

office. Work with them. See page 24 for more on creating a realistic budget.

Is it all right to seek help from other organizations when doing my Gold Award?

Yes, with some qualifications. Many service organizations have budgets for community projects. You can use their interests (e.g., Lions Clubs focus on vision care and Soroptimists may have a committee on literacy) as leverage to support your project and get volunteers to help you. Do some research on the local clubs. Even some businesses give workers time for community service hours and projects. However, remember the rule about having the adult doing the “ask” for actual money and gifts-in-kind, and clearing your joint approach with your local council. (Your council may be asking the same group for a major donation.)

I know you can't raise money as a Girl Scout for other organizations, but can I do it on my own?

As an individual, you can volunteer for other organizations, but you should not identify work that you do to raise funds for another organization as part of your time going toward the Girl Scout Gold Award. Additionally, you may not present yourself as a Girl Scout to the public in this process since you are a volunteer for another organization. For example: If the Red Cross needs money to purchase training dummies, you may participate under their supervision as an individual volun-

Earn It: A 19-Year-Old's Tips for Success

- 1. Figure out what you want to do early.** It is important to choose a project as soon as possible and focus on it.
- 2. Correspond weekly with your advisors.** Even if it is just to check in, they may have access to more resources than you do.
- 3. Be aware that the Girl Scout Gold Award committee looks for original, artistic, and creative projects.**
- 4. Don't wait until the last minute.** You have a busy senior year with lots of work, and problems can arise with the project or the paperwork.
- 5. Make sure you choose a project that is personally meaningful and relevant so you won't mind dedicating a lot of time to it.**

—Karis, age 19, now a sophomore at New York University



teer to raise funds, but you cannot count that service as part of your time toward any Girl Scout award or service hours. However, you can plan a Gold Award Project using the training dummies that were purchased as part of your efforts as a volunteer for that organization.

Can we charge for a Girl Scout event to earn money?

If it is a service project, a fee can be collected to cover the cost of materials. The project ceases to be a service project if you are charging a fee for the event above cost, in which case the hours cannot go toward service hours for any award. If you are doing an event as a Girl Scout (e.g., a Badge Workshop, Bike Rodeo, etc.) and are planning to charge a fee above the cost of materials, you must first clear this with your Girl Scout council. Provisions should be made for scholarships for troops or girls who cannot afford fees, and you must be clear in your advertisements and materials that this is a money-earning event for your troop or group.

“It's not the computers that make a successful project. It's the smile on a girl's face when she gets an A in math and science. It's the way she talks about herself, showing that she too can succeed. It's seeing a girl be responsible and happy with herself.”

—Nickole, 17