

Quest for Silver The Girl Scout Silver Award

Girl's Guide

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Note: Girls working independently on their Silver Award should pick up a copy of the Leader's Guide to *Quest for Silver* at the Service Center.

Many thanks to the following persons or organizations who gladly shared their ideas. Much of this is a compilation of the wise words written by:

GSUSA, including their website at www.gsusa.org

Carol Pilgrim and the Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia

The AOL Girl Scout site

USA Girl Scouts Overseas - Kuwait Lone Troop Committee web site http://members.xoom.com/usagskuwait/ Stephanie Langin-Hooper, Silver Award Recipient, Wagon Wheel Council, 1995 (Gold Award, 1998)

Troop 1454 in the San Fernando Valley Girl Scout Council (http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/5940)
Northern Lights Girl Scout Cluster , San Diego-I mperial Council, Inc.

(http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/8784/)

The Graphmaster for clipart (http://www.graphmaster.com)

Quest for Silver

The Girl Scout Silver Award



quest (kwèst) noun

- 1. The act or an instance of seeking or pursuing something; a search.
- 2. An expedition undertaken in medieval romance by a knight in order to perform a prescribed feat: the quest for the Holy Grail. quest (kwèst) noun

[Middle English *queste*, from Old French, ultimately from Latin *quaesta*, feminine past participle of *quaerere*, to seek, ask.]

Even a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

So, you want to earn your Silver Award. Well, first you have to take a class, and then you have to pass a test, ... No, just kidding! It isn't that hard.

To begin with, all you really need is to be a Cadette Girl Scout and to want to earn this award. But to actually earn the award takes a little more effort and organization.

The Cadette handbook and this handout will help you understand the requirements for earning the Silver Award. As you learn about these requirements, you may think it sounds like a lot of work and you are probably thinking that there is no way you're going to have time to do all of this. Relax! It's going to seem overwhelming until you start looking at this piece by piece, and then it won't seem so bad. There's an old saying: *How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time!* Well, take lots of small bites, and soon you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have achieved the highest award that can be earned by a Cadette Girl Scout.

We're not going to wish you "good luck" on this, because "luck" has little to do with the Silver Award. We wish you instead the drive and ambition to stick with this quest and earn the honor. You will have lifelong memories of what you did and learned as you "hiked this trail" and of all the people who helped you along the way, but most of all you will remember those who were helped by you!

¹Excerpted from *The American Heritage*® *Dictionary of the English Language*, *Third Edition* © 1996 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

About the Silver Award

Q. What is it?

A. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award that can be earned by a Cadette Girl Scout. It recognizes your efforts in a wide range of Girl Scouting experiences and YOUR COMMITMENT to working to better your life and the lives of others.

Q. Who can earn it?

A. Any Cadette Girl Scout may earn this award. No work towards any requirements may begin prior to your becoming a Cadette. You must have either bridged from Juniors to Cadettes or be registered as a Cadette Girl Scout.

Q. How is it earned?

A. There are 5 requirements for this award. (Refer to pages 135-138 in the Cadette Girl Scout Handbook.) You should work closely with your adult partners in the completion of all the requirements. The first four requirements call upon you to build your skills, explore career possibilities, increase your leadership skills, and make a commitment to improving yourself. You may not use activities to earn credit in more than one area – one activity, one requirement (i.e., no "double-dipping!").

The first four requirements may be done in any order, but must be completed BEFORE you work on the fifth requirement, the Girl Scout Silver Award Project. You must discuss your project with your leader before you start. This enables you to understand what is required and expected of you from the beginning. You will also need to file a report upon the completion of your project.

REC	QUIREMENT	RESOURCE BOOK
1.	Earn 3 Interest Project (I.P.) Patches that relate to your Silver Award project.	Cadette/Senior G.S. Interest Project (I.P.) Book
2.	Earn the <i>From Dreams to Reality</i> Patch OR	Cadette G.S. Handbook, pg. 127
	Complete 5 Career Exploration Activities from the I.P. book	Cadette/Senior G.S. I. P. Book
3.	Earn the Cadette Girl Scout <i>Leadership Award</i>	Cadette G. S. Handbook, pg. 131
	OR Earn the Leadership Interest Project Patch	Cadette/Senior G.S. I. P. Book, pg. 38-39
4.	Earn the Cadette Girl Scout Challenge	Cadette G.S. Handbook, pg. 132-134
5.	Design, carry out, and report on a Girl Scout Silver Award Project	Cadette G. S. Handbook, pg. 135-138

Note: Be sure to read the updates to these requirements found at the end of this packet.

