that it was a problem that no one seemed to be addressing. It seemed like a good challenge for their team! Here’s what they did:

1. First, they decided to visit the store together and watch as people shopped. Their observations convinced them that some people could use a little extra help.
2. Then, they met as a team and brainstormed how they could help and how they could explain their project idea to the store manager.
3. Next, they met with the store manager. After their meeting, the girls got permission to team up during the peak holiday season and offer their assistance to shoppers. Sometimes they took a person’s grocery list and went up and down the aisles to get products. Other times, they walked around the store with people and helped them fill their baskets. In both cases, they helped people get through the checkout line and out to their cars. To keep this project going, they wrote a tip sheet about how other youth and volunteer groups could do the same thing.

Step 4: Choose Your Bronze Award Project

Now that you have observed what’s going on in your community, here are some steps toward choosing your Girl Scout Bronze Award project:

1. Meet with your team to share what you’ve seen. You might find that many of you noted the same problems or ideas. Your troop volunteer/group advisor can help you make a list of the top observations from all the girls on the team.
2. Brainstorm ideas about where you can make a difference based on what you’ve seen. Once you have a list that everyone likes, work together to choose the top three topics that interest everyone the most.
3. Now that you’ve come up with your top ideas, you need to get more information so you can understand how to best make a difference. Here are a few tips to get you started on your fact-finding mission:
 - To really understand a problem, you need to get information from many places—talking to different people, reading newspaper and magazine articles, and doing research at the library and on the Internet. This may seem like a lot of work, but each member of your team can tackle a different aspect. One person can go online to read newspaper articles, someone else can volunteer to check out books from the library, etc.
 - Before beginning research online, be sure to read and complete the Internet Safety Pledge, available at: www.girlscouts.org/en/help/help/internet-safety-pledge.html.
 - Brainstorm with your team and your troop volunteer/group advisor about where to get more information. You can also visit the library and talk to the librarian. It’s a great way to get contact suggestions and ideas for a great project.

- It can be hard to talk to adults, especially if you don't already know them! Talk about your ideas with your teachers and neighbors first—you'll start to feel more confident about asking questions of other adults. And remember that you'll be with other members of your team as you talk to adults.
- Take notes about what you learn as you do your research. A blank Project Idea Chart is included on page 9. On it, you can write down whom you talked to, what you learned, and your ideas for the kind of project you can create. On the next page are few project ideas—take a look, and then add your own ideas in the blank Project Idea Chart at the end of this guide!

Project Idea Chart

Observation	Who We Talked To	What We Learned	Maybe We Could...
<p><i>Our Girl Scout meeting space isn't very "green" and we'd like to make the space more fun for younger Girl Scouts.</i></p>	<p><i>Other Girl Scouts and their families, including younger Girl Scouts.</i></p> <p><i>The owner of a local hardware store.</i></p>	<p><i>We can turn down the air conditioner and add plants to make our space "greener."</i></p> <p><i>Younger Girl Scouts would like to help decorate the space.</i></p> <p><i>Everyone is interested in knowing more about girls in other countries, especially Girl Guides.</i></p>	<p><i>Have a family workday when everyone can come together to clean and paint.</i></p> <p><i>Post photos of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world.</i></p> <p><i>Turn down the air conditioner.</i></p> <p><i>Work with younger Girl Scouts to create a colorful paper mural.</i></p>
<p><i>A recent flood damaged more than 100 homes in town.</i></p>	<p><i>An emergency medical technical (EMT).</i></p> <p><i>A firefighter.</i></p> <p><i>A Red Cross official.</i></p> <p><i>Families who had damaged homes.</i></p>	<p><i>Many families aren't prepared for disasters, such as floods, hurricanes and tornadoes.</i></p> <p><i>Everyone should be aware of the steps to take in order to stay safe.</i></p>	<p><i>Do presentations on disaster preparedness at school and places of worship.</i></p> <p><i>Include a simple first aid skills session and a discussion about the impact of natural disasters around the world.</i></p> <p><i>Hand out fliers that list what families should include in emergency home kits.</i></p>

Use the Project Idea Chart on page 9 to explore your top ideas. Once the chart is complete, it's time to choose your Bronze Award Project.

