Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ
Silver Award Information Session

Silver Award Requirements

-Registered Cadette (6th – 8th)
-1 Cadette journey
-Silver webinar – GSCSNJ (Don't do too early)
-Girl Scout Silver Award Mentor (not related to girl) – webinar required,
    plus optional recommended advisor training
-Project Advisor (not related to girl) - recommended

IS NOT TO:
- Make sure every girl has a silver award project
- Supervise the girls doing their projects
- Make sure every girl finishes

GIRLS are responsible for coming up with projects and doing their projects, with parental support.

Mentor's Role

- Make Sure Project Meets Girl Scout Standards (proposal development AND execution)
- Guide girls in developing their project using the GSCSNJ Silver Award Rubric
- Submit project Silver Award Notice of Intent
- Monitor the girls project as they are doing it, and help them overcome any challenges

Silver Award Project Requirements

- Leadership: not just community service (not just doing)
- Addresses Issue and root cause – take action
- Plans for sustainability
- 50 hours project time (for each girl)
- 1 to 3 girls

New Silver Process

- No Silver proposal required – much easier and faster
- Girl Scout Project Mentor reviews project with girls and makes sure the girls project will meet standards using the GSCSNJ Silver Award Rubric– restructure project if it doesn't.
- Each girl must have <u>individual leadership</u> responsibilities
- Project Mentor submits one Notice of Intent for each project, ideally 10-14 days before the girls intend to start (Council staff will review and contact the Mentor if needed)

- Mentor's name and contact information
- Project Title
- Start date and proposed end date
- Community issue being addressed
- Brief explanation of actions being taken

New Silver Process

- Estimation of sustainability
- Project type – group or solo
- Troop number
- Girls name and email
- Girls current grade

Silver Process

- After Notice of Intent, the Girls do project
- Girls submit final report via the final report google form
- Council staff review and approve (may require additional work if project does not meet standards)

Common Problems in Final Reports

- Don't correctly state issue or root cause
- Don't say how many/how often
- Undersell themselves so "leadership" isn't evident
- Don't explain sustainability correctly
- Omit things
- Group projects have identical answers

- Submit hours that are not allowed
- Doesn't show specific dates/hours
- Does not depict leadership time
- Is identical to a group member
- Time log is hand written

What Counts Towards Total Hours Needed for Award Completion

Tasks that count:
- Developing your project
- Implementing your project
- Communication with others
- Research and planning to complete the project
- Recruiting, training and supervising your team
- Buying and gathering supplies
- Researching, developing and planning approved Money Earning Activities (to fund your project)

Tasks that do not count:
- Research to determine what project you will do
- Filling out award paperwork
- Award Workshop
- Completing the prerequisites
- Time given by the people helping you
- Implementation of the approved Money Earning Activities (unless directly related to your project)
- Volunteering for an agency that benefits from the project
- Driving to locations

GSCSNJ Silver Award Rubric

Category	Does not meet standards	Needs improvement	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Descriptions
Pre-requisites					
Membership	Is not in grades 6, 7 or 8	Is not a current Cadette Girl Scout	Has an active Cadette Level Girl Scout Membership		
Attended Silver Award Training	Not Completed	Not Completed	Completed Webinar	Completed webinar & Silver Info Session	
Completed one Cadette Journey	Not Completed	Not Completed	Completed	Completed additional Cadette journeys	Pre-requisite
Step 1 & 3: Choose an issue & Explore your community					
Helps the public and serves the greater good	Project does not benefit public and the greater good		Helps the public and serves the greater good		
Target Audience is clearly identified	Friends and family only	Within Girl Scouts only**	Local community	Reaching beyond local community	
Project identifies and addresses a valid community need	Project is a Community Service and not a Take Action Project		Project addresses an issue in the community	Root cause clearly expressed	What is your project? Give a detailed description. What is the problem you are solving? Who will it help? Why is it needed? Hint: This is your Issue/Root Cause.
	**Girl Scouts are the target audience when the focus of the project is related only to Girl Scouts.				**Is the root cause only related to Girl Scouts? For example: is Girl Scout property involved or lack of program opportunity for a specific topic?
Step 2: Build Your Team					
Team members are identified	Self and Silver Partners		Self and Silver Partners and at least one community person or group (could be Project Advisor)	Self and Silver Partners and more than one community person or group	
Girl Scout Mentor is identified	None selected	Selected their parent	Registered member who has attended a workshop and not their parent		
Project Adviser is identified and appropriate for the issue	None selected	Selected their parent	Has some knowledge of the issue	Is an expert in this issue	How will you be earning the Silver Award with this project? Solo or Group Project (Silver Group Projects should be no more than 3 girls). Who else will you be working with on your project? How do you plan to involve others? Girl Scout Mentor has reviewed project plans

GSCSNJ Silver Award Rubric

	Step 4 & 5: Pick your project & Develop your plan				
Girl chose this project for a reason	None shown or team members have exact same answer		Girl gives an individual response		Why did YOU choose this project?
Project will allow candidate to demonstrate active leadership	None shown		Provides leadership of target audience	Leads identified team members in execution of some part of the project and project provides leadership of target audience	If this is a group project, each girl must have clear cut and separate leadership responsibilities. What are you doing that no one else in your group is doing?
Project plan is realistic and appropriate for the scope of the project	No plan	1-2 steps defined	3-5 steps clearly defined	6 or more steps clearly defined	List the steps for what needs to be done. Make sure to include steps like, planning, marketing, developing and running project/program, gathering or purchasing supplies, obtaining space and approvals, meeting with partnering organization, gathering extra helpers
Has thought about the needs and costs, estimated costs seem reasonable/realistic	No thought about potential expenses	Costs and/or supplies listed but not realistic (Excessive reliance on donations that are not yet secured)	Supplies listed and estimated expenses seem realistic	Expenses and supplies clearly defined and itemized	
Funding and potential money earning activities are explained	Not explained	Yes, but disregards money earning policies or represents a large portion of their hours and is unrelated to project	Yes and follows all money earning policies	Includes a Money Earning Activity and Money Earning Activity enhances project	What are your (your group's) expenses? About how much money will your project cost, and what will you be spending the money on? How will you get this money? If you are planning any money earning activities please describe them here for approval.
Project contemplates sustainability	No sustainability, is really a service project	Implied or little attempt to be sustainable, other Girl Scouts will continue	Leave behind something so that at least some part of the project could be continued.	More effort toward sustainability established, worked with partner organization to continue	When your project is completed what will you leave behind? Hint: Describe how you have planned for at least some part of your project to be sustained or continued after you finish.
Plans to share her story	None engaged		Share project with people in local community	Share project with people using active engagement strategies	Once your project is complete and approved by council, how will you share your story about your Silver Award project? Will you post about it on social media? Send it to the local paper? Tell other Girl Scouts about it?

Questions