



Take Action – Make it Sustainable

There are lots of different ways to make your project sustainable over time. There is progression and expectations for sustainability are more complex as you bridge up to new levels in Girl Scouts. Girl Scout Juniors work on their Bronze Award and reflect on how the project could be kept going. Girl Scout Cadettes plan for sustainability. Seniors and Ambassadors work to ensure the sustainability of their project in order to meet the Gold Award standards of excellence.

For a Gold Award project to be sustainable, it must create opportunities for other people to volunteer for or expand on the project in the future. While a Silver Award project could be sustainable when it teaches others a new skill or changes participants' behaviors. Think about the scope of your project and what you're hoping to accomplish as you create your plan for sustainability.

Here are just a few example of creating sustainable projects.

- Partner with a local community organization who will continue your work.
 - Think about groups that already exist in your area—like teachers at your school, master gardeners, a sports team, a club at school, conservation boards, city council, other volunteer or service organizations.
- Add an educational component
 - When you teach others about the community need your project addresses, you can raise awareness and support. An educational component can teach people skills and ideas they can use in their daily life. If you can shift peoples' attitudes or knowledge, you can have a big impact on their behavior – like encouraging them to recycle more or teaching them to be responsible pet owners.
- Make it into a video or a blog
 - Have you ever heard about a YouTube video going viral—wouldn't it be awesome if that was a video about *your* Highest Awards project?
- Form a committee who can repeat your project on an annual basis
 - Do you know about projects like Relay for Life or the Polar Plunge? These projects are sustainable because they happen again and again every year. Usually, a committee of people work together to plan the annual event. If you start a committee now, they can continue your project next year. And then the current committee members can select new volunteers to join the committee for the year after that. This way, there would always be new people working together to address your cause.
- Host a volunteer fair or special event to raise awareness and get other people involved
- Work with your Girl Scout team and other community members to come up with a different creative idea