Steps Toward Silver

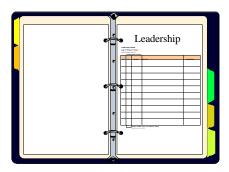


Starting the Quest

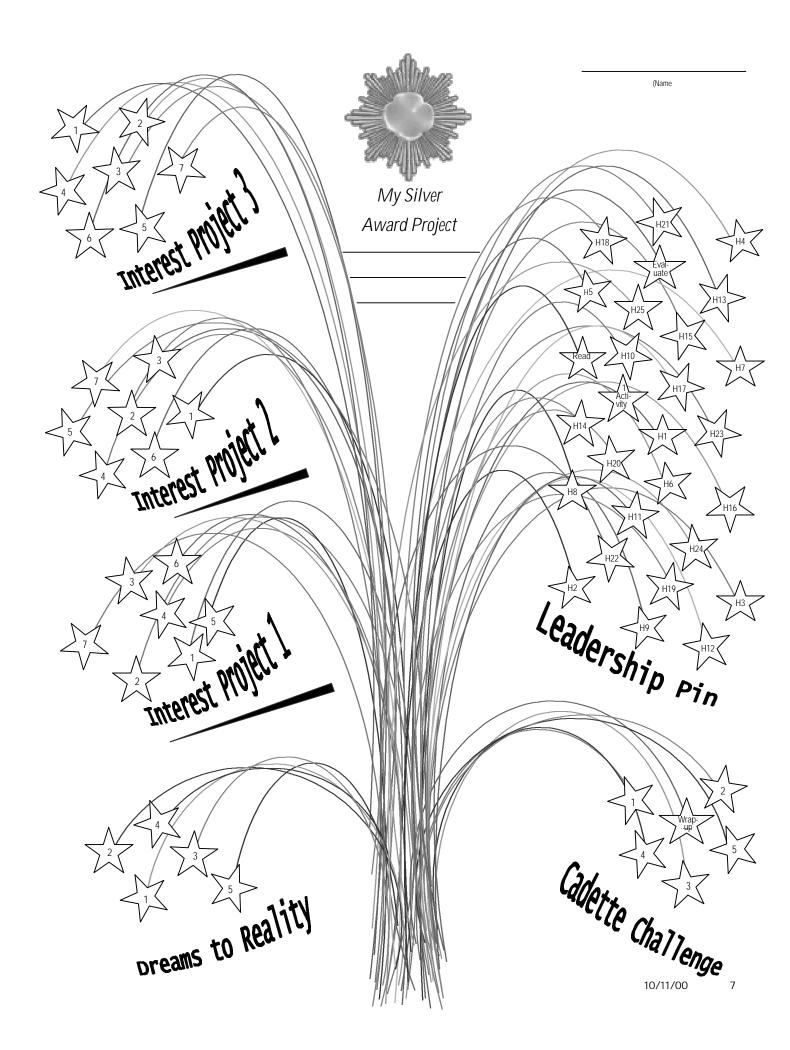
- Q. This seems so overwhelming. I have no idea what I want to do for a project. I'm not even sure I want to do all of this work. What should I do?
 - **A.** Start by realizing that what you are feeling is normal. There are some girls who know before they even bridge to Cadettes that they want to get their Silver Award. Many others look at what is involved and aren't sure if they can or even want to try.

Best advice: start working towards it. The Silver Award is a great achievement. Try following the steps below, taking one bite at a time. You may surprise yourself!

- Q. Do I need to know what my Silver Award Project will be before I start?
 - **A.** No! Very few girls do. Spend your first 1 to 1 1/2 years exploring your interests. Don't worry about what project you will be until you're getting close to finishing the first 4 requirements.
- Q. Okay. So I'm not going to worry about my project. Where do I start?
 - **A. 1. Get yourself organized**. Most girls have found it easiest to get a 3-ring binder. Put some blank paper in it and divide the notebook into 5 sections to correspond to the 5 requirements of the Silver Award.
 - 2. In each of these sections, you will **document your progress**. You can make up your own documentation sheets, or you can use or modify the samples provided to your troop leader. The important thing is to keep track of your progress.



