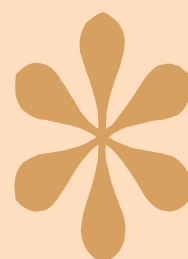




**Girl Scout  
Bronze Award  
USA Girl Scouts Overseas**



## GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD



The Bronze Award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. It is an award earned by Junior Girl Scouts, has no pre-requisites, and requires no prior Girl Scouting experience. It shows that a girl has made a promise to help others, improve her community and world, and become the best she can be.

There are 4 requirements to earn the award, and they are listed on pages 202–203 in Junior Girl Scout Handbook. More information is located in the Junior Girl Scout Leader Guidebook on pages 20–21.

## HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Applicant completes the first three requirements of the Bronze Award prior to beginning work on the Bronze Award Project [4<sup>th</sup> requirement]. Completion of the first three requirements can occur in any order. However, they must be completed prior to embarking on the fourth.
2. Applicant works closely with her Girl Scout leader or adult partner in completing the award requirements.
3. Although advance approval of the Bronze Award project from USAGSO is not required, a final project report form upon completion of the project must be submitted to USAGSO in order to authorize purchase of the pin by the troop leader.

## Assisting the Junior Girl Scout on the Project

### LEADER/ADULT PARTNER

- ❖ Emphasizes a quality learning experience for the girl
- ❖ Makes requirements and expectations clear at the beginning of the application process. Leaders and key adults convey standards and expectations through training, orientation, and ongoing support
- ❖ Helps plan the ceremony, with the OC service team, to honor girls who have earned the Bronze Award

### OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

- ❖ Provides Junior Girl Scout(s) with the documents required for the final report on the Bronze Award project.
- ❖ Ensures completeness and correctness of documentation.
- ❖ Assists in timely submission of required documentation to USAGSO.
- ❖ Arranges for local publicity/pr. with print and /or broadcast media and forwards copies to USAGSO.
- ❖ Plans with the awardee, her parents/guardians, troop leader, and OCC for the recognition ceremony.

### USAGSO

Processes final report form

- ❖ Provides Girl Scout Bronze Award manual to all OCs
- ❖ Sends card to troop leader acknowledging receipt of report and authorizing the purchase of the award
- ❖ Executive Director sends congratulatory letter to awardee
- ❖ Sends final report form to GSUSA

## CHOOSING A GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD PROJECT

While the steps toward earning a Girl Scout Bronze Award are clear-cut, guidelines on precisely what kinds of project girls should undertake to earn the award are flexible. Following are some considerations in selecting a project:

- ❖ Most important, the project should be one that is based on a girl's interests. The amount of time, effort, and hard work that goes into a Girl Scout Bronze Award project is too great to be wasted on something that is not really of interest to a girl.
- ❖ The project should be something that truly fits a girl's individual talents and abilities. Talking with adults and peers who can identify a girl's strong points can help her match her interests to her capabilities.
- ❖ The project needs to serve a community need. This can mean the larger community (neighborhood, town, organization, etc.) or the Girl Scout Community – or both. The project shows that the girl has made a promise to help others, improve her community and world, and become the best she can be.
- ❖ Consider the resources of the area in which the girl lives. Will the materials, information, people, or other resources needed be available for the project? Will resources need to be ordered from elsewhere? Will they arrive within the time period allotted for the project?
- ❖ And finally, is the girl sufficiently interested in the project to spend a minimum of 15 hours working on it? Fifteen hours is the minimum amount of time required for work on a Girl Scout Bronze Award project. Some projects may need additional time to be well done. Consider this time element when selecting a project.

As possible ideas for a project are reviewed, it's important to be realistic in the planning. The project must benefit both the girl and the community, build upon her previous Girl Scouting experiences, and take a minimum of 15 hours to complete. It's important not to plan a project that is so demanding that it's difficult, if not impossible, to complete. Part of developing a project that meets the unique skills and abilities lies in also knowing one's own limits.

Then, ask "Is it a Bronze Award project?" "Is it truly worthy of earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award?" "Does the plan use the skills and knowledge gained from fulfilling earlier Bronze Award requirements?" "Is the effort needed for the project more than that of earning a badge or other requirement?" Remember that the Bronze Award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn, and the project for which it is earned should reflect a level of work that is appropriate to the girl's special skills and abilities. It should also demonstrate a progression from the work done previously.

