



With the rapidly changing situation of the COVID-19 outbreak, a lot of programs and projects for the spring and summer have been affected. For Junior, Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador Girl Scouts, one really important project that may have been impacted is the work they were doing to earn either their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award. **First of all, for those girls who are looking forward to bridging or their high school graduation, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has changed the final reporting deadline to December 30, 2020.** This new deadline gives them some breathing room to get creative about their project and still meet final reporting deadlines.

Through additional guidance from GSUSA, USA Girl Scouts Overseas (USAGSO) has the following suggestions and information to help support girls as they work to earn a Highest Award during the current situation. First and foremost, we want you to focus on the health and wellbeing of yourself and your family. As this work will be girl-led, it is recommended to have girls choose when they want to resume the work. They should be encouraged to think through the questions listed below (as an individual, with their troop, and/or other project partners or stakeholders):

1. How does this current situation affect the work that is either completed or planned?
 - What are the realities for me, my troop, and my community? What are the new realities for the project participants and/or the partners?
 - What are the obstacles to overcome and what are the barriers that may require a change in direction?
2. Can I or my troop still achieve the project goals in the project's current format?
 - Ask the girls to carefully consider the project's components and logistics. If the answer is no, ask them, what parts of the project can be maintained? What parts of the project can be reimaged using the resources available?
3. How will changes affect the project, participants, and partners?
 - Girls must consider the circumstances of the people with whom they are planning to create change. What are they dealing with right now? How can their actions best serve those groups and the project?
4. What's next?
 - This process will be a self-portrait, not a selfie, it will take time, layers, and multiple tools. Remind them not to overwhelm themselves. Once they've thought about the bigger picture and brainstormed with others, ask them, "What is the very next thing that needs to be done to move forward towards a positive project outcome?" Remember, every great journey starts with the first step.

NEW DEADLINE: Just a reminder--for those Girl Scouts who are looking forward to bridging or their high school graduation, GSUSA has changed the September 30, 2020 deadline to December 30, 2020 for **registered Girl Scouts**.

Use the available technology to invite your community in during this time. Bounce ideas off your troop leader, your project advisor, your Girl Scout sisters, your project partners, and anyone else



who will listen! Please keep in mind that these people are also dealing with their own extraordinary circumstances and may need time to adjust. As always, be considerate and caring.

ONLINE RESOURCES: There are many helpful resources on USAGSO's [Highest Awards page](#) or [GSUSA's page](#). These resources are designed to help with project planning, proposal writing and much more. Recently, USAGSO updated the [Gold Award training video](#), it is an excellent tool for completing a successful project proposal regardless of where you are in the process.

If you have additional or specific questions, or would like further clarity on anything in this statement please reach out to overseashighestawards@girlscouts.org.

Thank you for making this world a better place!