- 3. Put a copy of the final Silver Award Report in your notebook so that you can **collect the signatures** when you complete each requirement. Take good care of this report form.
- 4. **Start taking some bites of that elephant**. Choose which of the requirements you would like to do first. Maybe it's an Interest Project. Select one that sounds I yourself if it will apply to your Silver Award Project; just have fun doing it. Or maybe you'd like to start with a section of the Challenge. When you're done with that bite, take another bite!
- 5. **Celebrate your completions!** Some girls find it helpful to have a visual chart of their progress. One such chart is on the next page; on it there is a star for every step of the way. As you complete a step, light up the star! (You would need to change this picture if you select different options.) Buy yourself some star stickers (or you can use markers). As you complete an activity, put a sticker on it. Write the name of your IP's on each set of stars. Watch your progress. Before you know it, you'll be ready to work on your project! And of your progress.
- 6. As you get closer to completing these 4 requirements, you need **to define your Silver Award Project**. When you know what you want to do, evaluate the IP's you've completed. Do they relate to your project? If not, select IP's that do relate and complete them.



A word about "honest and fair"

The Girl Scout law begins:



I will do my best to be honest and fair

It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them. Mark Twain

Be honest about your activities.

- Fully complete each requirement
- ❖ No "double-dipping". By this we mean you can only count the completion of one requirement towards one recognition.
 - An example: The completion of a career activity from an Interest Project can be counted for either the earning of the IP or as one of the requirements for the *Dreams to Reality* Patch but not both.
- When it comes time to select your project, do select a project that will be a "reach" for you. It ke it a project worthy of the recognition you will receive.
- ❖ If you are part of a group working on a project together, be sure you fully give of your time and talents. Contribute your 30 hours of effort. This does not include time that you sit around while someone else is doing some work.

A Girl Scout Silver Award that is based on dishonest reporting or half-finished requirements may look good on your vest, but it won't wear well in your heart.



Selecting a Silver Award Project

Q. What type of project qualifies as a "Silver Award" project?

A. The project needs to be a **service** project that will somehow **benefit the community**. In order to qualify as a service project, it must help others **without** payment in return. The community can refer to a small group (like a preschool), a national concern (like hurricane survivors) or even an international effort.

The Silver Award Project is your own project –it is not service hours carried out in an existing program. You may, however, design your own project to fulfill a need within an existing program.

Although you are not expected to plan a huge 100+ hour project, your project should also not be the easiest, fastest thing you can think of. But it must be something you really want to do.

Q. How do I choose a project?

A. Try asking yourself what kind of people or what part of your community you want to help. Then ask others to suggest or introduce you to groups or agencies that you can go to and ask, "What can I do to help you?" Organizations such as nursing homes, schools, Red Cross, food banks, churches, libraries, and hospitals are always looking for eager volunteers.

Or ask your family, troop members, or friends what they think your strengths and talents are. Survey your interests and concerns carefully. Look back at the activities you did when completing your Challenge. What is important to you? Examine the skills you have learned as a Girl Scout. These skills were meant to prepare you for life in the world outside of Girl Scouting, and this is the perfect opportunity to go "outside".

Check out the ideas on the next 2 pages. If you still have no idea, brainstorm these issues with adults and together you will get some ideas!



Violence	Hunger	Drugs	Children
Buildings	Playgrounds	Parks	Streets
Pollution	Adults	Recreation	Sick People
Privacy	Lakes and Rivers	Employment	Personal Dignity
The Elderly	The Poor	Loneliness	Handicapped People

Q. I'm really nervous about organizing a project like this. What if I make mistakes?

A. The Silver Award Project is a great opportunity to practice your leadership skills as you prepare for larger leadership roles, including the Girl Scout Gold Award Project. DON'T expect the "perfect" project! However, DO expect lots of guidance from your adult advisor and troop leader. Never be afraid to discuss problems or ask for help. This project is meant to be a learning experience!

Q. Can I work with other girls in my troop?

A. Yes, but remember that each girl must contribute 30 hours to the project.

50 Ideas from other projects that Cadettes have completed

Where are your interests?

The Arts

- 1. Teach others how to quilt, crochet, or knit, then together make something for a local group.
- 2. Plan and coordinate an arts day for Brownies.
- 3. Offer a puppeteering workshop for Juniors to earn the Theater badge.
- 4. Make a video of how to use camp facilities for traveling troops.
- 5. Make an educational video on proper display, care, and disposal of the American flag.
- 6. Make laminated placemats for a special group (school for the blind or physically or mentally challenged, meals on wheels, etc.)

