

Advisor Tips for the Girl Scout Gold Award

Steps	Resources for Advisors	Tips
<p>Step 1: Building a Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact Girl Scout council ▪ Review council information ▪ Identify and meet with advisor ▪ Create timeline for seven steps <p>RESOURCES FOR GIRLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council publications for girls ▪ The “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert ▪ <i>Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11-17</i> ▪ STUDIO 2B Focus books ▪ studio2b.org Web site ▪ girlscouts.org Web site ▪ Council training for girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors</i> ▪ Council training for advisors ▪ Council publications for advisors ▪ girlscouts.org web site ▪ studio2b.org web site ▪ Your community and its many resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get up to date on advisor philosophy and latest techniques for working with 14-18 year olds, as well as Girl Scout Gold Award requirements. ▪ Girls must be a registered Girl Scout and be 14-18 (grades 9-12) to work on STEPS 1-3 leading up to the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Girls must be 15-18, or grades 10-12, when working on STEPS 4-7 related to the Girl Scout Gold Award project. ▪ Encourage each girl to have her own copy of “Go for It” ▪ The Girl Scout Gold Award is something that has to come from self motivation — you can’t do it for a girl. ▪ As an advisor, encourage your girls to find out all they can about “going for the Gold.” If the council provides a training, help them get there or arrange for someone to come to your meeting. ▪ If you are long time advisor, be sure you look at the comparison charts between “old” and “new” requirements. ▪ Find out about the role of project advisor from your council. This is an adult who has expertise to expand a girl’s skills and network in the area of her project — someone who mentors and oversees the nitty gritty of the planning and implementation of the project. Troop/group advisors may play this role, but the addition of an adult with specific expertise or connections may be able to take a girl further in her learning, particularly if each girl in a group is doing a different project. The council can assist with identifying a project advisor, or a girl may identify that person when she starts focusing on her goals and begins networking process in STEP 3. ▪ Know who your council “go-to” person is for the process.

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<p>Step 2: Girl Scout Gold Leadership Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three Interest Project Awards ▪ STUDIO 2B Focus Book ▪ Leadership Role (30 hours) ▪ Put it together <p>RESOURCES FOR GIRLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council publications for girls ▪ The “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award insert ▪ <i>Interest Projects for Girl Scouts 11-17</i> ▪ www.studio2B.org ▪ STUDIO 2B Focus Books ▪ Troop/group advisor and/or Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor ▪ Service unit ▪ Internet ▪ Library ▪ Community networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors ▪ Council training for advisors and Girl Scout Gold Award project advisors ▪ Council publications for advisors ▪ girlscouts.org Web site ▪ Your community and its many resources ▪ Council staff and Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee ▪ Parents ▪ Service unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help girls purchase or borrow interest project and STUDIO 2B Focus books. ▪ Network leadership opportunities for girls (e.g., actively recruit new adults and communicate with the council). ▪ If girls are working together on interest projects or STUDIO 2B Focus books, help them to individualize their experience, as well as to work as a group. (Note: IP’s in the Interest Project book may be reformatted by girls using the example of new online IP’s found on studio2b.org) ▪ Brainstorm with girls (no value judgments) when they are having difficulties seeing relationships between Interest Project topics and the Girl Scout Promise and Law. ▪ Provide a forum for discussion. ▪ Create an atmosphere of support and acceptance. ▪ Encourage girls to do their own planning and make their own choices. ▪ Help girls match their interests to their leadership opportunities, to stretch themselves, and to use the activities they are already involved in for hours. ▪ Advise girls about the FAST TRACK OPTIONS in activities that they may already be involved in, such as LIT, CIT or PA. Make sure that their supervisors understand the evaluation process.