Developing the plan to implement the project can also be a very challenging aspect of the Bronze Award. One common problem for many girls is a "good idea that just doesn't need an effort for several months." Here are some more questions to assist in developing a good idea:

- ❖ How can more people be helped?
- ❖ How can the project have a lasting effect rather than be just a one-time event?
- ❖ How can more talents be put to work?
- ❖ Who else in the community can be involved?

Considering the questions proposed on these pages and similar questions should help a girl develop a project that merits the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

## SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

Following is just a sample. Customize it as needed. Typically, pre-written press releases submitted to the print media are double-spaced and have some symbols to indicate additional pages of text [-MORE- at the bottom of the page] and #### at the end of the release. A photo with a cut line (description of the photo) is a great addition to a news article. Be sure to indicate on the photo to whom it is to be returned.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [or indicate preferred date of release]

Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
USA Girl Scout Overseas- \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ EARNS GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD

\_\_\_\_\_, a Girl Scout in (City/Country, etc.) has completed requirements for a Junior Girl Scout's highest award, the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award recognizes a girl's commitment to excellence as she develops skills and values to meet present and future challenges in her life. \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the first girls in the area to receive the recognition.

A member of USA Girl Scout Overseas - (City/Country) \_\_\_\_\_ began working toward the Girl Scout Bronze Award in \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. To earn the award, she had to design and carry out a plan of activities to show her promise to help others, improve her community and world, and become the best she can be. To complete the requirement for volunteer community service, (girl's name {describe service} at {where}). This project is one in which she has an ongoing interest and willingness to continue her involvement. \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_th grader at \_\_\_\_\_ school. Her parents are of \_\_\_\_\_ of (place of work).

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## SAMPLE LETTER TO SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Name of Principal  
Address

Dear Principal's Name:

\_\_\_\_\_, a Girl Scout and a(n) \_\_\_\_\_th grader at your school, has completed the requirements for Junior Girl Scouting's highest award, the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award recognizes a girl's commitment to excellence as she develops skills and values to meet present and future challenges in her life. \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the first girls in our area to receive the recognition.

\_\_\_\_\_ began working towards the Girl Scout Bronze Award in 20\_\_\_. To earn it, she had to design and carry out a plan of activities showing her promise to help others, improve her community and world, and to become the best she can be. To complete the requirements for volunteer community service, \_\_\_\_\_ (describe activity at where). This project is one in which she has an ongoing interest and willingness to continue her involvement.

Please join with the Girl Scouts of \_\_\_\_\_ (OC) in publicizing the special achievements of this unique young woman via announcements in assemblies, the PA system, the school newsletter, or by any other means.

OPTIONAL: You are invited to join us for the awards ceremony at which \_\_\_\_\_ will receive her award. It is scheduled for (date), at (time), at (location). Please contact \_\_\_\_\_ to RSVP.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
USA Girl Scouts Overseas- \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUGGESTIONS/GUIDELINES FOR BRONZE AWARD CEREMONY

The Bronze Award ceremony provides a unique opportunity to educate the general public about the special opportunities available to Girl Scouts. Ideally, an effective awards program/ceremony will honor the recipient, inform the public, and inspire participants. Although the specific ceremony may vary with location and facility, the guidelines on page 45 of Ceremonies in Girl Scouting book may assist in the planning of an awards ceremony. The Junior Girl Scout Leader Guidebook also has suggestions for a Bronze Award Ceremony (pages 20–21).

Following are some items to keep in mind when planning an awards ceremony:

### *Invitations:*

- ❖ Invite the highest-ranking official to present the award (unless the recipient prefers someone else present the award). Offer a choice of dates to accommodate his/her schedule. The benefit of this is increased visibility, help in securing future command support, and increased possibility of media coverage.
- ❖ Invite all those who helped the girl achieve her goal (badge advisors and troops with which she worked to complete her pre-project requirements) as well as those on the recipient's guest list.
- ❖ Invite those who benefited from her Bronze Award Project.
- ❖ If room permits, invite all Girl Scouts to attend, particularly other Junior Girl Scouts, and bridging Brownie Girl Scouts. Seeing a Girl Scout receive the Bronze Award may be motivation to keep bridging girls involved by showing the adventures ahead in Girl Scouting and inspiring them to meet the challenges of the Bronze Award.
- ❖ As a courtesy, invite the Director. She may not be able to attend, but will appreciate knowing what is happening.
- ❖ Indicate on the invitations that the Girl Scout uniform is the appropriate attire.

