



## What Is the Girl Scout Bronze Award?

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. It shows you have made a promise to help others, improve your community and world, and become the best you can be.

The first three requirements of the award help you build skills and will prepare you for the fourth requirement, a Girl Scout Bronze Award Project. Work closely with your Girl Scout leader or Girl Scout advisor in completing these requirements.

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### How to Earn the Award

1. Decide on your Girl Scout Bronze Award service project. Read the requirements for the project to help you decide.
2. Do the first three requirements in any order, but they must be completed before you start your project. You may not use one activity to apply to more than one requirement.
3. You can work with other girls on the Girl Scout Bronze Award Project. If you and a group of girls decide to do the project together, each girl must be responsible for a part of the project. Each must be able to show exactly what she did and what she accomplished.

*JUST A REMINDER - your leader or the advisor who is helping you with your Girl Scout Bronze Award is the person who will decide if you have completed the requirements and an appropriate Girl Scout Bronze Award project. Your leader is the one who makes the decision about whether you have earned the award. You are not required to have your project approved by your Girl Scout council or anyone other than your leader or the person helping you with Girl Scout activities. Your leader can purchase the Girl Scout Bronze Award for you and reward it to you or you may participate in a ceremony sponsored by your Girl Scout council.*

## Requirements

1. Earn two Junior badges that are related to the project you will do for your Bronze Award.
2. Complete one of the Girl Scout Signs found in the (revised) Junior Girl Scout Handbook. The Signs are based on the four Girl Scout program goals for girls. You learn skills to become a successful and capable Junior Girl Scout when you complete a Sign.
3. Earn the Junior Aide Patch  
OR the Junior Girl Scout Leadership Award  
OR two of these badges:
  - Girl Scouting in the USA
  - Girl Scouting Around the World
  - Girl Scouting in My Future
  - Lead On
4. Do a Girl Scout Bronze Award project. This project shows the leadership skills you have learned as a Junior Girl Scout, and your commitment to your community and to yourself. To earn this award, you will do a project that shows that you understand and live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

The project should:

- Take approximately 15 hours to complete (including planning time). The project itself should take at least seven to eight hours.
- Provide community service, but can be done in or outside of Girl Scouting.
- Follow the Action Plan in the "Adventures of Girl Scouting" chapter of the *new Junior Girl Scout Handbook* (2001). This should be a new service project that you or you and your troop or group have decided to do to earn this award. It should not be something you have already done.
- Follow safety rules. Check with your leader or Girl Scout advisor about which safety rules apply to your project.



# Your Own Action Plan

Here are the steps you need to follow to create your own service project. Use the following action plan outline.

## 1. Brainstorm ideas

What can you do to help others? Create a list of ideas in a brainstorming session.

## 2. Decide

Write down the final idea you chose.

## 3. Get information

Always ask who, what, when, where, why, and how.

- Why are you doing this project?
- What are you going to do?
- What equipment do you need?
- Who will help?
- Who do you need to ask permission of?
- Who do you need to work with?
- When can you start?
- Where will you meet?
- How much will it cost, if anything?
- How will you pay for it?
- How will you get there?
- How will you know if you did a good job?

## 4. Plan

Make a list of everyone you need to meet with. Write down their names and the date of your meeting. Give yourself a start and finish date for the project.

## 5. Put your ideas into action

Write down the name of every person or committee who is working on the project, and what they are responsible for.

## 6. Evaluate what was done

- What did you like about the project?
- What would you do differently?
- Think about if you would or would not do the project again and why.

## 7. Share your success

- Make a list of everyone you need to send a thank-you note to, then do it.
- Make a plan for how to celebrate your success.
- Tell your Girl Scout Council about your success. Are there other groups or people you should tell?

## How to Be a Leader

- What leadership skills did you use to plan a trip?
- To go on the trip?
- To plan a service project?
- To carry out a service project?

You can be a leader in many ways: the person who thinks up the idea, the person who keeps the project on track, the person who helps others get along. Your troop or group members and your Girl Scout leader are there to help you discover your unique way of leading. The choice is yours and so is the fun!

## Do More

If this section interests you, try these badges in your *Junior Girl Scout Badge Book*:



Lead On



Model Citizen



My Community

## Sample Projects

*We have expanded on several projects shown in the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* to demonstrate the long-range planning that is necessary for your Girl Scout Bronze Award.*

A fifth grade Junior Girl Scout wanted to do a project at her grandmother's nursing home. That fall, she started working with her troop on the Sign of the Rainbow. She got to know some of the other residents in the nursing home when her troop interviewed residents for the Folklore Badge as part of the Sign of the Rainbow.

She chose to complete her Outdoor Creativity and Camera Shots badges in preparation for her award project. She learned about gardening during the summer, and learned to use the family camera. In the fall of the sixth grade, she started work on her Junior Aide Award. She helped a group of Brownies learn songs to sing at the nursing home for the holidays as part of that award.

She had called the activity leader at the nursing home and arranged to help residents plant a garden in the spring of sixth grade. She found out from the residents that they wanted to plant, helped them plant seeds and seedlings, and came by weekly to help them weed. When the garden was in bloom, she took photos and mounted a display in the nursing home's cafeteria.

