



How to Build Your College Admissions Profile as a Girl Scout

HOW TO BUILD YOUR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROFILE AS A GIRL SCOUT

A big part of conducting college research includes scrutinizing your resumé to evaluate which activity stands out so that you can get an edge over the competition. If one of your extracurriculars includes sustained involvement with Girl Scouts, the question is, how do you take advantage of your membership to build yourself up as a memorable college candidate?

Taking advantage of your Girl Scout membership can help you showcase what makes you a unique and inspired applicant who would contribute meaningfully to a campus community. This e-resource elaborates on how you can emphasize your involvement with Girl Scouts in order to impress colleges by going over the importance of the Gold Award, independent project ideas, scholarships that schools specifically offer for Girl Scouts, and finally, how to talk about your experiences while filling out your college applications.

HOW THE GOLD AWARD CAN HELP YOU STAND OUT

If you've been a Girl Scout for the majority of your time in school, you're already familiar with the Gold Award, which is the highest honor a Girl Scout can receive and is seen as equivalent to an Eagle Scout. As many Girl Scouts will tell you, the Gold Award requirements are actually more demanding than Boy Scouting's Eagle! Only girls in high school are eligible for this honor, although you have to have earned a number of Journeys or a Silver Award beforehand in order to qualify for this prize. Along with the help of an advisor, a Girl Scout striving towards the Gold Award needs to identify a community issue and work on a plan to solve the problem.

Once you've brainstormed a topic and possible solutions, you must present your proposal for feedback and approval. Once you have that, you can recruit other members of your troop, school, family, and community to develop this into a team project. While the time put in by the rest of your support squad does not count towards the 80-hour service requirement needed to earn the honor, your collaborative efforts on the Gold Award can help hone your skills in leadership, collaboration, communication, and community engagement, which are all highly valued traits for admission into college.

Universities want to see students make an impact in their field, and the Gold Award is a standout way of doing so. Over the course of the process, you'll develop an initiative that creates a long-lasting benefit for your local, school, or even national community. Once you've completed the project, you need to work on a final report elaborating on your experience and submit it to your local Girl Scout council. You're also encouraged to discuss your project with other members of your troop, and you might even end up being one of the students featured on the Girl Scout website!

THE INDEPENDENT PROJECT

So, how do you even start planning your project, especially considering so many students have pursued one before you? In order to make sure you initiate something that hasn't been done previously, you must think both about your own specific interests, as well as what your community lacks. Girl Scouts asks you to meet with community leaders and interview them about what needs they can identify. You should also look through previous student work for inspiration — past Gold Award winning projects have included an awareness campaign for children to learn about [how to protect coral reefs](#) and an initiative to [implement laws that advocate for the needs of deaf drivers](#) in Puerto Rico. No matter how big or small the scope of your project may seem, what's important is striving towards something that makes a lasting, measurable, positive impact. Here are some questions to help you get started on the brainstorming process: What are you most passionate about?

- Is there a topic or issue you find yourself thinking about often?
- How has your community developed over the last five years? Where does it lack improvement?

- Are you part of, or feel particularly empathetic towards, a group that is underrepresented in your community?
- What are some skills that you have in your arsenal?
- How can you take advantage of the resources around you?
- Who are your local role models and what are their areas of expertise?
- How do you spend your free time? How can you turn it into a concrete project?

Think critically as you identify a problem that you and your teammates can tackle. You will create a solid vision and detailed plan on your way to making it happen. Only 5.4% of students win a Gold Award, so completing a project is not easy! You need to put in hard work for a sustained period of time to show your dedication towards making an impact and helping create long-term change.

BUILDING YOUR SCHOOL LIST — COLLEGES WITH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GIRL SCOUTS

Getting a Gold Award not only conveys your leadership skills and community impact to colleges — it can also result in better financial responses from universities. How much scholarship you receive can be a big consideration for where you decide to attend ultimately. So, as you look at different colleges and build your school list, it could be helpful for you to know that many universities have separate awards and scholarships set aside for Girl Scouts, particularly for Gold Award recipients. Some of them are outlined below:

- **Bay Path University:** \$1,000 scholarship for Gold Award winners and \$500 scholarship for Silver Award winners who have been accepted to the school
- **Case Western Reserve University:** \$1,000 scholarship for Gold Award winners who have been admitted to the College of Arts and Sciences, or the Case School of Engineering
- **Hofstra University:** Scholarship for Gold Award-winning freshman class applicants who are in the top 10 percent of their high school class and have at least 1070 SAT combined score or 23 ACT composite score; the amount of the award varies
- **Michigan State University:** Scholarship for engineering students in their sophomore, junior or senior year of college with financial need, and participation in Girl Scouts; the amount of the award varies
- **Mississippi State University:** \$1,500 (and renewable up to a total of \$6,000) award for applicants with Gold Awards and a minimum GPA of 2.5
- **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute:** \$4,000 (and renewable up to a total of \$20,000) for Gold Award recipients
- **Rutgers University:** \$500 scholarship for selected Gold Award Recipients
- **Simmons College:** Girl Scouts are strongly considered for a \$3,000 scholarship annually awarded to students with ACT score of 28 or higher or SAT score of 1250 or higher and a minimum of 3.3 GPA (with AP, honors, and IB courses among their classes)
- **St. Thomas Aquinas College:** \$2,500 annually awarded to Gold Award recipients
- **Temple University:** \$2,000 annually awarded to students with Girl Scouts experience of at least five years who are enrolled in the School for Environmental Design at Temple University Ambler in horticulture or landscape architecture design.

To see the full list of colleges and universities offering scholarships to Girl Scouts and Gold Award winners, you can visit the scholarships page on the Girl Scouts website, which also features a number of outside and third-party scholarships that Girl Scouts can apply for if they meet various criteria.

HOW TO FRAME YOUR GIRL SCOUT EXPERIENCE IN YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION

Something else on your mind may be exactly how your participation in Girl Scouts appears on your college applications. When you apply to college, you usually fill out centralized application systems such as the Common Application and the Coalition Application, which then send your profile to the schools on your list once you hit the submit button. There are a few sections within the Common App where your GS participation can play a part:

- **Activities List:** The most common place where students write about Girl Scouting is the activities list — volunteering is a big part of what many students include in this section, and Girl Scouts are actively involved in community service and outreach. Since there is already space for the number of hours a week and which grades you've been involved in, take advantage of the description box to write about projects you've done through Girl Scouts. If you made it all the way to high school with Girl Scouts, that really shows commitment on your part - many students do drop out earlier. Even if you don't do your Gold Award, there are still many other experiences you can speak to in this section.
- **Honors Section:** This is where your Gold Award goes. This is a big deal and colleges should know you achieved this. Use the space to succinctly outline your project — including how many people worked with you on your team, the tangible outcome, and how many members of your community you helped.
- **Personal Statement:** If your time as a Girl Scout had a particularly meaningful impact on you, elaborate on how so in your personal statement. Find a specific aspect of your work and journey that's unique to you and write a story that no one else can tell.
- **Supplemental Essays:** Sometimes, colleges ask about your most meaningful activity. If your sustained participation in Girl Scouts played a big role in shaping your personality and developing your interests and character, it could make for a good essay topic.

Your time as a Girl Scout plays an essential role in shaping who you are and developing important skills, many of which overlap with the same ones that college admissions officers look for in their ideal candidates. If you've got your eye on a prestigious college and are wondering how your participation can be taken one step further, it's time to think about a Gold Award project. Work hard to build a project plan that not only strengthens your profile, but is something that can help drive genuine change. You've got this!