1. Q. Why are journeys prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

A: The journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action project.

2. Q: How do girls know when a journey is “completed?”

A: A journey is completed when a girl has earned the journey awards, which include creating and carrying out a Take Action project.

3. Q. What makes the awards’ guidelines different from the journeys?

A: In contrast to journey Take Action projects, which give girls themes on which to base their journey Take Action project, the Girl Scout Award Take Action projects have no predesigned theme. Girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Award’s Take Action project.

4. Q. What are the suggested hours for earning each of the awards?

A: Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. The time it takes to earn the awards will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours to use as a guide is:

- The Bronze Award: suggested minimum 20 hours
- The Silver Award: suggested minimum 50 hours
- The Gold Award: suggested minimum 80 hours.

5. Q: What is happening with the old prerequisites for the award (i.e. interest patches, career and leadership awards)?

A: Girls can continue to earn these awards, but they are no longer required pre-requisites to the Gold Award.

6. Q: Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge
A: Yes. Girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer. But, girls technically have until Sept. 30 of the year they bridge to turn in Awards from that previous age level. For example, if a girl is going for the Bronze Award as a Junior, and she bridges to Cadettes in May, she still has until Sept. 30 to complete her Bronze Award. Because of this possible overlap, girls need to complete one Award before beginning work on another within another age level.

7. Q. If a girl starts working on her Take Action project and moves; can she still earn her award?

A: Yes, however, she should work with her new council and/or Overseas Committees to complete the project.

8. Q. Who are the adult guides for – council staff, parents, or volunteers?

A: Any adult is welcome to use the adult guides. The guides were designed for volunteers working directly with girls on achieving their awards.

9. Q: Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Gold Award?

A: No. The Gold Award is done to the best of a girl’s ability. There is no need to have special requirements for girls with disabilities — encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the girl individually.

10. Q. Is sustainability differentiated at each grade level?

A: The guidelines give girls tools to examine the underlying root cause of issues, develop a sustainable project plan and measure the impact of their project on their community, the target audience and themselves. There is progression. While Junior Girl Scouts working on their Girl Scout Bronze Award will reflect on how the project could be kept going, Girl Scout Cadettes plan for sustainability. Seniors and Ambassadors work to ensure the sustainability of their project in order to meet the Gold Award standards of excellence. While Juniors explore an issue that affects their Girl Scout community, Cadettes create a community map of their neighborhood or school. Meanwhile Seniors and Ambassadors earning the Gold Award assess an issue and its effect more broadly by interviewing community leaders, research using a variety of sources and investigate other community’s solutions to a similar problem.

11. Q: Who can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award?

A: A girl must be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Girl Scout Ambassador. Individually registered girl members or ZIP Girl Scouts can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award as long as they meet the grade-level and membership requirements.
12. Q: Does a Senior or Ambassador need to do the two journeys in any particular order?

A: No. She can complete either two Girl Scout Senior level journeys, two Girl Scout Ambassador level journeys or one of each.

13. Q: How can we make sure that Girl Scout Awards represent quality projects?

A: For the Gold Award, the girl’s Gold Award Advisory Committee Mentor and a council staff member will make sure that a girl is doing the best of her ability to meet the Standards of Excellence and approve her project. The best way to ensure the Awards meets the quality requirements is for the girls, their Leader, and their Project Advisor to receive orientation about the award and understand the difference between a onetime community service opportunity or event and a Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project.

14. Q: What is the difference between a troop/group Leader, a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor, and a Gold Award Advisory Committee Mentor in the Girl Scout Gold Award process? Do girls need all three?

A: Yes, girls need all three. A Troop/Group Leader is the adult who works ongoing with a troop or group. Once a girl identifies her issue, the troop/group Leader might help her identify a person in the community who could be a great Project Advisor.

A Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor is a volunteer that guides a girl as she takes her project from the planning stage to implementation. The Project Advisor is not a girl’s parent or the troop/group Leader. The Project Advisor is typically someone from the community who is knowledgeable about the issue and who can provide guidance, experience and expertise along the way.

A Gold Award Mentor is a Girl Scout volunteer on Gateway Council’s Gold Award Advisory Committee. This person is assigned girls’ Proposals by a Council staff member, will review assigned Proposals, contact the girl by phone or e-mail to discuss the proposal, may potentially request revisions, approves the proposal, and approves the final project. The Gold Award Advisory Committee Mentor is knowledgeable about the requirements to earn the Gold Award, Gateway Council’s procedures, and is the girl’s support to ensure her project is meeting the Standards of Excellence.

15. Q: Why can’t a parent be a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor?

A: Girls are encouraged to connect with their community when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. That means working with a Project Advisor who is not her parent. After working with a Project Advisor from the community the girl will have had a networking experience and may have a personal reference for future endeavors.
16. Q: At what point should a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor be identified?

A: The Project Advisor should be identified in the planning phase before the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal is turned in to the council. The Project Advisor expands the network of adults and provides expertise for a girl’s project. If a girl has an idea before she starts any work on her Girl Scout Gold Award, she might want to identify her Project Advisor from the very beginning.

17. Q: What is the role of Gateway Council’s Gold Award Committee Mentors?

A: The Gold Award Committee Mentors work with Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors, the Girl Leadership Program Specialist, and the Program Secretary from the Council Staff to ensure that girls’ projects meet the national guidelines and the council’s procedures. The committee member who is assigned to a girl as a Mentor reviews the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposals, makes recommendations for project development and resources, reads the Final Report, and approves the project. If a girl’s project has not yet achieved its goals, the Mentor provides suggestions and tips to help her develop a high quality Gold Award project.

18. Q: What does it mean to have a sustainable project?

A: A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girl’s involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl’s involvement.

19. Q: How does a girl measure project impact?

A: Girls identify their project goals for their community, target audience and themselves by developing success indicators using a matrix provided in the proposal.

20. Q: Can a girl earn the Girl Scout Gold Award even if she hasn’t been in Girl Scouts very long?

A: Yes! She just needs to be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador to begin her Gold Award project.

21. Q: What if a girl is 16 or 17 and graduating? Can she complete her project when she is in college?

A: Yes, a girl has until Sept. 30th of the year her membership as a girl ends.
22. Q: What if a girl graduates and is 18 and doesn’t have her project completed?

A: The girl has until September 30 of the year she graduates, which is the date her girl membership in Girl Scouts ends.

23. Q: What if a girl’s project is not completed by the council ceremony time?

A: If the girl completes her award and turns in final paperwork by Sept. 30, she will be recognized at that year’s Medals of Honor Ceremony in the following December. If she turns in paperwork for a finished award on Oct. 1 or later, she will be recognized the following year. Girls and their Project Advisors are encouraged to work within the council timeline; however, the ceremony time should not supersede a quality Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

24. Q: Can a girl’s project focus on the internatl Girl Scout community?

A: A Bronze award may focus on or benefit the Girl Scout community, however, the Silver and Gold Awards may not benefit the Girl Scout community and should affect the external, local or regional community.