

Girl Scout Journeys are retiring: Fresh Leadership Awards are taking over!

Overview: In July 2025, GSUSA will introduce new, more flexible prerequisites for the Highest Awards. The Girl Scout Leadership Journeys will be retired on October 1, 2026. These changes will give Girl Scouts more options to meet their individual needs and help them achieve their goals on a timeline that works best for them.

Girl Scouts is launching fresh Leadership Awards for Juniors through Ambassadors, designed to fit Girl Scout interests and schedules, serving as the prerequisites to earning Girl Scouts' Highest Awards: the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

How will this impact Girl Scouts who are already working on Journeys?
It won't. There is flexibility in the timeline. Girl Scouts who are already working on (or who have completed applicable) Journeys will be able to use them as prerequisites if they want to. If a Girl Scout completes a Journey before October 1, 2026, but starts their Highest Award after, Girl Scouts will honor this prerequisite—they never expire.

Will the Journey Summit awards also be retired? If so, will a Leadership Summit award replace this?
The Journey Summit awards will be retired. Currently there is no plan for a Leadership Summit award.

If a Girl Scout earned an existing Leadership Award using the current guidelines, can they use that as their Highest Award prerequisite in July, or do they need to earn the refreshed Leadership Award using the new guidelines?
Girl Scouts can apply the Leadership Awards as a prerequisite regardless of whether they were earned using the current or new guidelines. The goal is a successful Girl Scout—and a smooth transition period for councils and members.

What are the impacts to Take Action?

- The Highest Awards remain Take Action projects. Those who want more practice can opt to earn the Take Action or Global Action award as their prerequisite.
- Take Action is for Juniors through Ambassadors who are ready to step into leadership roles in their communities and engage with abstract concepts like sustainability, which are integral to this process.
- Daisies and Brownies interested in taking action within their community are encouraged to pursue service projects where they'll learn the basics of being a good neighbor and see how they can be helpful to others.

If Girl Scouts already earned the old version of a Leadership Award (in particular, Junior Aide/ Program Aide/VIT/CIT 1 and 2), are they allowed to earn the new one as well and display both on their vest?
Girl Scouts are invited to earn—and display—all awards that are relevant and meaningful to them.

Awards Being Refreshed (new requirements to earn)

- Silver Torch Award
- Gold Torch Award
- Junior Aide
- Program Aide
- Volunteer in Training
- Take Action Award
- Global Action Award

Awards Being Retired (will not count as Highest Award prerequisite)

- Leader in Action (LiA) Award for Cadettes
- Senior Torch Award Pin for Seniors

Where can Girl Scouts and their adults (volunteers/guardians) get more information on the completion of a new Leadership Award as a prerequisite to a Highest Award?
www.gssem.org/leadershipawards

Additional Questions? Direct members to Contact the Highest Awards team at highestawards@gssem.org

girl scouts of southeastern michigan