

## History of the Girl Scout Gold Award

The Girl Scout Gold Award evolved from a long line of special Girl Scout awards. The Girl Scout Gold Award was introduced in 1980 as the highest award a Girl Scout could earn. This replaced the Curved Bar Award established in 1940, the First Class badge (1938-1940), which replaced the Golden Eaglet Award (1918-1939). Prior to the Golden Eaglet, this award was known as the Golden Eagle (1916), established by Juliette Gordon Low based upon the Guiding Silver Fish award. This prestigious award recognizes the work of Senior Girl Scouts who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

- In **1980**, the Girl Scout Gold Award was introduced in "You Make the Difference". Council volunteers and staff received additional information on the Girl Scout Gold Award at the 1980 Program Conferences conducted around the country. This new recognition helped girls focus on four areas: skill development, leadership, service, and career exploration.
- In **1987** a new handbook was developed for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts. Minor changes were made to the Girl Scout Gold Award, including an added service project.
- Delegates to the 1990 National Council Session approved a proposal to keep the name of the Girl Scout Gold Award in perpetuity.
- **1993** - The National Council Session approved the establishment of the Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance.
- **1995** - New resources for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts were developed with separate handbooks for each age level. Included was clarification on record-keeping for the Girl Scout Gold Award project. 2001 - Research is done on what girls 11-17 want and need, including suggestions about the Girl Scout Silver and Girl Scout Gold Awards.
- **2002** - STUDIO 2B materials, the result of the research, are introduced at the GSUSA national council session in California. The Girl Scout Gold Award is revised to allow for Girl Scout STUDIO 2B Focus books.
- **2004** - Girl Scout Gold Awards are revised to reflect girl and council suggestions and research; new materials are prepared for girls, advisors and councils.