



Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award Scholarship FAQs for Councils

Wait, what?

This year, GSUSA is launching a new scholarship program to recognize and provide financial support to one Gold Award Girl Scout per council. These Gold Award Girl Scouts have completed Gold Award projects that demonstrate extraordinary leadership, measurable and sustainable impact, and that address an issue of national and/or global significance.

Does this scholarship replace the National Gold Award Girl Scouts recognition?

Yes. As an organization, we build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. **Each** girl changes the world in her own unique way—and **each of the approximately 4000 Gold Award Girl Scouts** makes their mark with unique projects and lasting community impact every year. This year, rather than celebrating 10 National Gold Award Girl Scouts, we'll be holding a national celebration of **all** Gold Award Girl Scouts: Girl Scouts Change the World.

In addition to the national celebration of all Gold Award Girl Scouts, GSUSA will be honoring one Gold Award Girl Scout from each council (up to 111) and USAGSO with a Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award Scholarship. Councils will nominate their scholarship recipient through GoGold.

How does the scholarship selection process work?

Applications will open on GoGold on **July 15, 2021** for all eligible Gold Award Girl Scouts (Girl Scouts who earned their Gold Award between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021). Councils are responsible for evaluating the applications you receive against the Gold Award Scholarship Criteria (outlined in the 2021 GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship Rubric and GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship Preamble and Glossary), using the scholarship process, and nominating **one** Gold Award Girl Scout to GSUSA from the submitted applications.

Councils must nominate their Gold Award Scholarship Recipient in GoGold by **August 17, 2021** and are responsible for setting their own internal timelines.

GSUSA will review each submission and provide final approval of the council's nominee by **August 30, 2021**, at which time, the council can notify the nominee of their status. Councils should not notify their nominated scholarship applicant of their status (as the council nominee or scholarship recipient) until final approval from GSUSA is received.

Note: Councils must nominate Gold Award Girl Scouts who meet the eligibility criteria set forth in the GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship Review Process and Award Procedures document. GSUSA reserves the right to review and give final approval to all scholarship nominees to ensure consistency with eligibility criteria and national guidelines. In the rare instance that GSUSA finds that a project does not meet the eligibility criteria or national guidelines and cannot award the scholarship to that nominee, GSUSA will contact the council and work with the council to select an alternate recipient.

How will the scholarship funds be disbursed?

Once the nominees are reviewed, approved and announced to councils by GSUSA, councils should distribute award letters and commitment forms that the recipient will sign, where they will among other things, designate whether they would prefer to receive the funds directly or whether the funds should be disbursed to the educational institution on the recipient's behalf. Councils will submit the forms to GSUSA and after receipt of completed documents, GSUSA will disburse the funds to the council, who are then responsible to promptly disburse the funds to either the recipient or university as so designated. Councils should maintain appropriate records of such disbursements.

By participating in the Gold Award Scholarship Review Process, councils agree to abide by the above policies and procedures and to provide any documentation or reporting that may be needed from time to time by GSUSA to substantiate compliance with such policies and procedures.

A note on council accounting for the distribution of funds — the distribution of funds should be considered as a pass thru and thus not reported as income or expense for the Council. Additionally:

- When payment is issued directly to the university to cover tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment, the college/university will issue the scholarship recipient a Form 1098-T. The Girl Scout council will not issue a Form 1099 to the recipient.
- When payment is issued directly to the scholarship recipient, and if the total amount is over \$600, the Girl Scout council will issue a Form 1099 to the recipient.

Please review the GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship Policy for more details.

What is the council deadline for submitting nominations to GSUSA?

Council submissions are due to GSUSA by 11:59 PM CST Tuesday, April 17, 2021.

Who is eligible?

Any Gold Award Girl Scout who had her final report approved in GoGold between **April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021**, is eligible to apply. Councils are encouraged to publicize this opportunity directly to eligible Gold Award Girl Scouts, as well as Senior and Ambassador troop/group leaders.

What do I do if a Gold Award Girl Scouts wants to apply, but did not use GoGold?

She can apply—she will just need to resubmit her application in GoGold; it needs to be approved by your council by July 15. She can create an account and get started at gogold.girlscouts.org.

Here are a few pro tips:

- She can skip steps 1 and 2 in GoGold—these are not mandatory.
- She can copy and paste her proposal and final report answers directly into GoGold.
- At your discretion, she can write in “n/a” for any new questions.
- We recommend starting early! While we don't anticipate this being a long process, she will need to receive troop leader and project advisor digital verification. Your council will also need to approve both her proposal and final report.

Please note: This applies only to girls who have already completed their Gold Award project without using GoGold, are within the eligibility dates, and would like to be considered for nomination.

What's the nomination process on GoGold?

Read on for an easy five-step nomination process:

1. Ensure your Gold Award Girl Scouts all have complete Gold Award final reports on file with GoGold by July 15.
2. On July 15, eligible girls will automatically change status to **Eligible 2021**. Their status column will update in the admin activities page and a new box will appear on their dashboard in GoGold titled "Apply for a GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship". At this time, girls will be able to complete/submit applications for your council's nomination in GoGold.
3. Councils review the submissions and determine they are 1) Qualified or 2) Need Improvement. (Note: If an application is sent back for improvement, the council will need to approve it once the girl has made her changes and resubmitted it.) Once you determine her application is complete, select "Qualified" from the status options and her status will update to **Qualified 2021**. *Note: As many girls can be qualified as your council wants.*
4. Complete your internal review process to determine which **one** of the qualified applications will be nominated to receive a GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship. When you've selected your nominee, you may select "make candidate" in the status button. At that time, the girls' status will update to **Candidate 2021** and their information will appear on the admin "GSUSA Scholarship" tab. *Note: Girls will remain candidates until you nominate them to GSUSA. You are still able to un-nominate at this step and switch girls around if needed.*
5. On the "GSUSA Scholarship" tab, you can nominate **one** scholarship recipient to GSUSA by August 17. Double check their contact info and include their ethnicity. When you officially nominate them, they will receive an email confirmation and their status will update to **Nominated 2021** on the activities tab—and your job is complete!

If you encounter any issues please email gogoldonline@girlscouts.org.

How will the 2021 GSUSA Scholarship Recipients be recognized?

Each scholarship recipient will receive:

- An academic scholarship.
- An official letter of notification.
- Promotion that helps them reach a broad audience while highlighting the importance and impact of their projects.
- Recognition at GSUSA's Movement-wide Girl Scouts Change the World celebration on Saturday, October 9.

Additionally, all scholarship recipients will be added to a movement-wide list serve where they may be asked to serve as representatives for Girl Scouts through public relations, web/social, speaking engagements or other related opportunities.

Are any resources available to help our council communication with Gold Award Girl Scouts?

Absolutely! Please visit our [Gold Award Recognition Shift Resources page](#) in gsConnect. You'll find a *Guide for Gold Award Girl Scouts* that you can share, along with an outreach email template that you are welcome to use or adapt as you see fit. You can also access our FAQs for

Girl Scouts, the official GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship preamble and rubric, and a recording of Mission Delivery Webinars covering this information.

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GSUSA retains the right to determine how and when the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award Scholarship Recipients are recognized and funded. It is impossible to anticipate how changing circumstances in the future, may impact our ability to implement plans set forth in initial planning. In the event that future developments bring on the need for us to modify specific aspects of how the scholarship recipients are recognized, please note that we will communicate the information directly to councils, as well as scholarship recipients and families when necessary.

The information contained in this document is meant solely to provide guidance for councils in facilitating the Gold Award Girl Scout program. Any posting of this document on Google or any website is strictly prohibited.