

WHY FOCUS ON TAKE ACTION?

The Take Action key and its corresponding outcomes (in the list that follows) get girls motivated and excited about making an impact in their community that can be felt in the long term. Take Action encourages girls to think bigger and to address problems in such a way that they do not reoccur. And, perhaps most important, a girl's Take Action project changes the world in a meaningful way.

- **Girls can identify community needs.** In order for girls to start working on their award projects, they must first find out what the community is in need of. Girls also learn how to identify the root cause of the issue they choose to address.
- **Girls are resourceful problem solvers.** Undoubtedly, there will be roadblocks along the way, which means that girls will need to come up with creative ways to solve the problems that arise.
- **Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.** As they learn about the issues in their communities and work to solve them, girls stand up for issues they believe in, influence policy, and identify ways to continue their project goals into the future.
- **Girls educate and inspire others to act.** By spreading the word about their experiences, girls educate others about issues that are important to the community and inspire others to act. This approach cannot help but have a positive effect on their communities.
- **Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.** Girls develop leadership skills and use the knowledge they gain through their experiences to improve their community...and the world!

REASONS FOR EMBRACING TAKE ACTION PROJECTS

- Builds leadership skills in girls
- Impacts our brand and funding
- Helps communities, long-term
- Raises the bar (outcomes, measurable and sustainable)

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS DEFINED:

Some community service projects address an immediate need in the community: girls organize a book or clothing drive, paint walls to cover up graffiti, or hold a one-time march or fair to highlight a community problem. Although these projects address a need in the community, they do so for only a short period of time, and can be considered short-term projects.

TAKE ACTION DEFINED:

A Take Action project picks up from where a short-term project leaves off. For example, the girls organizing the book or clothing drive could make their project a Take Action project by holding the drive annually and getting a sponsor to advertise and organize it every year. The girls who painted the walls to cover up graffiti can create a club that travels around the city painting beautiful murals on buildings that have been defaced. And the girls who held the march or fair could expand the event to include community artisans and make it an annual gathering. For each project, girls can publicize and get people in the community to come out and support. They can even get community leaders involved.

TAKE ACTION DEFINED (CONTINUED):

When girls pursue Take Action projects, they take time to identify and understand the root cause of the issue they are addressing. Girls also must make sure that each project is sustainable and that the impact is measurable. Because these two words are nebulous and difficult to define, take the time to define each with participants.

- **Measurable:** The success of the project can be determine based on the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, any reduction in the community’s need, and other concrete numbers.
- **Sustainable:** Girls must make arrangements (such as collaborating with community leaders and/or organizations; building alliances with mentors) to ensure that the project creates lasting change and is not a one-time event.

Community Service/Short-Term Project [a one-time effort; has short-term impact]	Take Action Project [identifies the root cause; has long-term benefits and sustainable support]
Issue: An uninsured family’s home is destroyed by a fire. Solution: Collect clothes, household goods, and food for the family.	A solution could be to establish a relationship with a building group in the community organize a work group to rebuild the family’s home.
Issue: Racial tensions exist in the community. Solution: Organize a one-time diversity celebration.	One solution could be to create an organization that holds regular seminars/meetings/workshops about racial tolerance and understanding other cultures
Issue: Families are going hungry. Solution: Hold a food drive for families in need.	One solution could be to come up with easy-to make recipes (in a free booklet) that include as ingredients the items families regularly receive from food pantries.

Take Action Project Focus, Sustainability and Global Dimension for THE Girl Scout **BRONZE, SILVER, and GOLD Awards®**

Take Action Project Focus:

- **BRONZE:** The project focuses on an issue within the Girl Scout or local community.
- **SILVER:** The project focuses on an issue in the local neighborhood or community.
- **GOLD:** The project focuses on making a lasting difference in the local community, region, or beyond.

Take Action Project Sustainability:

- **BRONZE:** After the project is complete, girls develop an understanding of sustainability by talking together about how solutions can be lasting.
- **SILVER:** Girls demonstrate an understanding of sustainability in the project plan and implementation.
- **GOLD:** The Take Action Project includes provisions to ensure sustainability.

Take Action Project Global Dimension:

- **BRONZE:** Once the project is complete, girls develop an understanding of the wider world by talking together about how others might experience the same problem that their project helped solve.
- **SILVER:** Girls connect with new friends outside their immediate community, learn how others have solved similar problems, and determine whether the ideas of others can help with their plan.
- **GOLD:** Girls identify national and/or global links to their selected issue. They learn from others and develop a plan to share the results of their project beyond the local community.

Awards	Girl Scout BRONZE Award®	Girl Scout SILVER Award®	Girl Scout GOLD Award®
Grade	Girls must be in 4th or 5th grades and a registered Girl Scout Junior.	Girls must be in 6th, 7th, or 8 th grades and a registered Girl Scout Cadette.	Girls must be in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades and a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador.
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a Junior Journey Be part of a troop or group where girls take the lead Take Action on a community issue the troop or group cares about Help and guidance provided by troop/group volunteer Suggested hours included in the girl, adult, and council material. <p>*Council approval needed for any money earning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a Cadette Journey Work as an individual or in a small group where girls take the lead Take Action on a community issue that the girls care about Help and guidance provided by troop/group volunteer and project advisor Suggested hours included in the girl, adult, and council material. <p>*Council approval needed for any money earning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete two Journeys (Senior or Ambassador) or earn the Silver Award and complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey Individually girl led; girl selects and recruits project advisor Take Action on a community issue the girl cares about Help and guidance provided by project advisor Suggested hours included in the girl, adult, and council material. <p>*Council approval needed for any money earning.</p>
Take Action Project Focus	Group Take Action project focuses on something the girls care about that they would like to improve within their Girl Scout or local community. Puts the Promise and Law into action	Individual or group Take Action project that makes the local neighborhood or community better. Puts the Promise and Law into action	Individual Take Action project that makes a lasting difference in the local community, region, or beyond. Puts the Promise and Law into action
Sustainable	After the project is complete, girls develop an understanding of sustainability by talking together about how solutions can be lasting.	Girls demonstrate an understanding of sustainability in the project plan and implementation.	Take Action project includes provisions to ensure sustainability.
Global Dimension	After the project is complete, girls develop an understanding of the wider world by talking together about how others may experience the same problem that their project helped resolve.	Girls connect with new friends outside their immediate community, learn how others have solved similar problems, and determine if the ideas of others can help with their plan.	Girls identify national and/or global links to their selected issue. They learn from others and develop a plan to share the results of their project beyond the local community.
Project Approval	Troop/group volunteer	Troop/group volunteer	Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Journey GSUSA Bronze Award guidelines GSUSA Adult guide Council learning opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadette Journey GSUSA Silver Award Girl Guidelines GSUSA Adult guide Council learning opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior and/or Ambassador Journeys GSUSA Gold Award Girl Guidelines GSUSA Adult guide GSEM Guidelines, Policies and Procedures Council learning opportunities
Minimum hours to complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 hours

