

**Girl Scouts North Carolina Coastal Pines** invites girls, families, and volunteers to stay involved while at home. We know that today's girl is ready to pivot on a moment's notice and is willing to embrace new ways to explore Girl Scouting. That's why we're promoting these options for engaging with us while you're at home today ... or any day!

## **LIFE SKILLS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & FINANCE**

shares activities, tips, and tricks each Wednesday for developing the skills necessary to prepare her to do amazing things for herself and her community, and grow into the incredible woman she's destined to become.

Join the conversation online. **#OurGSNCCPCommunity**



## **Girl Scouts— Changing the World**

Wow—talk about impressive! Girl Scouts everywhere are changing the world in meaningful ways. What can we say? It's in our DNA! Whether it's a Girl Scout Gold Award, Silver Award, Bronze Award, a Forever Green project, or a Journey Take Action project, we're here and making a difference.

**Service** Versus **Action**: What's the Difference? Girl Scouts often do community service and, Take Action and higher awards projects. Both kinds of projects help communities in different ways. What's the difference? Direct and immediate *service* changes something *right now*. Longer-lasting *action* gets at the *root cause* of issues.

Community service makes the world better for some people "right now." For example, collecting cans of food for the local food pantry feeds people "right now." Gathering toys for a homeless-family shelter makes kids happy "right now." Providing clothing and toiletries to people who have suffered a disaster helps them get through a traumatic event "right now." These acts of kindness are important ways to help some people—right now.

Take Action projects, along with the Girl Scout Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards, address the root cause of an issue, and come up with sustainable, longer-lasting solutions. These projects strive to make the world a better place for more people for a much longer time. Sometimes, service and action just naturally blend together into one sustainable effort. As a Girl Scout, you use both service and action to live out the Girl Scout Law and "make the world a better place!"

**Can you spot the difference between Community Service vs. Take Action? Check your knowledge, [here](#).**

Cadettes through Ambassadors— read on for ways to get started on mapping out your highest award earning path. Daisies and Brownies too— it's never too early to start building your skills!



The Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Award Take Action Project begins with defining a community "issue" that you wish to improve.

The first step is to take a close look at what's going on around you. Make observations as you are out in your community; keep your eyes open for ways you make a change.

**Practice your observation skills with this activity:**

Have someone choose a picture for you to view– don't look at it yet– or use the one below. Cover your eyes, then when ready, look at the picture for 5 seconds. Try to write down as many things as you can remember about the picture after only 5 seconds of looking at it.



To solve any problem, you must first identify it. Start by asking yourself what matters most to you.

- Do you find yourself reading articles about endangered species?
- Do you worry about where homeless children sleep at night?
- Do you wish that younger students had a cheerful place to stay after school while waiting for their parents to pick them up?

If so, what connections can you make between the issues that you care about and the issues in your own community?

Once you have identified an issue, look at “why” this issue is happening. There can be many reasons “why” the issue is happening; these are called the root causes. To help you figure out and think about the root of the problem ask yourself and other “but why?”

Issue That Concerns You	Why Is It Important to You?	How Does This Issue Affect Your Community



Once you've identified an issue you are passionate about, use your sleuthing skills to learn everything you can about the issue. By zooming in on your issue you'll be able to pick a specific aspect of it that you would like to address. Remember, a focused effort has more impact than a big idea that's scattered. You should:

- Research all you can about the issue
- Use a variety of sources—like the internet, the library, and people. Interview your friends, neighbors and others. Be sure to involve community partners who are knowledgeable about your issue.

While you're working through the research you'll start to identify the root cause(s) of your issue. Knowing the various causes of a problem enables you to figure out unique ways to solve it. The root cause(s) you identify are topics that you can successfully address in a Take Action project.

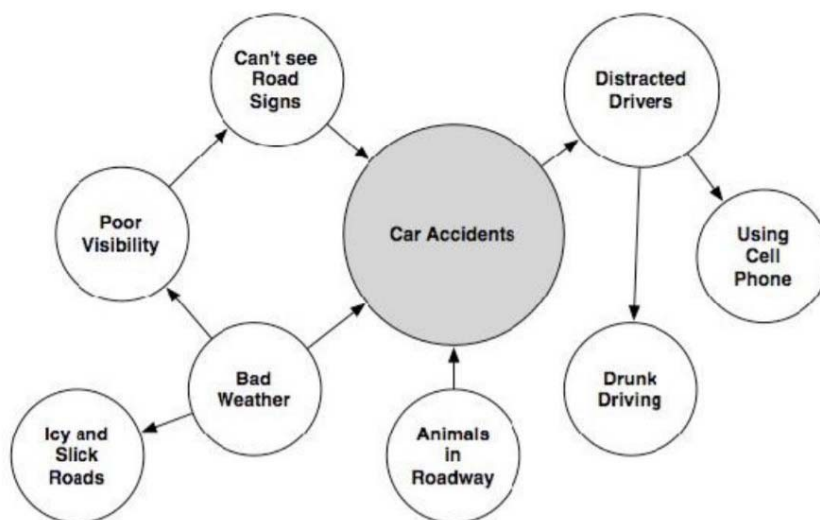
*A Girl's Guide to Going Gold* is a great resource for interview tips and mind mapping -- a mind map can assist you in determining the root cause(s) of the issue facing your community. Download a *A Girl's Guide to Going Gold* on our council webpage, [here](#).



## Mind Mapping

Create a mind-mapping diagram like the one below, using an issue facing your community. This activity will help brainstorm different ways to approach and address a problem.

- Write the community issue in the middle circle.
- Think about what some causes of your issue could be. Below, a main cause of car accidents is bad weather.
- Notice how many causes connect from bad weather.
- Now, try connecting the different causes you come up with to each other and to the main issue. How do the causes connect to each other? Do you see a pattern?



While you're investigating, you can use GoGold to capture your research. GoGold also offers you an interactive mind mapping tool. Still have questions? That's okay, attend a Gold Award workshop! You will have a hands-on opportunity to mind map a community issue we've identified.



Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts can begin practicing their highest award earning investigative skills from day 1 through various badges and other activities. You don't have to wait! Put on your detective badge and get to work exploring today!



**Daisies**– Investigate Your Community through the Good Neighbor Badge

Learn more about your community and how people in your community work together to be good neighbors to each other. Be sure to share out how you are inspired to give service after earning your badge! *#OurGSNCCPCommunity*



**Brownies**– Earn the Philanthropist Badge by Exploring Basic Human Needs

When you earn this badge, you'll know how to help people in need. As a philanthropist, you can help others in all kinds of different ways! In what ways will you be inspired to help once you start exploring? *#OurGSNCCPCommunity*

Need a copy of a Journey, badge requirements or want to order patches? While our shops are closed, please feel free to [shop online](#) or [email](#) us for merchandise needs. We will provide free shipping within in our council footprint on orders emailed to us (please provide phone number in email so we can call you for payment details).