

**Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Ideas**

Is your troop interested in earning their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award? Here are some great ideas to help your daughter or troop get started! These are just a sampling of awesome projects that the girls can do. Please remember, girls can work individually or in groups to earn Community Service Hours, as well as their Bronze and Silver Award (up to 4 girls in a group for the Silver Award). The Girl Scout Gold Award must be done individually, although on rare occasions a pair of girls may be approved for the Gold Award.

	Community Service	Girl Scout Bronze Award	Girl Scout Silver Award	Girl Scout Gold Award
<b>Pets</b>	An individual/ troop of girls collect pet food and supplies for a local animal hospital. They created treat bags for dogs and cats who were in the hospital.	A group of Junior Girl Scouts created New Pet Owner Kits, which included basic pet care information, a grooming brush, a sample of cat or dog food, and a treat for their new animal. The New Pet Owner Kits were then donated to a local animal shelter.	Suzie and LaShanda worked with younger girl scouts to create New Pet Owner Kits. The girls showed younger Girl Scout troops how to make the Kits, and had the younger Girl Scouts help them make over 100 kits. The girls then worked with a local Pet Store and hosted a Pet Education Class for the community. The class talked about basic pet care, how to treat a pet, the do's and don't of owning an animal, and how to tell if it is the right time to add a pet to your family. The local pet store is going to continue to host a Pet Education Class 1-2 per year.	Suzie really enjoyed working with pets for her Silver Project. So, she decided to set up a pet food pantry, similar to a regular food pantry (for people). She worked with her local food pantry, who agreed to host the animal food pantry as well. The animal food pantry provided pet food for dogs, cats, rabbits and birds for people who cannot afford such. She found a secure space for storage of the food, created a policy for distribution, educated her community about how to make donations (just as with human food, pet food would have to be in never-opened packaging, and not be expired), and worked with her local Humane Society or ASPCA to create ways to educate pantry users about the importance of spaying and neutering pets, where to find low-cost spaying and neutering clinics, where to find help with pet behavior problems, and other activities that discourage people from taking their pets to animal shelters or neglecting their pets' needs.

<p><b>Food Pantry</b></p>	<p>An individual/ troop of girls collect canned and boxed food for a local food pantry.</p>	<p>After donating their food from their community service project, the food pantry mentioned that they could really use some help getting organized before the holidays, when they were busier than normal and had more donations than normal. The girls agreed to go to the food pantry and help clean and organize the shelves, and they also created a fun and inviting display for the entrance to the pantry.</p>	<p>Three girls from the troop really enjoyed working with the food pantry. They decide, for the Silver Award Project, they want to work with the food pantry and box up items that could be used for healthy meals. The girls worked on getting donations and collected the necessary items for the meals. Then, the girls boxed the items up and attached a recipe card, so recipients had a new, healthy recipe to make. The girls also left a stack of various recipes with the food pantry for anyone who needed them, as well as created a 'Food Pantry Cook Book' with all of their recipes included.</p>	<p>One girl decided her passion was encouraging everyone from all walks of life to eat healthy. She worked with her local food pantry to set up 4 cooking workshops for food pantry recipients (2 for adults only; two for children 10-17). Each workshop featured different, healthy recipes, where most (if not all) ingredients could be found at the food pantry. Stephanie then contacted her local college and found a student organization that was willing to work with the pantry and hold a cooking workshop at least once a year, close to the holiday season. At each cooking class, Stephanie also had information about eating healthy and exercising available for participants.</p>
<p><b>Recycling</b></p>	<p>A group of Girl Scouts help at a community 'Electronics Recycling' day. The girls create signs to distribute throughout the community about the importance of electronics recycling, and help the day of the event.</p>	<p>At a park clean up day, a Junior GS troop noticed there were no recycling containers near the playground or picnic tables. The girls, along with their leader, spoke with city officials and asked if they could put recycling 2 bins out at their local playground (one by the playground and one by the picnic area). The troop then purchased and painted the bins, and set them at the playground for all to use.</p>	<p>In their project, 'Green Ribbon Week', the Siinya, Carol, and Jenna challenged the students at St. Mary's school to only throw away one bag of trash per grade for the whole week. They educated students on what could and couldn't be recycled, and set up composting bins in the cafeteria for students to use instead of throwing away their food. The girls also make green ribbons for each student to wear. Through their project, the girls were able to educate their school about the importance of recycling. The school also decided to</p>	<p>Siinya hosted a series of workshops at her local YMCA on how to rid the environment of plastic waste. She hosted a 'Plastic Drive' and had community members donate their plastic bags and soda bottles to her rather than throw them away. Si used those plastic bags and soda bottles to host four unique workshops, with the help of community members. The workshops included 'How to Make a Plastic Bag Kite' for kids, a 'How to make a Plastic Bag Purse' for teens, and a 'How to make a Plastic Bag Laptop Bag' for adults. Lastly, she hosted a class that showed how you can use plastic soda bottles to build</p>

