

Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council  
Girl Scout Gold Award Handbook

This booklet has been developed as a way for you to keep track of recognitions you are earning. It is designed as a supplement to the *Girl Scout Gold Award, Go For It! Studio 2B Focus Insert*.

We would encourage you to put this record book into a 3 ring binder. Use it as you earn the recognitions. This booklet is only one suggested method of keeping records. Be creative: find the most organized way to keep track of yourself.

Please feel free to call your Older Girl Program Specialist at the Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council Service Center:

**Teresa Nelson**

**Phone: (219) 795-9640 or (800) 654-4711 ext. 22**

**Email: [tnelson@ddgsc.com](mailto:tnelson@ddgsc.com)**

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions or concerns you may have.

Good luck in your endeavors

## Girl Scout Gold Award Fact Sheet

What: The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout 14-18 can earn.

Who: Registered Girl Scouts 14-18 years of age or in grades 9-12.

How: PLANNING AHEAD is necessary for achievement. Keep Girl Scout Gold Award requirements and paperwork deadlines in mind. Advisors and consultants can help guide you toward the proper course of action for completing requirements.

DOCUMENT EVERYTHING that you do, from planning to your actual Girl Scout Gold Award project completion.

Honors: Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council plans a recognition ceremony each spring to recognize girls who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award, but troops or service units may also hold ceremonies of their own .

A Girl Scout Gold Award pin will be provided by the council upon approval of the Girl Scout Gold Award Final report form.

\* No pins will be awarded until the Final Report form and log of hours is returned to the Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council Program Department

\* While the Girl Scout Gold Award Project may be done as a group, each individual must fill out their own Final Report form.

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### Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council Requirements and Information

- 1. Your project must be approved before you begin working on it. Allow 6 weeks from the time you submit your Girl Scout Gold Award application to the time you plan to start. You will be contacted by phone to set up a meeting to discuss your project proposal with the Girl Honors Committee. If, for some reason, your project is not approved, the Committee will outline reasons as well as offer suggestions for making your project fit the qualifications.**
- 2. Projects must be completed no later than April 4<sup>th</sup> of the year you wish to earn the award.**
- 3. All paperwork must be in, including the Final Report and log of hours, no later than April 11<sup>th</sup> of the year you wish to receive the award.**
- 4. Photographs of the girls working on their projects should be taken and copies sent to the Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council, to the attention of the Program Department. These will be used in publications and in the Recognition Ceremony.**
- 5. The Recognition Ceremony will be held in May.**

## Girl Scout Gold Award Basic Requirements Summary

**\*\*Excerpted from the *Girl Scout Gold Award Go for It! Studio 2B Focus Insert***

There are seven steps to completing the Girl Scout Gold Award. **The First four steps must be completed before steps 5-7 of the Girl Scout Silver Award project are undertaken.**

- A girl must be 14 or going into the ninth grade to begin work on steps 1-4 of her Girl Scout Gold Award.
- She must be 15 or going into the 10th grade to start work on STEPS 5-7.

### Step 1

**a.** Build a framework: Read *Go For It Girl Scout Gold Award Studio 2B Insert* or **this handbook**. **b.** Meet with your advisor and develop a timeline and plan describing when and how you will earn each of the three awards in steps 2-4. **c.** Create an agreement with your adult advisor.

### Step 2

**a.** Earn the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award (Charm). **b.** Earn three Interest Project Awards found in *Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11-17* related to parts of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. **c.** Put leadership into action: 30 hours in a leadership role.

### Step 3

**a.** Earn the Girl Scout Gold Career Award (Charm).

### Step 4

**a.** Earn the Girl Scout Gold 4 B's (Charm) This challenge focuses on "Become, Belong, Believe and Build." This recognition is meant to lead a girl to a relevant Girl Scout Gold Award project.

### Step 5

**a.** Plan your Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Planning and action steps should take a minimum of 65 hours. **b.** Submit plan to Girl Scout Council for Approval. **c.** Submit one page essay on "What it Means to Be a Girl Scout"

### Step 6

**a.** Girl Scout Gold Award Project. **b.** Keep records of hours that you planned and worked on your project.

### Step 7

**a.** Keep records and journal for discussion and evaluation with Girl Scout Gold Award Advisor. **b.** Submit Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report and log of hours to council.

The Girl Scout Gold Award project may not be started until the first four requirements are completed. The general guidelines for a Girl Scout Gold Award project are as follows:

1. Projects should be chosen as they relate to you and your group. What values and interests do you have? Use your personal strengths to help your school, community, or Girl Scouting.
2. The project should be done outside of Girl Scouting, but should be something that will provide a needed service or product that will benefit the community.
3. The project should reach out to the community in some manner:  
This may mean providing a service for people outside of Girl Scouting, contacting people outside of Girl Scouting as resources, or selecting a project that will be used by people other than just Girl Scouts.
4. The project should take a minimum of **65 hours** to complete:  
The 65 hours includes planning, making contacts, training others, implementation and evaluation. It does not include time spent on the first four requirements. Although some time will be spent “brainstorming” for project ideas, this time does not apply toward the actual project.
5. Your project must stay within *Safety-Wise* guidelines.

