

The Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are Girl Scouting’s highest achievements and your chance to make a lasting difference in your community and the larger world. Take a look at how a single topic can be addressed with varying levels of sophistication depending on the award you’re working on.



	Community Service	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Pets	A group of Girl Scouts collect pet food, toys, and bedding materials for a local animal shelter. They create treat bags for each new dog and cat at the shelter.	A troop of Juniors learn that a local pet shelter needs help convincing people to adopt pets. The girls create New Pet Kits to encourage families to decide to adopt. The girls reach out to local pet stores to donate items for the kits such as a grooming brush, a sample of food, and a treat for the animal. They also write and include a pamphlet of basic pet care information. The kits are donated to the local shelter for distribution.	Suzie and Justine learn that a local pet shelter is having trouble finding families to adopt pets. The girls work with a club at school to create New Pet Kits from donated items to encourage families to adopt. They partner with a shelter employee to create and host a Pet Education Class that teaches basic pet care, the do’s and don’ts of owning a pet, and how to tell if it’s the right time for a family to adopt. The shelter agrees to continue hosting the class twice per year using the girls’ lesson outline.	Keisha learns that there are people in her community who cannot afford to buy food for their pets. She partners with a local food pantry to start a pet food pantry. She identifies a secure space to store the pet food and develops a policy for distribution. She then runs collection drives around the county to stock the pantry, while simultaneously educating the community on the importance of making continual donations. She then partners with the county’s animal shelters to develop methods for educating pantry recipients on the importance of spaying and neutering, how to find help for animal behavior problems, and locating other pet services.
Hunger & Food	Girls run a food drive to collect non-perishable food and donate it to their local food pantry.	While taking a tour of their local food pantry, a troop of Juniors learn that the pantry is having trouble storing all of the food they have on hand. The girls solicit their local hardware store to donate shelving. They then work in shifts to clean the storage space and sort and reorganize the food in a way that makes it most accessible. They create labels that attach to the shelving to help maintain order going forward.	While exploring their community, Suzie and Justine meet with staff at a food pantry and discover it is underutilized. To help get the word out, the girls run a town-wide collection drive focusing on healthy foods. They create recipe cards for meals that can be made with items regularly stocked in the pantry. Then they create flyers announcing the pantry’s new focus on healthy options, eligibility, and hours; they post these in public spaces. The girls give the pantry digital copies of the recipes for future distribution.	While volunteering at the food pantry, Keisha learns that many patrons are overweight or sick, and they need help making healthy meals. She works with a dietician to design healthy recipes made with items regularly stocked in the pantry, then sets up cooking workshops at the pantry and nearby soup kitchens. Keisha partners with her school’s service club to run the workshops and establish a regular schedule of workshops going forward. She creates pamphlets with information about healthy eating, exercise, and free/low-cost resources, and distributes them at the workshops; the pantry sends them to their affiliates in the surrounding states and adds the information to their website.
Recycling	Girls volunteer at the town-wide Earth Day festival. They create posters for the event and host a table where they educate attendees on the importance of recycling.	After volunteering at an Earth Day festival, Anaya and Taylor notice there are no recycling bins in their town park. The girls, along with their leader, speak to town officials about adding recycling bins next to all of the trash cans in the park. They host several fundraisers to earn money to purchase bins, paint them, and install them in the park. The troop works with the town to add them to the recycling pick-up system. They also create flyers about the importance and ease of recycling and post them on all of the park’s public kiosks.	Justine notices that most of the kids at her school just throw everything in the trash rather than sorting out recyclables and compostables. She finds a teacher to help, then enlists a group of her peers to start Recycling Week at their school. They challenge everyone to throw away only one bag of trash per grade that week. Justine’s team educates the school on what can and can’t be recycled and composted, and sets up bins around the school. She works with the principal to make Recycling Week an annual event, and to incorporate the recycling and composting bins into the regular waste disposal schedule.	Keisha learns that the landfill in her county is almost full. She researches and writes a proposal that she presents to her town’s planning board about establishing curb-side recycling program for both residents and businesses. Keisha also works with the county parks commission to hold a “Go Green” fair; she recruits local experts, businesses, and community organizations to host stations educating the public on “green” products, methods of recycling and composting, ways to reduce household waste, etc. The parks commission agrees to turn the fair into an annual event and host it at a different park each year.