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A group of Junior Girl Scouts decided that they should do something to help improve the meeting center at their camp. As they mapped out their final two years as Junior Girl Scouts, they felt that this would be a great project to end with. Half of the group was working on their Junior Girl Scout Leadership Award, while the other half was working on their Junior Aide Award. The troop was also split into groups to complete their sign awards. Together the group worked on the Ms. Fix It Badge to learn some needed skills, and they divided into interest groups on the Books and Communications badges.

The project came together with planning and some great donations from the community recycling project. The troop and their parents worked with the camp caretaker to clean and paint the meeting center one weekend. They then returned to put up posters they had created while working on their badges. Some of the girls had volunteered at the library as part of their sign activity and learned how to repair books, including the well-worn songbooks. Resources were added to a library area, as was an activity box.



## FAQ About the Girl Scout Bronze Award

**Q: This is my second year in Juniors. I want to earn the new Bronze Award. Can some of the badge work we completed last year be used toward requirements to earn the Bronze Award.**

A: The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can earn and demonstrates that she fully understands the goals and values of Girl Scouting. It would not be right to take shortcuts to try to get this award. If you read the requirements for the Girl Scout Bronze Award as they are listed on pages 202-203 of the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*, they state that first you must choose a project to do and then you must pick the badges to earn to fulfill the requirements for the Girl Scout Bronze Award. So, for example, if your project was about the environment, you could earn badges on the same topic, such as Eco-Action. If you were building book shelves for your local library, you could earn the Do-it-yourself and Books badges. If you pick your project first, then badges you completed before you selected your project can't be counted. Also, you didn't earn those badges in order to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award so you also really can't count awards twice. When you decide that you would like to make the commitment to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award, then start thinking about and planning your project and as a part of your planning, look for badges and handbook activities that will help you build the skills you need to complete a successful project.

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**Q: I am trying to earn my Junior GS Bronze Award and my leader is taking charge. What should I do?**

A: The decision about whether or not to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award is yours to make. Some girls want to spend the time to complete the requirements; others don't and would rather spend their "Girl Scout time" doing other activities. Girls shouldn't be pushed into earning awards or doing activities that they really would rather not do or in which they have little interest. If you have made the choice to do the requirements for the Girl

Scout Bronze Award, you also have the main responsibility to plan your project and follow the guidelines on pages 202 and 203 of the Junior Girl Scout Handbook. Your leader acts as a guide and facilitator. She can make suggestions, help you find resources, give you advice and encouragement, and make sure that you follow all the safety rules you need to follow when you are doing Girl Scout activities. Ultimately, though, your project is yours to choose and yours to do. If you look at page 11 in your Junior Girl Scout Handbook, under "Adults in Girl Scouting" you can read about the special role adults have when acting as partners with girls in Girl Scout activities. Perhaps you and your leader can look at this section of your handbook together and use it to talk about your feelings about your Girl Scout Bronze Award project.

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**Q: Our troop just bridged to Cadettes this past weekend. There wasn't a Bronze Award until now. Can they earn the Bronze Award during their first year of Cadettes as practice towards their Silver Award?**

A: Sorry, you must be a Junior Girl Scout to earn the Bronze Award. The award, like all age level awards, is not retroactive. There are lots of opportunities to develop skills and teamwork for the Silver Award in interest project and leadership activities. It had to start sometime, so not everyone will have the opportunity to earn it.

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**Q: Can we do a project as a troop or group?**

A: Yes! Each girl needs to make sure that she contributes her part, and puts in a minimum of 15 hours on the project (including planning time). Individual projects are great too, especially if your interests take you in a different direction from other troop members. (Of course, you can always volunteer to help each other!)

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**Q: Do we need an advisor?**

A: Your leader can act as your advisor. You are encouraged to use resource people whose knowledge or careers can make your Girl Scout Bronze Award the best that it can be. If you are an individual member, ask your council to help you find an advisor for the process.

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**Q: Do we need to complete the Girl Scout Bronze Award before we are Cadette Girl Scouts?**

A: Yes, it can only be earned by Junior Girl Scouts. You don't *have to* complete a Girl Scout Bronze Award as a Junior Girl Scout — it is an option and opportunity there for you.

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**Q: Does that mean we need to complete the Bronze Award before we work on the Girl Scout Silver Award?**

A: This is kind of a trick question. You can not work on the Girl Scout Silver Award as a Junior Girl Scout. The good news is, you don't have to have the Girl Scout Bronze Award under your belt to begin the Girl Scout Silver Award *as a Cadette Girl Scout*. It *is* helpful, as some of the processes are the same, and many of the skills you develop for the Girl Scout Bronze Award are a foundation for working on the Girl Scout Silver Award.

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**Q: We really want to help raise money for our local hospital, because someone in our troop is sick. Can we do this?**

A: You need to follow national and council guidelines for fund raising. You can not raise money for another organization according to GSUSA policy. However, you can volunteer for that organization. Instead of marching in a walkathon, what about volunteering to help with registration, first aid, or making sure everyone has water and a snack along the route? It is really important that you clear any fund raising plans with your Girl Scout council.