girl scouts of eastern south carolina

Little Hands, Helping Hearts Award

Award overview

The Little Hands, Helping Hearts Award is a Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina higher award for Daisies and Brownies. It follows the same structure as the Girl Scout Bronze Award, scaled for girls in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Girls plan and carry out a Take Action or Global Action project.

The award gives younger girls early practice with the steps they will use again for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. A girl who earns it as a Daisy or Brownie arrives at Juniors already knowing how to spot a need, make a plan, and see it through.

	Little Hands, Helping Hearts	Bronze Award
Grade levels	Daisies (K–1) and Brownies (2–3)	Juniors (4–5)
Prerequisite	One leadership award (Take Action or Global Action), or a Journey already started	One leadership award (True North, Junior Aide, Take Action, or Global Action), or a Junior Journey already started
Project steps	Five Take Action steps	Five Take Action steps
Minimum hours	10 hours for Daisies, 15 hours for Brownies	30 hours
Earned as	A team or troop, or individually	A team or troop, or individually
Tracked and awarded by	Troop leader	Troop leader
Recognition	Pin, patch, and the council girl recognition celebration	Pin, patch, and council recognition

Step 1: Earn a leadership prerequisite

Girls earn one Community Advocacy leadership award before starting their Take Action project, mirroring the Bronze Award prerequisite. Journeys are no longer required. Any one of these options fulfills it:

- **Community Advocacy leadership award:** The Take Action award or the Global Action award.
- **Journey:** A Daisy or Brownie Journey already started will still count, even after Journeys retire in 2026.

Individual Girl Scouts may earn their prerequisite with another Individual Girl Scout or with a team or troop.

girl scouts of eastern south carolina

Little Hands, Helping Hearts Award

Time spent earning the prerequisite does not count toward the award hours. The award project is a separate, girl-led effort that comes after it.

Step 2: The five Take Action steps

Girls follow the same five steps as the Bronze Award, written here in words a Daisy or Brownie can follow. Leaders can read these aloud or print them as a checklist.

Take Action step	Little Hands, Helping Hearts step	What girls do
1. Identify a community issue	**Look around**	Take a walk, visit a place, or talk to a helper. What do people, animals, or places near you need?
2. Explore the issue's root cause	**Ask why**	Talk together about why the problem is happening.
3. Brainstorm project ideas	**Pick one way to help**	Decide on one need to work on. Choose something you can really do.
4. Make a plan	**Make a helping plan**	Draw or list what you need, who does each job, and when it will happen.
5. Take Action and celebrate	**Get started, then tell others and celebrate**	Do your project and count your hours as you go. Then share what you did with a poster, a drawing, a short talk, or a photo board.

Girls need at least 10 hours (Daisies) or 15 hours (Brownies) across all five steps, not only during the doing step. Planning, exploring, and sharing time all count.

Leader guide

Leaders guide the process, but girls make the choices. At this age, girls pick the need, decide on the project, and do the hands-on work, while adults handle logistics, safety, and transportation.

Troops/Teams, and Individual Girl Scouts

- **Troops and Teams** work together as one. Each girl must take part in all five steps and log at least 10 hours (Daisies) or 15 hours (Brownies) herself.
- **Individual Girl Scouts** work with a parent, caregiver, or another Individual Girl Scout as their team. The adult supports, but the girl leads the choices and the work.
- **Multi-level troops and teams** can have Daisies and Brownies work on the same project together.

girl scouts of eastern south carolina

Little Hands, Helping Hearts Award

Counting hours

- Each girl needs at least 10 hours (Daisies) or 15 hours (Brownies) of her own, across all five steps.
- Adult-only time, such as booking a location or buying supplies, does not count.
- Short sessions work best. For example, two to four meetings of 1 to 2 hours, plus the project day, usually reach 10 to 15 hours.

Sample timeline

1. **Meeting 1:** Look around and ask why (about 2 hours).
2. **Meeting 2:** Pick one way to help and make a helping plan (about 2 hours).
3. **Project day or days:** Get started (about 4 hours for Daisies, about 9 hours for Brownies).
4. **Meeting 3:** Tell others and celebrate (about 2 hours).

Age-friendly project ideas

- Collect and sort pet food, blankets, or toys for a local animal shelter.
- Plant a pollinator garden at a school, church, or community center.
- Make and deliver cards or care kits for a senior living facility or hospital.
- Clean up a park or beach and make signs reminding visitors to keep it clean.
- Run a book drive and set up a little free library.

Projects should meet a real need the girls discovered themselves. Leaders can suggest places to explore but should let girls choose what matters to them. Here are some questions and prompts to use with your girls:

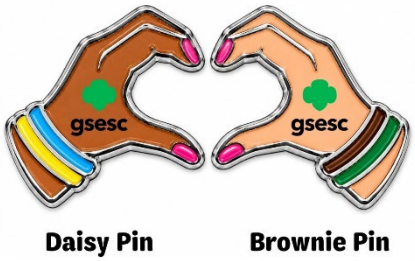
- What things in our community need help?
- How can we make our community a better place?
- How can we help people, animals, and our neighborhood?
- What could we do to make our community happier, safer, and kinder?

Recognition

Girls who earn the award receive the Little Hands, Helping Hearts pin or patch and are honored at the council girl recognition celebration alongside Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award earners.



Daisy and Brownie Patch



Daisy Pin Brownie Pin

girl scouts of eastern south carolina

Little Hands, Helping Hearts Award

Please note: The pin and patch design shown above is still in progress. The final design will be shared as soon as GSUSA approves it.

- **Pin:** Worn on the front of the uniform as a higher award, in the same area as other award pins.
- **Patch:** For girls to wear on their vest, sash, or a camp blanket.
- **Celebration:** Girls are called by name and recognized on stage with the council's other higher award earners.

The troop leader presents the pin or patch at a troop meeting or ceremony of the troop's choosing. The council celebration is an additional, council-wide honor.

Completion form

Troop leaders submit one form per troop/team, or Individual Girl Scout after the project is finished, so the council can order pins and patches and invite girls to the recognition celebration. This is a report, not an approval step.

Leader information

Field	Response
Leader name	
Email and phone	
Troop/Team number (or "Individual Girl Scout")	
Service unit	

Girls earning the award

Girl's name	Grade level (Daisy or Brownie)	Prerequisite earned	Hours logged

Project details

Field	Response
Project name	
The need girls found	
What girls did	
Who the project helped	

girl scouts of eastern south carolina

Little Hands, Helping Hearts Award

Field	Response
How girls shared it	
Date completed	

Leader confirmation

- ☐ Each girl listed earned a prerequisite (Take Action award, Global Action award, or a Journey already started).
- ☐ Each girl took part in all five Take Action steps.
- ☐ Each girl logged at least 10 hours (Daisies) or 15 hours (Brownies).
- ☐ Photos are attached (optional), and photo releases are on file for any shared publicly.