<p><b>Sleep Tight!</b></p>	<p>A troop made pillows for a local women's shelter</p>	<p>GS Juniors held a pajama drive at their school for a local women's shelter. They set up boxes in their school and talked to each classroom about the women's shelter and why they were collecting pajama's. The girls were able to collect 40 pairs of pajama's for the shelter (toddler- adult sizes).</p>	<p>After learning in health class that most toddler and kids to not get the recommended amount of sleep each night, the girls in troop 714 decided to focus on the importance of a good nights sleep for their Silver Awrad Project. The 4 girls made 'PJ Bear's", which are speical bears that have special powers to help kids sleep. Each bear was stuffed. Each bear came with a goody bag, that had games, puzzles, and short stories about why sleep is important, as well as information for parents about</p>	<p>Stephanie wanted to educate others about the situation of children in the foster care system. Her research, coupled with interviews of social workers in this field helped her to create a brochure to inform the public. She held a "pajama" party at which she collected pajamas for children in foster care, while she educated those who attended about the foster system. Her pajama party will become an annual event, as the English department of her high school will continue it as a tie-in to the reading of A Child Called "It".</p>
<p><b>Dance</b></p>	<p>The girls helped hand out programs, usher guests to seats, and help clean the auditorium after the performance from a local community dance group.</p>	<p>A Junior Girl Scout troop, all of whom love to dance, wanted to share their love with Senior Citizens. The girls went to a local Senior Center and taught 2 chair-dance sessions. These sessions taught seniors, new, low-impact dance moves that almost everyone could do. The girls had a great time coming up with their routines and teaching the senior citizens.</p>	<p>Catherine and three of her friends hosted a 'Balancing Act' dance program at a local day care. Noticing their town didn't have any dancing/movement classes for kids 2-3 years old, the girls decided to host a three-part workshop on their own. They worked with a local day care, and over the summer, they went to the day care three times, for an hour each, and worked with the kids on basic dance, movement, and balancing techniques. They also gave the kids healthy stickers and had handouts available for parents discussing why balance and exercise in important for</p>	<p>Catherine wanted to share her passion for dance with younger girls in her community. She knew that some girls do not have the opportunity to take dance classes, but would gain in self-esteem and confidence if they had the chance to perform. Catherine offered a series of classes to third grade girls at a local elementary school. Girls learned to stretch and warm up prior to exercise, and were exposed to ballet, jazz and tap. Once the girls perfected the dance, they put on a performance for their families and friends. The girls experienced the sense of accomplishment at learning a new skill and boosted their confidence.</p>