## **Checklist of Girl Scout Gold Award Requirements**

### **Step 1: Build A Frame Work**

- 1. Read *“Go for it” Girl Scout Gold Award Studio 2B insert.*
- 2. Meet with advisor and develop a timeline for steps 2-4
- 3. Make an agreement with advisor.

## Step 2:

### Earn the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award

1. Set the Spark.

**Choose and earn an Interest Project that you feel will help you practice living one of these four sets of values in the Girl Scout Law:**

- **Honest and fair**
- **Friendly and helpful**
- **Considerate and caring**
- **Courageous and strong**

**Which Interest Project did you choose?**

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**How did you put the Girl Scout Law into practice?**

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**How did it help you be a better leader?**

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**Choose and earn an Interest Project that you feel will help you practice living one of these three values:**

- **Responsible for what I say and do**
- **Respect myself and others**
- **Respect authority**

**Which Interest Project did you choose?**

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**How did you put the Girl Scout Law into practice?**

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**How did it help you be a better leader?**

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**Choose and earn an Interest Project that you feel will help you practice living one of these three values**

- Use resources wisely
- Make the world a better place
- Be a sister to every Girl Scout

**Which Interest Project did you choose?**

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**How did you put the Girl Scout Law into practice?**

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**How did it help you be a better leader?**

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**2. Do It Yourself**

**Leaders need to learn to set and achieve their own goals. Choose a book from the STUDIO 2B Focus series, set your goals in conversation with your adult advisor and earn the charm.**

**What's one thing you learned about setting goals?**

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**How will that make you a better leader?**

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**3. Put Leadership Into Action**

**Now it's time to show your leadership skills. Spend 30 hours in a leadership role.**

**Do any combination of the following for a total of 30 hours:**

- **Be an officer in a group or club at school**
- **Chair or be a captain of an extracurricular activity.**
- **Assist in leading a Girl Scout troop in your neighborhood or at camp.**
- **Serve in a leadership role at your council.**
- **Play a leadership role in your town or at a place of worship.**
- **Partner with or shadow a leader in your community.**
- **Serve with adults on a council committee or council board of directors. If your state law permits, serve as a delegate to the National Council.**
- **Serve on the By Girls, For Girls National Advisory Committee or the local equivalent.**

**Fast Track: If you are pursuing any additional awards, such as Leader-in-Training or Program Aide, you may apply your hours to the Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award.**

**4. Put It Together**

**Capture and consider what you have learned in earning your Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award by completing these statements:**

**I demonstrated a real understanding of the Girl Scout Law by applying it to this situation in my life:**

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**I learned that a leader needs to be:**

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**In earning this award as a leader, I am very proud of accomplishing:**

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**I have shown my personal integrity and honor by:**

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## Step 3

### Earn the Girl Scout Gold Career Award

**Life after high school is approaching fast. Summer jobs, internships, part-time jobs, and other work experiences are shaping your ideas about what's next for you**

**You may already have plans in place for college, vocational school, or a job. Earning your Gold Career Award gives you a process for planning your direction after high school.**

- 1. To earn this charm, do one or a combination of the following for for a total of 40 hours.**
- **Career-shadow one or more people.**
  - **Get an apprenticeship or internship.**
  - **Visit colleges or trade schools.**
  - **Organize a career fair.**
  - **Publish a newsletter or create a Web page about careers for your school.**
  - **Partner with one or more Girl Scout council staff people**

**Fast Track: If you currently have a paying job or have started your own business and have put in 40 hours on it, congratulations! Your fast track career moves have allowed you to be promoted. You can use this experience in place of the above step.**

- 2. Reflection**

**Now that you have spent time exploring the world of work, write your dream job description. Some things to consider: Would you want to work in an office? A day job or night job? A job in which you help people? Build Things? Create things? Use tools? Invent? Manage people? Use technology? Work outdoors? What product would you produce? How many hours a week? How much would you get paid?**

## **Step 4**

### **Earn the Girl Scout Gold 4Bs Challenge**

**There are four steps to earning the Girl Scout Gold 4Bs Challenge:**

**1. Become: Yourself**

**In order to become your best self, you need to set goals for your personal growth.**

**What are your strongest skills in managing projects? Are you very organized? Good at motivating others? Excellent at getting work done in the time you have planned?**

**Which skills need work? Giving clearer directions? Using your time more effectively? Better solving of conflicts among group members?**

**Decide on two skills you need to improve and the steps you will take to improve them:**

#### **BE SMART**

**Use these questions as a guide in setting your goals:**

- **Specifically what will you do?**
- **How will you Measure your progress toward your goals?**
- **How will you know if you have Achieved your goals?**
- **Are your goals Realistic? (Can you really achieve them or are they too hard?)**
- **What is your time frame to reach your goals?**

## **Goal 1**

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## **Goal 2**

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- 2. Belong: Your Community**  
**You belong to your community. Who else lives there? Find out more about your community and its members.**

