

25 GOLD PROJECT IDEAS

Gold projects require 50 hours of work including planning time. Be sure you have 4 interest project patches completed that you can relate to your project. It is recommended that a girl work on her project individually. It is also recommended that a selected project have a lasting impact on the community. This may be through a booklet or brochure left behind, having the project carried on by others after you are through, or leaving the participants with a change in attitude or skills. Be sure to pick a project that truly interests you, since you will be spending a lot of time on it. Gold projects must not serve only Girl Scouts, but must reach out into the community in some way. All Gold projects must be approved by the Gold Award Committee before you begin.

1. **SPORTS CLINIC** – Hold a drive to collect used sports equipment and then hold a series of clinics to teach skills and sportsmanship to low income children. Leave your collected equipment and a booklet with rules behind at a community center to be used in the future.
2. **CRAFT CLASSES** – Hold a series of craft classes for children/adults with disabilities. Adapt your crafts so that participants of all ability levels can make them. Arrange for a church youth group to continue these classes several times a year. Or, make a book with all your craft ideas and leave them and some supplies with a community center.
3. **THEATRE CLINIC** – Have a clinic to teach acting skills and then have the participants put on a production for the community. For admission have each person bring a canned good or blanket to donate to charity. Arrange for each person that participated to go back out into the community and teach their new skills to another person/group.
4. **SCHOOL SUPPLIES/TUTORING** – Have a drive to collect new or gently used school supplies, backpacks and children's books. Hold after school tutoring sessions at a local elementary school or community center once a week with your friends. Donate the supplies to the school or center and set up a library with the donated books. You could also set up a homework hotline and staff it with teenagers to help younger children with their homework.
5. **GARDENING WITH SENIORS** – Find some empty land and set up (with permission) a vegetable garden for elderly residents of a retirement community or low income neighborhood. Teach them how to plant and grow their own food. Collect gardening equipment and seeds to leave behind with the residents.
6. **LANDSCAPING** – Plan and carry out a landscaping project to beautify a church, community center, retirement center or school. Make sure to arrange for someone to continue the upkeep of your project in the future.
7. **COMPUTER CENTER** – Collect donated computers and printers. Set up a computer center in a community center or retirement home. Teach the residents how to use the equipment and software. Leave them information on additional classes they can take to improve their new skills.
8. **QUILTING PROJECT** – Get a group of people together and make handmade quilts. Donate these quilts to a homeless or domestic abuse shelter.
9. **PEER ADVISOR** – Set up an advisory group to study and collect information teen issues. Publish a brochure or booklet on your subject to distribute while you make presentations to local churches, schools and community centers. Make teens aware of the services available to them in the community. Your subject could be drugs, body image, literacy, or peer pressure.
10. **SENIOR PROM** – Plan and carry out a formal dinner at a senior center followed by a senior prom for the residents. Have dancing lessons in advance. Arrange for formal wear for the residents, a photographer and a DJ to play golden oldies. Leave each resident with a framed photo keepsake of their special night.
11. **SKILLS SHARING** – Share your special skills with the residents of a low income neighborhood, retirement center or school. Hold special classes in something you are very good at. It could be music, sports, art, dance, sewing, wood working, science or other special skill. Leave behind a booklet or video of information and instruction in your chosen field.

- 12. CLOTHING CLOSET** – Hold a clothing drive. Set up a clothing closet in a church or community center for low income people. Your drive could be specialized such as baby's clothing, children's clothes, or women's career clothing. Be sure to arrange for someone to staff the closet at designated times so people who need the clothing may get it.
- 13. DAY CAMP** – Set up a day camp for underprivileged children. Your camp could be held during the day or evenings and might have a special theme such as space, sports or music. Arrange transportation and food for the children attending. Arrange for them to take home a special memento of their fun days.
- 14. RESOURCE GUIDE** – Research, plan and publish a resource guide of community activities. These could be low cost fun and adventures for kids and teens. Include maps, costs and ratings. Distribute the guide to Scout leaders (show places to earn badges), church youth group pastors and community centers.
- 15. SERVICE GUIDE** – Research, plan and publish a resource guide of places that youth can go to perform community service. Include all non-profit and government agencies that would like volunteers. This guide can be targeted to Scouts, church youth groups, seniors or school groups.
- 16. PREMMIE CLOTHING** – Sew and collect tiny clothing for premature infants at a local hospital. Donate this clothing to have available for parents of premature infants.
- 17. RENOVATIONS** – Renovate a room at a church or community center that is in need of repair. Your project might include cleaning, painting, and simple repairs. For more extensive repairs arrange for skilled craftspeople to donate their time.
- 18. DIVERSITY CLINICS** – Hold a series of clinics for people in the community to improve cultural awareness or to celebrate the diversity of the community. This could be in the form of a carnival or fair. Perhaps participants could learn about a different culture or language and sample the food from that culture.
- 19. WEBSITE** – Research, plan, design and implement a website on a subject that is important to you. Your site could be instructional (music/science/art) and be a resource for others to learn more about the subject. Or, your site could help dispel misunderstandings about a disease or problem of society for help celebrate the diversity of its citizens.
- 20. MUSIC CLINIC** – Have a drive to collect used musical instruments. Clean and repair them as necessary. Set up a series of classes or clinics to teach children or seniors how to play them and how to read music.
- 21. CAMPING CLINIC** – Have a drive to collect used camping and outdoor equipment. Clean and repair the equipment as necessary. Prepare a booklet of how to set up and use the equipment and some local, low cost places to camp. Have clinics to teach camping skills and how to set up the equipment at a community center or church.
- 22. MURAL PAINTING** – Put the art skills of you and your friends to work. Design and paint a cheerful mural on the side of a building or wall in a run down section of town. Be sure to get permission first. Your mural could give a message of hope, happiness or be a celebration of diversity.
- 23. PHOTOGRAPHY CLINIC** – Collect used cameras and donated film. Make a booklet on photography tips. Hold a series of clinics for kids or seniors and taking photos. Have the photos developed and return them to the participants. Perhaps you could help them set up a photo album or learn scrapbooking.
- 24. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT** – With donated lumber and materials, use your plans to build a piece of playground equipment for a local community center, daycare center or church. Be sure it meets all safety standards and get expert help in the building process. Maybe you could set up a playground where there was not one before. Get additional equipment donated.
- 25. READING PROJECT** – Collect children's or adults books. Read them onto tapes or act them out on video tapes. Present them to a day care center, children's hospital or senior center. You could also volunteer to read weekly to the children or seniors.