



Girl Scouts Global Action Award

for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

You already know that there are Girl Scouts all over the United States. But did you know that your sisterhood stretches around the world, too? Girl Scouts of the USA is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), which includes 10 million girls in 146 countries. And just like you, all of those girls in all of those countries are working to make the world a better place.

Each year, Girl Scouts of all levels can earn a Global Action Award. This award connects the WAGGGS sisterhood by helping girls work together to make a difference on a topic that affects girls and women all over the world. It's an official national award, so you can wear it on the front of your vest or sash, just like a badge.

The theme for this year's Global Action Award is "Increasing Girls' Access to Education." In many parts of the world, it is hard for girls to go to school and finish their education. A few reasons for this are:

Distance: Sometimes the closest school is far away and families feel it isn't safe for girls to travel to school by themselves.

Economics: If a family is very poor, they may decide they need their daughters to stay home and help with household chores while the parents are out working.

Culture: In some parts of the world, girls are married when they are very young. After getting married, girls are expected to leave school and stay home to care for their husbands and children.

Health: Once a girl hits puberty, families may choose not to send their daughter to school if there are not adequate facilities for her during menstruation. If she has to miss school during those times, it becomes difficult for her to catch up.

The Peace Corps

The Peace Corps is a program that sends American volunteers to work in other countries. The organization tackles many global issues—one of those issues is expanding educational opportunities for girls.

To learn more about the Peace Corps and connect with Peace Corps volunteers who have worked on girls' education projects around the world, visit www.peacecorps.gov/www/classroom.



Global Action Award Activities

Here are some activities that you can do to earn your Global Action Award. You only need to do one activity to earn the award, but don't let that stop you—you can do as many of them as you like!

1. Around the world, largely due to issues around access to education, women are far more likely to be illiterate than men. Do you know the literacy rate in your state? Go to <http://nces.ed.gov/naal/estimates/StateEstimates.aspx>. The findings may surprise you. Then find a local literacy program, and volunteer to help a woman who is learning to read.
2. Research higher education in the United States. Look at the demographics of high school graduates, college graduates, and those who earn higher degrees like master's and doctorates. What kinds of things do you see? What are some of the barriers to reaching higher levels of education—and staying in until they are completed?
3. Increase awareness of the issues that affect girls' access to education by hosting a movie night for your friends. You might show the movie "Girl Rising" or "He Named Me Malala." (Check with your local library to see what they have available—they may be able to recommend other movies, too.) When the movie is finished, talk about what you've seen and how it made you feel.
4. Help a younger girl with her education by tutoring her in your strongest subject. If you need help making a connection, talk to your teacher or Girl Scout leader. Want to take it farther? Start a tutoring program that matches a team of older girls with younger girls. Make sure to cover a wide range of subjects!
5. Choose two developing countries, one close to your home country and one far away. Compare the educational opportunities and challenges for a girl your age. How are they different from your own? Do you see any similarities?
6. Interview a teacher or school principal about why it's important for all kids, including girls, to go to school. Think of ways to share what you learn with other Girl Scouts, family members, or friends. You might put on a presentation or write up your interview for the school paper or blog.
7. Research the issue of girls' access to education around the world. You could go online to read more about the topic and/or take out books from the library. Online, check-out the multi-media resources on <http://teachunicef.org/explore/topic/education>. If you're looking for a book recommendation, try *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai.
8. Invite an expert on the subject of girls' access to education to come and talk to your troop. You might reach out to a Peace Corps volunteer (see more information about the Peace Corps in the sidebar on this page) or talk to your troop leader about other organizations you might connect with.

Let Girls Learn

In 2015, Girl Scouts of the USA teamed up with the Peace Corps and First Lady Michelle Obama to work together on the Let Girls Learn initiative, which focuses on increasing girls' access to education all over the world.

To learn more about Let Girls Learn, visit www.whitehouse.gov/letgirlslearn.