Once you have completed your chart, look at how much you already learned! Your Girl Scout Junior team is ready to narrow your three ideas to one. Before you make a final decision, answer these questions about each of your ideas:

- Why does this idea matter?
- Who will this idea help?
- What can we do to make a difference? Is our idea realistic?

Write down your final choice here: _____

As a Girl Scout, you are a member of a worldwide community of girls. Once your team has chosen a project idea, take some time to talk about how people in other parts of the world might address the same problem. It doesn't mean that you have to solve a worldwide problem! However, when you have finished your project, you may want to think of ways to tell your story to people in other places so they can learn about what you did.

Step 5: Make a Plan

Now that you've chosen an idea, it's time to make a plan. It's always good to think before you take action. That way, you can aim for success! The following questions help you think through your plan before you get started. Remember to go back to your Journey for other great tips on project planning!

As a team, answer these questions:

- What is our goal for our Bronze Award project? If you're tackling a big issue, narrow your focus to just one part of the problem. It will make your goal easier to achieve.
- What steps do we need to take to reach our goal?
- What special talents can each girl use to help make the project a success?
- What did we learn when we did our Girl Scout Junior Journey that will help make this project run smoothly?
- Who can we ask for help?
- How can we get other people involved?
- What supplies will we need?
- How will we earn money for our project, if necessary?
 - Your troop volunteer can help you come up with money-earning ideas that follow Girl Scout policies as outlined in Safety-Wise and Girl Scouts River Valleys' Troop Money-Earning Project Approval Form, found at Volunteers.GirlScoutsRV.org/money-earning-approval-form.
 - You can collect for non-monetary donations, for example, if you want to create a mural, the owner of the local hardware store may give you paint. Remember, however, that as a girl member of Girl Scouts, you cannot solicit donations. Your responsibility would be to talk to the store manager about your project, and an adult would ask for the donation of the paint.
 - Your time and talents are often more important than money. For example, one girl was worried about food waste at her school. She could have raised money to buy compost bins. Instead, she used her advocacy skills to persuade school and town officials to set up a composting system. Be creative! You may realize you don't need much money after all.
- How much time do we need to finish our project? Is our timeframe realistic?

Once you have an idea of your plan, ask yourselves if there's anything you can add or adjust that will help make a difference, even after your project ends. For example, if your project helps your school, perhaps a teacher, principal, other students, or a PTA member would agree to implement it again next year.

Here's an example of how a team made sure their project lasted: Alina and her team wanted to help new students feel more at home at their school, so they organized a Get to Know You Day. It was a success, but it wouldn't help students who came to the school after Get to Know You Day. To make their plan last longer, Alina and her team decided to start a student-run "What a Pal!" buddy program for new students. They ran the program until they graduated, and then they asked the principal to continue the program after they left the school. Now, new students always have friends, regardless of when they moved to the school.

Now that you have answered these questions, take a step back. Does it sound like you have a good plan? How do you know? You will have plenty of help. Your troop volunteer/group advisor is there to help you and answer questions.

Tip: You and your team may want to sit down with your troop volunteer/group advisor and go over your plan one last time before you begin in order to make sure it is realistic. You may need to adjust it slightly before you start to make sure you reach your goal.

Before you move on to the next step, fill in the following sentences. Filling them in will help you talk about your project to other people as you start putting your plan into motion.

We will make a difference by:

We hope our project will help:

When we're done, we'll know we made a difference, because :

Step 6: Put Your Plan Into Motion

Now that you have an overall plan, it's time to create a list of tasks and deadlines and figure out who will be doing what. Remember, you're a team, so one or more girls can volunteer for each task. Decide when each task needs to be finished. Then write all the information in a Planning Chart like the one that follows. There is a blank Planning Chart on page 10 for you to use.