### *Publicity*

- ❖ At least 3 weeks in advance, arrange with local public affairs and AFRTS to cover the ceremony. Be sure to mention the name of the presenter, the uniqueness of the project, and possible how few girls on the installation have earned the award. (If you are unable to get a reporter/photographer from the media to cover the event, find out how you can meet their publication requirements. Use the sample press release in this booklet if needed.)
- ❖ An alternate solution to the above is to ask someone from a photography class, club, etc. in the location to take pictures. Their photo, with a cut line, combined with the press release in this booklet, will work in place of the media representative.

### *Logistics:*

- ❖ It's always a good idea to have greeters/hostesses welcome guests and show them to their places (ESPECIALLY non-Girl Scouts).
- ❖ Arrange for any food/beverages to be set up ahead of time with servers.
- ❖ Have the Bronze Award pin on hand, and brief the presenter as to placement on the uniform.
- ❖ Practice the flag ceremony prior to the event at the site. The room logistics may influence how the flags are carried or presented. (Sometimes low ceilings affect a flag ceremony in major ways.)

- ❖ Is a microphone necessary? Have arrangements been made for one? Has everyone practiced with it?
- ❖ Thank you notes to every troop or person who assisted in the ceremony are appropriate and are to be mailed within one week of the event/ceremony.

*Program:*

- ❖ Involve the recipient's troop in the event/ceremony in the planning and carrying out of the ceremony. Perhaps they can serve as ushers, greeters, servers, etc.
- ❖ Arrange a display of the award project photos, interest project activities, and any other items of interest. Add to the display a Junior G.S. handbook and badge book to pique the interest and curiosity of attendees.

*Sample Script:*

Welcome:

(MC): "Good evening (special guests such as ambassador, school principal, CEO of organization and that of the one that benefited from the project, etc. should be mentioned by name.), ladies and gentlemen, sister Girl Scouts, and honored guests. Today we are here to honor the achievements of \_\_\_\_\_, a member of Junior Girl Scout Troop \_\_\_\_\_, who will be receiving the Girl Scout Bronze Award, which is Junior Girl Scouting's highest award. Let's begin with a flag ceremony."

Flag Ceremony:

Performed by special patrol/troop or school honor guard.

Promise:

MC (or other individual or troop representative): "Please join us in reciting the Girl Scout Promise. Thank you. Please be seated."

Background:

MC or OCC: "The Girl Scout Bronze Award was introduced in 2000 in an effort to challenge girls to fully carry out the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Since that time, many girls in the United States have responded to the challenge. Since USA Girl Scouts- \_\_\_\_\_, was formed in \_\_\_\_\_, there have been \_\_\_\_\_ girls who have achieved this distinction. \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_th in this community.

"In order to earn this award, a girl must earn two badges related to the project; spend many hours in developing her leadership skills; and complete one of the Signs which are based on the four Girl Scout program goals for girls. Completing the Bronze Award requires a great deal of support from the girl's parents, and I'd like to introduce \_\_\_\_\_, (name of parents).

"For the fourth requirement of the award, the community service portion, \_\_\_\_\_ chose \_\_\_\_\_ . Here is \_\_\_\_\_ to tell you more about it is (one of those who benefited from the project).

Guests' Comments: Remarks from anyone who benefited from project.

Presentation:

MC: Introduces the presenter of the award.

Presenter: Gives congratulatory remarks and pins the recipient.

Recipient: Makes a few remarks thanking those who helped her.

Remains at lectern for closing.

Conclusion:

MC: "It is one of our most popular traditions that a Girl Scout leaves a place better than she found it, and (OC) is a better place because \_\_\_\_\_ was here.

"Girls, there are many challenges and adventures ahead for you in Girl Scouting. Along with the fun and friendship lie the opportunities to do your best, become the best you can be, and make a difference in the lives of others. I challenge each Girl Scout in this audience to DO her best, to MAKE that difference, and to EARN the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. I challenge you all to LIVE the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

"Thank you all for attending and thank you (presenter) for presenting the award. You helped make the evening special for all of us. After the closing, please join us at the reception and talk with \_\_\_\_\_ to hear more about her experiences in earning this award. At this time, I would like \_\_\_\_\_ to step forward."

Recipient reads:

*"I will do my best to be honest.  
I will do my best to be fair.  
I will do my best by my words and deeds  
To show how much I really care.  
I'm just one girl in this great wide world.  
I can't go on every quest.  
But, I will do all I can do  
And, I will do my best."*

(or a poem or other reading selected by the award recipient)

MC: Good night ladies and gentlemen. Thank you again for attending and we will now retire the colors."  
Retire the colors.