



## SOME MONEY-EARNING FAQs

### *Can I use my own money on the Girl Scout Gold Award Project?*

Yes. If you want to use your own money, you can. You may receive help from your family, too. However, we encourage you to work with others to earn the money. That's part of the process. "Going for the Gold" is not meant to be a hardship on a family or individual.

Some individual activities with great potential:

- \* pet walking and pet care
- \* computer problem solver
- \* babysitting
- \* refereeing sports games
- \* lawn mowing and leaf raking
- \* party giving: clowning, magic shows, game leading
- \* plant sitting
- \* jewelry making and jewelry repair
- \* recycling
- \* tutoring younger kids

### *Can I ask friends and neighbors for help?*

You shouldn't ask for donations of money, but you can ask for donations of time and stuff, such as clothing for a clothing drive or that pile of bricks left over from your neighbor's backyard project. However, if the neighbor wants to claim the donation as a tax deduction, he or she will need to make the donation to the council for IRS purposes and get a receipt signed by a council staff person.

### *What if what I want to do costs too much?*

It's better to succeed with a smaller project that is within your budget than to be unable to complete a larger project because it exceeds your budget. Be realistic about what you can and can't do. Work with your adult advisor to develop a reasonable budget for your project. If your resources are not sufficient for you to realistically accomplish your goal, then you need to rethink the project. Planning is the key to a good Gold Award Project. You should be prepared with a budget for your project before you meet with your council Gold Award committee. Think it through and do your homework! Your council has the right to put a cap on spending, as well as to request that large donations go through the council

### Five Money-Earning Ideas Not to Follow Through On

1. Money-earning projects where you are performing an activity that someone normally gets paid to do—in other words, **taking jobs away from people**, such as store workers, maintenance staff, or service providers. (However, if certain activities—for example, cleaning a stadium after a game or gift wrapping at a store—have previously been clearly defined within your community as opportunities for nonprofits to earn money, you can undertake these activities with council approval.)
  2. **"Cheap labor" projects disguised as money-earning projects**, such as bagging groceries at a supermarket or painting a business office. At first it may sound like a great idea, but you are actually being taken advantage of and taking away the job of someone who should be paid more money than you are being offered. That's why there are child labor and minimum wage laws!
  3. Money-earning projects where Girl Scouts of the USA might be perceived as **endorsing a product** or political viewpoint or cause. When in doubt, check with your council.
  4. Money-earning projects where **the money goes to individuals** rather than to your group as a group donation. You cannot be employed as a Girl Scout to earn money.
  5. **Selling anything on the Internet** as a Girl Scout. Safety issues and council boundaries are of primary concern here.
- Remember: Always check with your Girl Scout council before starting to plan a money-earning project.**