Well-Being

- 7. Conduct a girls career day.
- 8. Conduct a bike safety program with the local schools.
- 9. Plan a first aid course and present as part of a Service Unit camp out.
- 10. Organize and run a book exchange as part of a larger event.
- 11. Plan, organize and run a baby sitter training program for the local youth center or school.

Out-of-doors

- 12. Build birdhouses for a local park.
- 13. Conduct an outdoor skills day.

Science

- 14. Develop a Web site for a non-profit organization.
- 15. Organize a 1-day event with science/math activities for the Service Unit.
- 16. Create a "science nook" at camp.
- 17. Build an exhibit at your local science museum.

Whom/what would you like to help?

Animals

18. Collect food or blankets for the Humane Society and educate the public about unwanted pets.

Children

- 19. Make alphabet books for pre-schoolers in Head Start.
- 20. Start an after-school homework helper program for younger kids.
- 21. Organize a group of volunteers to run a weekly story hour for the summer at the local library.

Church

- 22. Teach crafts and cooking to girls in a church youth group.
- 23. Organize a group to redecorate a church kindergarten room (schedule volunteers, budget money, shop, paint, and sew curtains).

Community

- 24. Design a walking historic patch for your home town.
- 25. Record an oral history of the community as seen through the eyes of Senior Citizens and donate it to the local historical society.
- 26. Campaign to get a traffic light installed at a dangerous intersection, researching accidents, gathering testimony and presenting it to local city or county board
- 27. Set up an educational display for the general public on a local matter.
- 28. Establish an old-fashioned herb garden or touch, smell, feel garden at a park.

- 29. Prepare an illustrated "what to do" book for the area that includes kids activities, walking tours, annual events, fun things to do and see, local history, etc.
- 30. Organize a tree-planting weekend at a local park.
- 31. Develop a pamphlet or video of activities available for teenagers who are newcomers to the community, and distribute to schools, youth center, etc.

Disabled

- 32. Organize a 1-day hiking/outdoor adventure day for disabled youth.
- 33. Organize a monthly dance for disabled youth/adults in the community.

Environment

- 34. Start a sustainable recycling program at school.
- 35. Create an environmental awareness display or fair at the local mall.
- 36. Work to get a stream cleaned up for wildlife.

Literacy

- 37. Host a book trading fair for school.
- 38. Learn how to rebind books and open a book hospital for kids.
- 39. Make puppet boxes to accompany stories for Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts.

Poor/Homeless

- 40. Establish a sustainable food pantry in your community.
- 41. Build and decorate bookcases and fill them with donated books and games for a shelter, Head Start, etc.
- 42. Organize and run a coat drive for a local shelter.
- 43. Organize an Easter egg hunt for homeless children.
- 44. Conduct a suitcase/diaper bag drive for foster children.

Senior Citizens

- 45. Set up a computer center and teach senior citizens how to use the Internet and e-mail.
- 46. Make gifts for residents at a nursing home.
- 47. Organize a Seniors Prom.

Sick

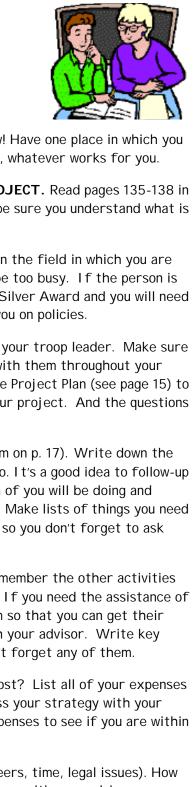
- 48. Present a talent show for kids at a hospital.
- 49. Learn to be a clown and visit hospitals on holidays.
- 50. Collect books for kids and adults at hospitals.

Advice from someone who's been there (Stephanie Langin-Hooper, 1995):

Picking a project can be one of the hardest parts of earning the Silver Award. Everyone thinks big, but remember, you can't change the world in ten hours. Just changing a little part of it feels great and is what this project is all about. You may want to help out your area or you may have a much bigger project in mind. Just don't get it too big and most importantly, have fun! There are lots of ideas out there just waiting for someone like you!