**Following is a list of information resources:**

- **Local school offices**
- **U.S. census report**
- **Town or county planning office**
- **Local library**
- **City government office**
- **County health department**
- **County cooperative extension office**
- **Chamber of commerce**
- **State assembly member offices**
- **Girl Scout Council office**
- **Community organizations**
- **Yellow pages**
- **Community web sites**
- **Associations that promote issues for women, youth, and children.**
- **Local colleges and universities**
- **Social, service, fraternal, and professional organizations**

- 3. Believe: A Vision For Change**  
**Crafting a vision for change is the initial step for making the change become a reality.**

**Using what you learned above, answer these questions:**

**What are the top five needs of my community?**

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**How do I know that this statement is true?**

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**Why do these needs exist?**

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**What project can be done to address the root causes of these needs?**

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**Where do I fit into addressing these causes?**

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**What will the community look like after the project is Completed?**

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**What will be the long-term effects of the project on the community?**

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## **My Vision Statement**

**Using your answers to the questions on page 13, draft a vision statement of change for one aspect of the community needs:**

**See pages 9-12 in *STUDIO 2B Focus: Write Now* to help you write your vision statement.**

**4. Build: Your Network**

**You can build a network of people in your community who can help you make your vision of change come true. Review what you discovered in the section “Believe: A Vision for Change” on page 13 about the people in your community and take it a step further.**

**Who are the other people in the community who care about this issue?**

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**What people in the community are affected by this issue?**

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**Which people have the power to help solve this issue?**

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**Who supports young people and community service?**

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**Who are the political community leaders?**

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**Who are the community leaders who are not elected officials?**

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**How can you gain the support of the people you need to support your vision?**

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**\*\*\*See pages 18-19 of *STUDIO 2B Focus: Write Now* on building your persuasive skills to help you convince others to support your position on this issue.**

## Step 5:

### Plan your Girl Scout Gold Award

1. Plan it

**Figure out what the community problem is and what you want to do about it. Talk to your project advisor. If you don't have one, make sure you speak with your Girl Scout council about retaining one. Go back to pages 11-15 and review the work you did related to the 4Bs Challenge. Is this the issue you want to focus on for your project? Do you have new and different ideas?**

**Now's the time to commit.**

**My issue is:**

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2. Know More About it

**Collect as much information as you can. Use the internet, read the paper, do some research, talk to people. Find out everything you can about your issue before you move ahead.**

3. Choose It

**Brainstorm all the ways you can solve the problem and then decide which is the best way to go. Here are some questions to help you with your decision:**

- **Do I have enough resources (time, money, help)?**
- **If not, how can I get what I need?**

- 4. **Budget It**  
**Create a budget and review funding sources with your Girl Scout Council. Look at the money-earning ideas and guidelines on page 32. How will you know if you succeed? If you don't have enough information to make the determination, then maybe you need to rethink your solution. You may discover that one solution is too costly and move to another. Review the health and safety standards in *Safety-Wise* to be sure you are following them, too. Your council will have a copy.**
  
- 5. **Map It**  
**Now that you have selected your issue and your solution, write down the steps you need to take and what resources you will need. Make a timeline specific to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Organize the people and other resources you'll need to carry out your plan. Use the space below to help you "map it".**
  
- 6. **Write a one page essay on "What it Means to be a Girl Scout."**  
**Submit this along with Project Proposal.**
  
- 7. **Submit Gold Award Project Proposal to the Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council. Remember, allow 6-8 weeks before you Begin your project.**
  
- 8. **Schedule meeting with Girl Honors Committee to discuss Project Proposal. This must be done before you can begin your project.**

## **Step 6**

### **Put Your Plan Into Action**

**You may have to make changes as your plan goes into action.**

**That's typical-it's a rare plan that doesn't run into some roadblocks or snags. Being flexible and thinking as you go are what make a project a success.**

## **Step 7**

### **Reflect and Evaluate**

**Ask yourself questions such as:**

- **Did I accomplish what I set out to accomplish?**
- **Could I have avoided some problems that sprang up?**
- **What did I learn about myself?**
- **What did I learn about others?**
- **How did I leave my mark?**
- **How can I share what I did?**



## Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report

**\*\*\*Please print neatly in black ink. Make sure that both pages are complete. Make copies for your Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor and for yourself to keep. Turn into the Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council, 8699 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410, by April 11<sup>th</sup> of the year you plan to receive the Award.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Troop/Group Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Troop/Group Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Troop/Group Advisor's Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 1: Get Ready

**Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Advisor's Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Project Advisor's e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 5: Tracking Project Hours

**Date started:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 7. Think About It

**A. Briefly summarize your project. Include the issue your project addressed and the methods you used for meeting the project objectives.**

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**B. Discuss the benefits your project provided to others in the community.**

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**C. Detail the method used for evaluating the impact of your project.**

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**D. What did you learn about yourself as a result of this project?**

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**E. What aspects of your project would you change or do differently?**

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**F. What was the most successful aspect of your project?**

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**Your Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Approved by Council on:</b>	
<b>Final Approval Given:</b>	

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Council Representative**