<p><b>Religion</b></p>	<p>A group of Girl Scouts agreed to be in charge of cleaning their local place of worship once a month for one year to help keep their place of worship clean. This includes basic dusting and 'housekeeping' items.</p>	<p>A group of local Girl Scouts noticed that there were not a lot of kids attending Sunday School. So, they worked with the Sunday School teachers to host an open house. They helped kids with craft project and did a short skit based off a Bible story to help encourage more kids to attend Sunday School Class.</p>	<p>Katrina and Theresa remodeled (cleaned, painted, re-organized) the teen youth room at their local place of worship to provide a safe space for teens to spend their time.</p>	<p>Theresa's Gold Award Project, "The Ten Commandment Garden," taught the children in her community environmental values along with spiritual values through the planting of a garden for their church. The garden was split into ten sections, each section representing one of the Ten Commandments. This not only taught the children how to improve the environment but also reinforced the messages of scripture. Through Theresa's efforts, the church looked heavenly</p>
<p><b>Seniors</b></p>	<p>An individual/troop made favors for the food trays at a local nursing home.</p>	<p>The girls in troop 8632 cooked dinner for a Senior Citizen outreach that is done every other week through a local church. The girls will cook, serve, clean up, decorate the tables and play bingo with the seniors. It will be some work- but I think they will really enjoy it!</p>	<p>Kristen and Emily created and installed shadow boxes outside of each patient's room at Glenaire Retirement Home. Each box contains personal mementos and information about the resident so that employees, volunteers, visitors and other residents with memory disabilities can learn about the resident and gain insight into their personalities.</p>	<p>Wanting to lift the spirits of senior citizens, Emily designed her Gold Award project "Garden Rejuvenation." Emily got to work by refurbishing the garden area at a home for the aged, planting various types of flowers, vegetables, and herbs. The senior residents can now tend to the growing plants which will keep them physically and mentally active. Emily shared her project via Facebook and Twitter, so all could monitor the progress of the garden</p>

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<p><b>Environment</b></p>	<p>A troop of girls helped coordinate their Service Unit 'Stash the Trash' day. The girls worked with other troops in their area to clean up different area businesses, schools, and public areas on Earth Day.</p>	<p>Girls from troop 835 wanted to adopt a trail (similar to adopting a highway). There is a hiking/biking trail that runs through their neighborhood that the girls wanted to adopt. The girls were going to be responsible for cleaning up the trash and litter on a two-mile stretch of the trail for one calendar year. After calling the city to see if there was such a program, they were shocked to find out a program like this did not exist. After working with city officials, troop 835 started the 'Adapt a Trail' program in Madison County, and continued to keep their adopted portion of</p>	<p>Concerned about the harmful chemicals that are used in cleaning products, Deanna designed her Silver Award project "Clean Green". She educated and informed her community about the hazards of chemical cleaners, and taught them how to make environmentally safe cleaning supplies. Using "greener" cleaning solutions will have a long-term benefit to individuals and the environment. Deanne made recipe cards of the cleaning solutions for participants to take home as well.</p>	<p>Deanne organized a large group of volunteers to remove invasive plants that were taking over a local community park and garden, Deanne worked with her county extension office and city parks officials to get her project going. Volunteers received a briefing on why invasive plants are bad and what they can do after the event day to help keep invasive plants out of the community. Deanne documented this activity so the park could sponsor this volunteering activity annually, even once Deanne was no longer involved or in charge. Deanne also shared her progress on Flickr, to show the community how the</p>