Planning and Implementing Your Project

(check these off as you complete them)



□1.	COMPLETE	THE	FIRST	4	REQUIREMENTS
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- ☐ 2. **GET ORGANIZED.** If you weren't organized before, get organized now! Have one place in which you keep all of your information. This could be a folder, notebook, tote-bag, whatever works for you.
- 3. UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SILVER AWARD PROJECT. Read pages 135-138 in your Cadette handbook. Discuss the requirements with your leader and be sure you understand what is expected.
- 4. **SELECT AN ADVISOR.** This should be someone who is knowledgeable in the field in which you are doing your project. Your leader can be your advisor, although she may be too busy. If the person is unfamiliar with Girl Scouts, you will need to educate her/him about the Silver Award and you will need to have your leader or another adult from our council be a resource to you on policies.
- 5. **COMMUNICATE.** Review your plan with your advisor, your parents, and your troop leader. Make sure all of them understand and approve of your project. Keep discussing it with them throughout your project activity. It's optional, but a good idea to complete and submit the Project Plan (see page 15) to the Council office. They can help to identify potential problems with your project. And the questions on the Project Plan will assist you in your planning.
- □6. DOCUMENT EVERYTHING. Log your hours and your activities (see form on p. 17). Write down the names of those to whom you are talking and what they are agreeing to do. It's a good idea to follow-up your discussions with a letter outlining your understanding of what each of you will be doing and thanking them for being willing to help you. (A sample letter is on p. 14.) Make lists of things you need to do, things you need to acquire. Write down questions you need to ask so you don't forget to ask them.
- 7. MAKE A SCHEDULE. Prepare a time-line to help you keep on track. Remember the other activities that are happening in your life and be sure the schedules don't conflict. If you need the assistance of others, include time early in your project to talk to them so that you can get their commitment well in advance. Discuss your time-line with your advisor. Write key dates on your calendar or day planner so that you don't forget any of them.

8. PREPARE A BUDGET. How much will your project cost? List all of your expenses (see form on p. 18). How will you get the money? Discuss your strategy with your troop leader and advisor. Then keep track of all of your expenses to see if you are within

budget.

- ☐ 9. **STRATEGIZE**. Think about obstacles you may have to overcome (volunteers, time, legal issues). How will you handle these problems? Check <u>Safety-Wise</u>. Discuss your strategy with your advisor.
- □ 10. **ASK FOR HELP.** If you, your leader, your parents, or your advisor have questions at any time, please contact the Program Specialist at 597-8603, extension 30.
- 11. **GET READY.** Gather materials. Double check on all logistics of your project (location, helpers, etc.).
- □12. **DO IT!** Put your plan into action!
- 13. HAVE FUN!

Completing your Project

Congratulations! You did it!



- 1. After your project is completed, you must file a report. Neatly complete the Silver Award Project Report Form (see p. 19-20) and submit it to the Program Specialist at the Girl Scout Service Center keeping a copy for your records. Please also submit a copy of your Activity Log and your Expense Report. Allow a minimum of 2 weeks for your report to be reviewed. (If you have participated in a group project, each girl must submit a report form documenting her individual contribution to the entire project.)
- 2. Plan your ceremony. This should be a wonderful celebration with your family, friends, and troop!
- 3. Write thank you's to all who helped you.
- 4. Wear your Girl Scout Silver Award Pin with pride!



The mountain looks tall but I will scale many mountains. Ella Fitzgerald

Update on Requirements

If you have an older version of the Cadette Girl Scout Handbook, you will need to be aware of the following changes:

1. Cadette Girl Scout Leadership Award.

The second requirement, "complete the leadership inventory activity," has been replaced. You are now to do any 1 activity in the Leadership I.P.

2. From Dreams to Reality.

The first activity used to refer to the Career Exploration IP. Since that IP no longer exists, to complete this activity, you now do any two career activities from any Interest Project or combination of Interest Projects.

3. Career Requirement for the Silver Award (requirement 2).

Completing the Career Exploration I.P. was once an option to fulfill the career requirement for the Silver Award. That I.P. has been discontinued. Now as an alternative to completing Dreams to Reality, you may complete any five career activities from any Interest Project or combination of Interest Projects. There is no patch or pin for this alternative.