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<p>Step 3: Girl Scout Gold Career Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 40 hours career related activity <p>RESOURCES FOR GIRLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award insert ▪ Advisor and/or career advisors ▪ Network career related opportunities in the community ▪ High school counselors ▪ Work supervisors ▪ Service unit ▪ Internet ▪ Library ▪ Community network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors</i> ▪ Council training for advisors and Girl Scout Gold Award project advisors ▪ Council publications for advisors ▪ Women’s professional or service groups ▪ Colleges ▪ Young adults ▪ girlscouts.org Web site ▪ Your community and its many resources ▪ Service unit ▪ Troop/group sponsors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If doing this as a group, make sure that each girl has an opportunity to explore her own career interests. ▪ Check with your council and parents for community networking opportunities. ▪ Utilize college job fairs, community college resources and trade school options. ▪ Provide a forum for discussion and sharing of experiences. ▪ Advise girls about the FAST TRACK OPTION. Make sure that they are able to evaluate their experience with yourself or their supervisor.

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<p>Step 4: Girl Scout 4 B's Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Become: Goal 1 & 2 ▪ Belong: Community profile and reflection on project planning ▪ Believe: Develop vision statement ▪ Build: Identify networks <p>RESOURCES for GIRLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The "Go For It" Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert ▪ Studio 2B Focus book: Write Now! ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee ▪ Your community resources ▪ Service unit ▪ Council data ▪ City government ▪ Census reports ▪ Local library, Internet ▪ Chamber of commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors ▪ Council training for advisors and Girl Scout Gold Award project advisors ▪ Council publications for advisors ▪ Women's professional or service groups ▪ Colleges ▪ girlscouts.org Web site ▪ Your community and its many resources ▪ Service unit ▪ Council data ▪ City government ▪ Census reports ▪ Local library, Internet ▪ Chamber of commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be positive in helping a girl with self-assessment, but help her identify areas she might work on. ▪ Check with the council for resources on developing a community profile. ▪ Under Believe and Build: The final focus here does not have to be the girl's final blueprint for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. A girl might discover a related direction once she starts putting her project to the paper and speaking with her community networks. Reality checks and adjustments, as well as compromises are part of life. ▪ Ideally, a girl should be working with her Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor as soon as possible after identifying her focus area. That person should help her craft her vision statement, or be able to help her redefine it. ▪ Remember that the focus is the community beyond the Girl Scout community. You can start by identifying the role Girl Scouting plays and the community organizations that it networks with, but expand the vision until networks that might assist her with her vision can be identified. ▪ If the project is to be global in impact, identify non-governmental organizations that are addressing the issue on a global scale and look for local contacts. (Avoid a project that hinges on a support system for administration that does not exist. If working with an NGO, make sure it has a good track record and is approved by the council.)

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<p>STEP 5: PROJECT PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put the project plan on paper ▪ Get council approval for any money earning or gifts in-kind ▪ Make adjustments to plan and money earning as agreed to with project advisor and/or council <p>RESOURCES FOR GIRLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert ▪ GSUSA “Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal” form ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee ▪ Service Unit ▪ Internet ▪ Library ▪ Community network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors ▪ Council training for advisors and Gold Award project advisors ▪ Council publications for advisors ▪ Women’s professional or service groups ▪ Colleges ▪ girlscouts.org Web site ▪ Your community and its resources ▪ Service unit ▪ Council data ▪ City government ▪ Local library ▪ Internet ▪ Chamber of commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition from 4B’s into this step may be a logical progression if the girl has been very focused in her journey. However, she may change her direction as a result of that journey. That is fine. Her hours spent in the 4B’s count toward the project hours, as do these planning hours. ▪ Use budget sheet in “Go for It” Girl Scout Gold Award insert ▪ Put it on paper using project planning steps found in “Go for It” ▪ Develop a logical project timeline — allow for council approval time in doing this. Allow maximum 8 weeks for council approval process unless told otherwise. ▪ Remember that any money earning or gifts-in-kind are part of the project — council must approve this. ▪ Make sure that budget and timeline are reasonable ▪ Encourage the girl to use the community as a resource for helping to implement the project. This might be done by asking for skilled volunteers to fix up houses or getting the local college to field coaches for a summer program. ▪ Help the girl involve people who might be affected by the project in the planning in the spirit of teamwork.