<p><b>Sewing/ Knitting</b></p>	<p>A group of Cadette Girl Scouts made no-sew blankets for a homeless shelter. Each girl made 2 blankets to donate to the shelter over the winter.</p>	<p>Troop 2664 helped Habitat for Humanity provide a house for a low-income family in their area. While the girls were too young to actually build the house, they could help with making curtains, planting gardens, collecting food and cleaning supplies and building bird houses. After discussing the options, the troop decided to make curtains for the kitchen and one of the bedrooms.</p>	<p>Stefani and Annabelle both discovered they loved to sew. They were also aware it was considered to be a 'dying art'. The girls decided to make young people aware of how rewarding sewing could be, and how it was a valuable life skill. The girls held 2 workshops and taught their peers basic sewing techniques. Stefani and Annabelle taught the groups how to sew on a button, how to hem jeans and pants, how to repair small holes, and for girl</p>	<p>“Knitting for the Needy” is the title of Stefanie’s Gold Award project, which consisted of various workshops, where she not only taught girls within her community how to knit and give back to those in need, but she raised awareness of the issue of homelessness in Southern Illinois. All of the pieces the girls knitted were then sewed together by Stefanie and became beautiful blankets that were donated to homeless shelters all over Long Island.</p>
<p><b>Hospitals</b></p>	<p>After visiting a local children's hospital, a troop learns that there are times parents, grandparents, and siblings could be in the waiting rooms for 10+ hours without leaving, and the snack station is only as full as the donations it receives. The troop decides to hold a donation drive of prepacked snacks, drinks, and meals to donate to the waiting room.</p>	<p>After hearing that a local student was sent to St. Jude's Hospital for cancer treatment, the girls asked....what can we do? The girls found that St. Jude is always in need of cancer mask straps- special straps that go on masks the kids have to wear during chemotherapy. After printing out directions, the troop decides that each girl will make at least one set of straps to send to St. Jude's. The girls also talk to their class about childhood cancer and the need for the cancer caps, and during art class, each student in the class makes a set of cancer straps as well.</p>	<p>Marissa collected toiletry items to fill 50 bags (25 for men and 25 for women). She then sewed, stuffed, and donated the bags to adult residents of the Ronald McDonald House. Marissa also collect small toys and art supplies for children and teens. She sewed, stuffed, donated the toy bags to the Ronald McDonald House as well, for both patients of the nearby hospital and their siblings who often spent long hours in waiting rooms while their siblings were receiving treatment.</p>	<p>Marissa’s project goals were to offer support to teenage girls undergoing treatment for cancer as well as raising awareness of the importance of cancer research in her community. She sewed over 100 bucket organizers for teenage oncology patients and coordinated a donation campaign within her neighborhood and school requesting items to fill the buckets (items ranged from make-up and skin care, to scarves, to word puzzle books). The filled buckets were then donated to community children’s hospitals, including Advocate Hope Children’s Hospital and Children’s Memorial Hospital.</p>

<p><b>Fashion</b></p>	<p>Instead of asking girls to donate old clothes, Troop 253 asked members of their church to donate one complete outfit. Their outfit needed to include at least two articles of clothing (matching sizes) that had been laundered and ironed and one accessory -- barrette, scarf, bottle of nail polish, belt, etc. We stressed that the outfit had to be in great condition (just too small or too big for them). The outfits were packaged (labeled with size) in gift boxes donated by a local store and given to a women's shelter.</p>	<p>A group Girl Scout Juniors taught Brownie Girl Scouts about good hygiene. They taught the girls about good skin care (when to wash your face, when to take a bath or shower, how often to wash your hair, etc). They also taught the girls simple hair do's, such as braiding, and how to add accessories to their hair (such as with feathers).</p>	<p>April and Ashante knew that girls in 4th and 5th grade were becoming more fashion-conscious. The girls decided to hold a fashion show for pre-teen girls in their area. With the help of friends (who volunteered to be models), they showed pre-teens how they could spice up old clothes and create new outfits with jewelry and accessories. They also worked with the girls and demonstrated proper skin care techniques, how to apply make-up, discussed the best make-up for different skin tones, and how to properly remove make-up. Admission to the fashion show was a new hair brush that would be donated to a local women's shelter.</p> <p><i>(Community Need: Self Esteem, Reusing</i></p>	<p>Ahsante organized a series of <i>Finishing Touches</i> seminars for teen girls to teach them about personal hygiene, professionalism and social prowess. She held three seminars (one at her school, one at a community center, and one at her church). Her presentations also included mock job interviews, mock college interviews, and how to 'dress for success.' Ashante also held a Business Clothes drive, and collected gently used business attire to donate to a women's shelter for women to wear on job interviews or when they are first starting out at a new job. The community center where Ashante held one of her seminars is planning to host a similar seminar for girls once a year.</p>
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