Sample "Follow-up Letter"

Your address
Date
Dear Mr./Mrs./Troop
Thank you for agreeing to help me with my Girl Scout Silver Award Project. As a reminder, my project is to(brief project description) It will occur on(date)at(location) beginning at
(start time) and ending at (end time) . It is my understanding that you will (describe what the person has agreed to do) . I will be providing (whatever you agreed to do) .
I am really excited about my project. As I discussed, the Silver Award is the highest award that a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. This project is the final step in earning the award. It is a project that I have designed and I am entirely in charge of it. So if you have any questions, please call me at(phone number)
I truly appreciate your willingness to help me and I will see you on(date)!
Sincerely,
Sign your name

Girl Scout Silver Award Project Plan (Optional)

Name:		Troop/Group/IGM:	S.U.:
Address:		City:	Phone:
1.	Explain your project plan.		
2.	Discuss your reasons for selecting this project.		
3.	What strengths, talents, and skills will be utilized	?	
4.	How will this project benefit the community?		
5.	What resources do you plan to use?		
	Who will be your advisor? Who else will assist you with your project?		
8.	How do you plan to fund any expenses you may incu	ur while implementing your pro	ject?
9.	How many hours do you think it will take to plan yo		10 hours)?
	How many hours will the actual implementation of your Silver Award Project, sum of		

Before beginning your project, please return this form to the Program Specialist, Girl Scouts- Wagon Wheel Council, 3535 Parkmoor Village Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917-5298.

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Girl Scout Silver Award Project Activity Log

Name:	Troop/Group/I GM:	S.U.:
Address:	City:	Phone:
entries to m	to document the time you spend working on your Silver Award Project. I hake than these tables allow, attach additional sheets.	f you have more
	nd Preparation	Houre
Date	Activity	Hours
	Total	Hours:
mplement	tation	
-	Activity	Hours
	Total Hours (must be a minimum of 7	hours):
	Total Project Hours (must be a minimum of 30 ho	

Please return this form with your Girl Scout Silver Award Report Form to the Program Specialist, Girl Scouts-Wagon Wheel Council, 3535 Parkmoor Village Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917-5298.

Budget and Expense Report

Name:		Troop/Group/IGM:		S.U.:		
Address:		_	City:		Phone:	
Use this to prepare a budget for your Silver Award Project. Keep track of your expenses always see how you are doing compared to what you expected to do. If you have more entri these tables allow, attach additional sheets.					•	
Income Report						
Source of Income			Antic	ipated Amount	Act	ual Amount
					1	
					1	
					1	
L	Total Inc	come:				
	i otai iii					
Expense Report						
	Anticipated	Date				Actual
Item	Expense	Purchased		Where Purchased		Expense

Total Expenses:

Girl Scouts - Wagon Wheel Council

Girl Scout Silver Award Report Form

Return this form to the Girl Scout Service Center when you have completed all of the requirements.

Part	A: Personal Data			
Name	:	Date of Birth:	Age:	
م دا دا د			-	
Adare	PSS:	City:	Phone:	
Paren	t/Guardian(s):	Leader:		
Schoo	ol: Grade:	Troop/Group/I	GM: S.U.:	
Numb	er of years in Girl Scouting: Mth/y	r bridged to or first re	egistered as a Cadette:	
	B: Requirements 1 through 4 (must be			
1.	Interest Projects Earned:	Date Completed:	Leader/Consultant Signature:	
	1			
	2			
	3			
11.	Career Exploration (check one):	Date Completed:	Leader/Consultant Signature:	
	☐ From Dreams to Reality Patch			
	☐ Complete any 5 career activities in any IP			
Ш.	Leadership (check one):	Date Completed:	Leader/Consultant Signature:	
	☐ Cadette Girl Scout Leadership Award			
	☐ Leadership Interest Project Patch			
IV.	Cadette Girl Scout Challenge	Date Completed:	Leader/Consultant Signature:	
			1	
Office	Use Only:			
Recei	ved by:		Date:	
Comm	Comments			

Part C: Girl Scout Silver Award Project

Title of Project:	Date Completed:			
Describe your project and your reasons for selecting this project.				
List the skills, talents, and abilities that you put into action				
3. How did your project benefit others?				
4. What obstacles, if any, did you face and how did you overco	me them?			
. What would you do differently – would you change anything?				
6. What was the most successful part of your project? Why?				
7. List those people who worked with you on your project and how they assisted you.				
8. Report of Hours Spent: Hours of planning Hours of implementation:	Advisor's initials: Advisor's initials:			
Your Signature:				
Adult Advisor's Name (printed):				
Adult Advisor's Signature:	Date:			