

## **GSCWM Girl Scout Gold Award Appeal Process**

In the event that a Girl Scout Gold Award project has been denied by the volunteer Gold Award Committee, the following appeal process is in place directly with the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) and must be initiated by the Gold Award candidate after all attempts at a resolution have been made.

1: The Gold Award candidate has 30 days from the notice of denial to request an appeal from GSCWM. The candidate must email [GoldAward@gscwm.org](mailto:GoldAward@gscwm.org) to request an appeal meeting. The council will add the email to the candidate's personal file of record and to the candidate's Gold Award file.

2: The GSCWM council staff representative will arrange a meeting date with the volunteer Gold Award Committee and candidate within 30 days of the appeal request and notify the candidate with the date, time, and all other information regarding the meeting. The council will provide a blank GSUSA National Gold Award Rubric and request that it be filled out by the candidate prior to the meeting. The candidate will also be encouraged to bring a letter explaining her appeal to the meeting. The candidate must confirm via email attendance at the scheduled meeting.

3: The candidate will be permitted to bring the project advisor to the meeting. This must be the project advisor that is listed on the denied Final Report. No other documents other than those that have been previously submitted with the Final Report will be accepted.

4: The appeal meeting group will include a majority of the members of the volunteer Gold Award Committee, with at least one representative from each of the three geographic committees, the candidate's GAC mentor, and a GSCWM council staff representative.

5: The candidate will have the opportunity to appeal and state their case. The candidate can use this opportunity to elaborate on anything that is written in the final presentation. The appeal group will have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidate. The appeal group will review both the candidate's copy and the Gold Award Committee's copy of the GSUSA Rubric together.

6: Once the candidate has made the verbal appeal, the candidate will leave the meeting. A copy of the candidate's GSUSA Rubric and letter will be added to the candidate's files. The candidate will be notified of the decision of the appeal group within two weeks of the meeting. A copy of the final decision will be added to the candidate's file.

7: The vote of this appeal group will be considered the final decision on the candidate's project.