

FAQ for Funding a Gold Award Project

Q. Does a Gold Award project need to cost a lot of money?

A. Most award projects don't cost a lot of money and sometimes nothing at all. Part of expanding girls' leadership skills is finding creative ways to get supplies donated. This aspect of the project also helps the girls to begin to develop networking skills and counts toward project hours.

Q. If money is needed, how should we begin?

A. The first way to fund your Gold Award projects is to use troop funds to cover expenses. Girls can vote to use troop funds to cover the cost of award projects.

Easy ways to build troop funds:

- Mags&Munchies...and more
- Cookie program

Q. After you have taken part in the most recent Council product sales and you still don't have enough funds what do you do?

A. You can move on to money-earning activities with Council approval. The money-earning activities are planned and carried out by girls and supported by adults to earn money for the troop treasury. Examples:

- Gift-wrapping for the holidays
- Babysitting at town meetings, school meetings, or other public places
- Spaghetti supper
- Car wash
- Garage sale
- Raking leaves, shoveling walks, weeding gardens
- Birthday party service
- Craft sale
- Collect & redeem recyclable materials

Be creative! There are many more ways in which you can earn money!

You must have participated in the most recent council-sponsored Mags&Munchies AND Cookie product sales programs before any other additional money earning activities can be approved.

Q. Can you run money-earning activities (ex. yard sale) during council product sales?

A. No, there are blackout dates where no money-earning activities can take place:

- The in-person order taking period for Mags&Munchies, which is usually late September through October.
- The initial order taking period for cookies, which is usually late December through January. Check the GSNC website or the GSNC OLC for the specific dates of these programs each year.

Q. What are the guidelines for accepting donations or money-earning limits?

- A. • Less than \$250: may be accepted by an individual/troop/group
- More than \$250: must be submitted to GSNC and council will disperse the funds
 - Sponsorships: Troop/group receives total donation
 - Matching Gifts: Prior to applying, contact customercare@gsnc.org with Fund Development in the subject.

Q. Can you set up a crowd sourcing funding website?

- A. No, at this time GSUSA has not approved this type of funding. Ex: Go Fund Me page

Q. Since Gold is an individual project; can girls money-earn on their own?

- A. Yes, they can apply for money-earning activities specifically for their project.

Q. How do girls apply for a money-earning activity for their Gold Award project?

- A. Girls are required to have a detailed budget and money-earning activity plan outlined in their Gold Award proposal. They need to “Be Prepared” to share it during their Gold Award interview. Girls will be given instruction at their interview and on the “Money Earning Application”. They’ll receive the application in their “Road to Gold” toolkit.

Q. Who gets this application?

- A. It first goes to their Gold Award mentor, assigned at their interview, then to council for approval.

Q. Can a Girl Scout who is non-troop affiliated (Juliette) money-earn for her Gold Award project?

- A. Yes, she can, but she needs to use all the money raised toward her project. Any funds left over will go to GSNC.

Q. Does money-earning income ever become the property of an individual member, girl or adult?

- A. No, it is used for Gold Awards projects only. Any funds left over will go to the GSNC.

Q. Do the money-earning hours count toward the 80-hour Gold Award project?

- A. Yes, but only a small percentage, around 5-10% will count.

Q. Can a girl “ask” for donations (cash or checks) for her Gold Award project?

- A. Yes. She must first submit a Gold Award Project Money-Earning application to her Gold Award mentor.

Q. Can a girl ask for in-kind donations?

- A. Yes, she can present the project and ask for supplies.

Q. Do the hours when a Girl Scout is presenting her project to get donations count?

- A. Yes, those hours are specific to the project.

Q. What if a company or organization needs the request in writing on GSNC letterhead?

A. GSNC can provide letterhead. Girls can write the first part of the letter explaining the project. The adult needs to write the last paragraph “asking” for the donation.

Q. Can a girl charge an event fee for their Gold Award project?

A. Yes, but only to cover materials, never to make money.

Q. Can a girl or her family make personal contributions for their Gold Award project?

A. Yes, but it should not be a hardship for the family.

Q. Can girls apply for a grant?

A. Yes, but must contact GSNC Fund Development first. Email customer care@gsnc.org with Fund Development in the subject.

Q. Are there inappropriate money-earning activities that we should avoid?

A. Yes.

- Games of chance, raffles
- Home demonstration parties: Avon, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, etc.
- Receiving a percentage of sales (where a portion of the sales goes back to the troop) from a business during a specific time frame where those sales generate a profit for a specific company. Example: Applebee’s fund raiser

Q. Can Cookie Credits be used for funding a Gold Award project?

A. Yes, an estimate needs to be submitted to GSNC and we will write a check to the vendor, or the troop can pay for the supplies and GSNC can reimburse the troop account. Girls cannot receive cash or check directly.