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<p>STEP 6: TRACKING THE 65 PROJECT HOURS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep records while doing it <p>RESOURCES FOR GIRLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award insert ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee ▪ Internet, e-mail ▪ Service unit, troop/group, family members, peers, place of worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors ▪ Council training for Girl Scout Gold Award project advisors ▪ E-Mail ▪ Council Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The person acting as the Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor is the person who signs off on hours. ▪ Ongoing evaluation should be part of the advisor/girl relationship so that a girl is on focus and major glitches can be anticipated. ▪ Arrange for meetings to touch base with the girl to check progress. ▪ Have girl use the “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award insert to log her hours — each girl in a group should log her own hours working as part of the group and as an individual and have a part of the project that is “her own.” ▪ Encourage girls to take pictures to document the steps in their project. Photo releases are available at Girl Scouts Central/Forms on girlscouts.org or through the council. ▪ If a girl is unable to complete her Girl Scout Gold Award project because of illness or an unplanned emergency (weather, family illness, etc.) be flexible and work with the individual to help her attain her goals whenever possible. ▪ It is critically important to have ongoing evaluation at each major step to avoid major issues at project completion. A Girl Scout Gold Award does not “fail” if the girl has put in the hours in good faith and all her goals are not met. (For example, she does everything, but because of bad weather only 20 people show instead of 200. Could the low attendance have been avoided by having a rain date or backup venue, or was it because people just didn’t want to travel in bad weather?) A girl must demonstrate that she has learned something from the process. Learning may come from problems as well as successes.

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<p>STEP 7: REFLECTION AND EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fill out the evaluation ▪ Thank those who have helped <p>RESOURCES FOR GIRLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award insert ▪ GSUSA “Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report” form ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee ▪ Parents ▪ Participants or volunteers involved in the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors ▪ Council training for Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisors ▪ Council Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The person acting as the Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor is the person who determines if the girl has fulfilled the intent of the Girl Scout Gold Award and works with the girl to evaluate the project. ▪ The Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor, along with the Girl Scout Gold Award committee may sign off on the completed project report. ▪ If the project is an event involving participants and/or volunteers, the girl might include an evaluation activity as part of her project wrap-up that can be used to help her evaluate the project and her role. ▪ Project approval comes after an evaluation of the project based upon questions in the “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award STUDIO 2B insert and the Girl Scout Gold Award Final Report. ▪ Help the girl evaluate what steps might have been taken to make it a better project, while recognizing the things that worked well. ▪ If a girl does not complete her Girl Scout Gold Award project, recognize her for the STEPS that she has completed

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<p>CELEBRATING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend a Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony ▪ Become a role model for younger girls <p>RESOURCES FOR GIRLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “Go For It” Girl Scout Gold Award insert ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award Project advisor ▪ Troop/group advisor ▪ Troop/group ▪ Parents ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ceremonies in Girl Scouting</i> ▪ Council staff assigned to Girl Scout Gold Award ▪ Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee ▪ Council calendar ▪ Service unit directors ▪ Parents ▪ GSUSA’s National Equipment Service catalog ▪ Council shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony is council-wide and on a yearly schedule, make provisions for girls who do not meet the council deadline. Give options for participating in another or next year’s ceremony. A girl has until age 18 or until September 30 following her senior year in high school to complete the paperwork on the project. ▪ Awards of insignia for STEPS 1-4 can happen within the Girl Scout troop/group prior to the awarding of the Girl Scout Gold Award, or can be given at the Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony. ▪ Determine proper procedures for publicizing in coordination with Girl Scout media staff ▪ Follow council procedures for requesting letters of congratulations, certificates and providing Girl Scout Gold Award pin. (Is this the responsibility of the Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor Committee or a specific staff person, or does the troop/group advisor do some of the work?) <p>NOTE: The Girl Scout council must send in the request for certificates, folders and letters from the GSUSA CEO and National President. It should be sent in at least a month ahead of when they are needed. Please do not send requests from groups, advisors or service units.</p> <p>It is also recommended that the council coordinate requests to other groups at the community or national level. Again, contact these groups at least a month prior to when the letters are requested.</p>