

# Ways Parent/Guardians Can Support Girls Working on their Girl Scout Silver Award

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting that girl's grades 6-8 can earn. It represents a girl's commitment to herself and to her community, as she focuses on leadership, personal challenges and completing a project that will benefit her community through engaging community members. It takes many hours of preparation, planning and work to accomplish the goals a girl has set for herself.

Parent/guardians play a significant role in supporting a girl's path to the Girl Scout Silver Award. As a parent you may be called upon to be coach, mentor, cheerleader, sounding board and chauffeur.

As a parent, you are not expected to be a taskmaster—this is the girl's project. However, you can assist a girl by:

- Reading through the materials provided to girls regarding these awards so that you feel comfortable offering support.
- Encouraging and supporting her, but not pressuring her. "Going for the Silver" is something that a girl has to want to do herself.
- Helping her choose a topic that will become the basis for her project if she asks for ideas. Remember, however, that the topic is based on her passion, not yours.
- Aiding her in accessing a network of adults who can lend insight, provide contacts, and point to resources or council guidelines. You may work with someone who has just the skill set your daughter needs in a Project Advisor, or someone who belongs to a service club that your daughter and her advisor can approach for financial assistance.
- Supporting a girl in following any Girl Scout council guidelines concerning safety or money earning or donations during her path to the Silver Award. This is important to assure the safety of your daughter and the integrity of the Girl Scout program.
- Allowing your daughter to stumble and learn the lessons that come with the Girl Scout Silver Award project. She will have a Project Advisor, she chooses. (Someone who specializes in the issue or need she is trying to address-not parent/family, leader, co-leader, SU manager etc.,)
- Realizing that your daughter is capable, (anyone no matter what special needs they require, can earn this award) competent and worthy of respect as she assumes more responsibilities within her community. Provide her with positive and constructive support on this journey.

- Attending the event if it is appropriate, and joining in the celebration as your daughter is honored for her accomplishments.

## From Good to Great: Successful Girl Scout Silver Award Projects

One of the roles of the troop/group advisor and Girl Scout Silver award Project Advisor is to help a girl or group of girls move a project that may be a good idea to a great idea. It is important to differentiate between a community service project and a Leadership project as expected for the Girl Scout Silver Award. The leadership project involved planning and individual opportunities for leadership and decision making when working on a group project, each girl needs to play an individual role. Here are several activities that start as a good service projects, but with some careful coaching, have moved into the caliber of a Girl Scout Silver Award project.

<b>Good Service Project?</b>	<b>GREAT Girl Scout Silver Award Project!</b>
Volunteering many hours at a park site picking up litter.	Working with the park to establish an ongoing “Junior Ranger” program for neighborhood children during the summer and weekends.
Working at the local library doing children’s story hours.	Creating an after school reading program for a homeless shelter after meeting with the children and establishing needs-building bookshelves and selecting books from donations then designing a program and implementing it.
Sewing pillow for very ill children in a hospital	Assessing needs for the children’s hospital with administration and children. Teaching younger girls to sew “keeper pillows” and special head covers for ill children in several hospitals.

<p>Planting flowers with a group in a park during a community service day.</p>	<p>Organizing a community clean-up, beautification day and BBQ that becomes an annual event involving businesses and families. Planting window boxes, painting porches and cleaning up vacant lots are some of the completed tasks.</p>