Planning Chart

What is the task?	How will the task be done?	When should the task be finished?	Which members will complete the task?
<i>Gather information about preparing for a flood, tornado or hurricane.</i>	<i>Do research online or at the library. Interview emergency workers.</i>	<i>October 17</i>	<i>Alina and Leah Mariah, Carole, and Anna</i>
<i>Create sample home emergency kits.</i>	<i>Use research to make a list of what should be in the kit. Get donations from families or the local hardware store.</i>	<i>November 14</i>	<i>Tasha and Orna Michelle and Patrice</i>

When your list is complete, it's time to get started. Discuss your progress as a team. You might have to be flexible and switch assignments around, or add more tasks—it's good teamwork!

Keep a record of what you are doing. Take photos, shoot a video, or draw pictures along the way. Your documentation will help you share your story when you're done.

Step 7: Spread the Word

Congratulations! You and your Girl Scout Junior team have created and carried out a project that makes a difference in the world around you! Now it's time to think about what you did, why it mattered, and what you learned.

First, thank everyone who helped you. They'll be glad to hear what you were able to accomplish with their help. Second, put your story together so that you can share it. You'll be able to show what you learned, and your story may help others. Here are a few tips for capturing and sharing your story:

Organize your story by answering these questions:

- How did you decide what was needed in your community?
- What did you discover about yourself during this experience?
- How did your team work together?
- What problems came up? How did you solve them?
- What leadership skills did you use?
- What did you do to inspire others to act?
- How do you feel you and your team made the world a better place?
- How did you live out the Girl Scout Promise and Law?

Be creative in the way you tell your story! Make a photo collage, put together a scrapbook, create a short film, or write a play about what you did and what you learned.

Think about whom you can inspire to make a difference—younger Girl Scouts, students at your school or other girls around the world. Then, decide how you want to tell your story. Maybe you can post your collage or film online with the help of your troop volunteer/group advisor. Perhaps you can present your project at a community meeting, perform your play at school, or donate your team scrapbook to the local library.

Finally, be sure to celebrate with your family and friends with what you've done. Not only have you had a great adventure, you've helped create a better world!

Reminder: Submit the Bronze Award Final Report (on page. 11) as a PDF to girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org or mail to:

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
Attn: Girl Scout Bronze Award
400 Robert Street South
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Project Idea Chart

Observation	Who We Talked To	What We Learned	Maybe We Could...

Planning Chart

What is the task?	How will the task be done?	When should the task be finished?	Which members will complete the task?

Girl Scout Bronze Award Final Report

The Girl Scout Bronze Award project must be completed before girls bridge to Cadettes and no later than **September 30** of their sixth grade year. Submit this form after a Bronze Award is completed. By discussing what the girls have learned from their project, they will:

- Help girls reflect on their experience.
- Assess the impact of the project.
- Gather information on Bronze Award projects that may be of interest to potential funders.

A troop leader/adult volunteer can record all the answers for a group.

1. Please provide the following information about the troop volunteer/group advisor and the troop:

Troop Volunteer Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Service Unit: _____ Troop #: _____

Bronze Award Project Title: _____

2. Please list the names and grades of the girls who completed the Bronze Award:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Which leadership Journey did the girls complete?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> It's Your World—Change It! Agent of Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Journey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It's Your Planet—Love It! Get Moving | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science Journey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It's Your Story—Tell It! aMUSE | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor STEM Journey |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Journey |

4. Give a brief description of the girls' Bronze Award project and the specific community issue or need they addressed.

5. What was the goal of the Bronze Award project and did they accomplish it?

6. Which community partner(s) (groups or organizations) did the girls work with?

7. What was their favorite part of the Bronze Award project?

8. List 1–3 things they learned from their Bronze Award project.

Please email the completed Bronze Award Final Report as a PDF to: girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org.

or mail to:

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