



# Girl Scout Silver Award© FAQs

Some FAQs adapted from "Girls Want to Know" section in "Go for It"  
STUDIO 2B Girl Scout Silver Award insert

- 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 has 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 USAGSO-NA Girl Scout Silver Award Final Report Form 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 or website information. Once trained, allow troop advisors the autonomy to manage 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 cannot 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 organization is participating as a "certifying organization."

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

A: A troop advisor is the adult who is working with an ongoing troop. 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 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 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 advisor can work in partnership with the project advisor.

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 a project advisor may not be a girl's parent or a direct family member. 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 OCMT for approval?
- A: No, projects are reviewed and approved in partnership with the girl and her troop and/or project advisor. There is no “official” project plan form. Use pages 25-27 in the “Go For It” Girl Scout Silver Award STUDIO 2B insert as a guide. Girls also need to submit the USAGSO-NA Girl Scout Silver Award Final Report Form at the end of their work. This form can be downloaded at [www.usagso-na.org](http://www.usagso-na.org). **Go to Our Program and click the link “Girl Scout Silver Award”.**

The form needs to be signed by the advisor. However, if the project requires money earning or involves the Overseas Committee in any way (such as use of Girl Scout property, a public event for the community or a partnership with another non-profit group) the OCMT 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 USAGSO-NA 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 OCMT **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 OCMT. In military communities there may be specific regulations regarding program activities. In civilian communities there may local regulations or laws that impact particular projects.

Avoid projects that are just simple service projects or creating an Overseas Committee patch. Download the file “Successful Silver Award Projects” for project ideas.

- 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.