

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:

Camping & Outdoor Skills

Our mission is to provide opportunities for girls to enjoy the outdoors in the hopes that they will form a respect for and a desire to protect the natural world.

Environmental stewardship has always been a focus for Girl Scouts. Five council-owned camps lend themselves to exploration, discovery and opportunities to experience life outdoors in a multitude of ways.

Current Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England programs and activities for younger girls include Outdoor Fun Skill Builder Badge Day. Activities for older girls include the annual Teens Reaching Extraordinary Challenges (TREC) competition, in which girls test their outdoor skills: fire building, lashing, cooking, orienteering, and pitching tents.

A popular series – Hiking 101, 102 and 103 -- is designed to build hiking confidence for all girls through activities and progressive hiking experiences. Girls learn how to pack and carry a backpack, how to navigate and how to cope with the unexpected.

Through a partnership with Narragansett Bay National Estuary Research Reserve (NBNERR), girls in our council spend a weekend on Prudence Island exploring the salt marshes, beaches and other habitats.

“Our vision for the Girl Leadership Experience Center is a girl-led hub of creativity, connectivity, exploration, and inspiration, brimming with energy and exchange. The Center is a safe, accessible, and fun place where ALL girls can come to discover and celebrate the greatness in themselves, others, and the world around them. Here, we recognize that the future is both our shared responsibility and our shared reward.”



EXAMPLES OF PLANNED PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Girl Scout Green will teach sustainability and environmental stewardship through activities like starting a recycling program at our summer camps and building a community garden, from which produce can be donated. We'll also partner with companies like National Grid and Deepwater Wind to create fun, hands-on learning experiences about alternate sources of energy and energy conservation.



Where the Trail Can Take You

will seek to inspire girls by providing them with opportunities to speak with women who have successfully hiked and climbed some of the most challenging trails and peaks in the world. An investment in technology will enable women to speak to the girls in our council from remote and exciting locations.

Mother Earth & Me will offer opportunities for girls to experience the natural world by exploring different environments, near and far. Destinations will include the Green and White Mountains, the Cape Cod National Seashore, and Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge.

And, through the power of technology, environments not easily accessible to the girls in our council will come to life in the Girl Leadership Experience Center: the Amazonian rain forest, the snow-capped peaks of the Andes, the Mojave Desert, the frozen tundra.

Imagine girls from Central Falls and Attleboro chatting "live" to Dr. Robert Ballard, professor of oceanography at the University of Rhode Island, noted for his work in underwater archaeology and his discovery of the wreck of the RMS Titanic.

Our Camps

Generations of Girl Scouts point to one or more summers at Girl Scout camp as the inspiration for a life-long love of the outdoors. And, so, Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England maintains five separate camp locations for year-round camping and exploring by girls of all ages.

Activities include sailing, canoeing, swimming, archery and hiking. Camp Hoffman features a deluxe high/low ropes challenge course. A traveling rock wall makes its rounds among day camps. Accommodations run from primitive camping to camping in platform tents to sleeping in lodges.

Every girl should have the opportunity to experience a carefree summer outdoors.

To that end, Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England subsidizes the cost of summer camp through a generous financial aid program. However, many girls come from families that are not familiar with Girl Scouting or camping. We envision a program, which we've piloted, that will bring these families to camp by bus in the spring to meet the staff, see the grounds and facilities, and better understand what a typical day at camp is like. Alternately, technology would allow us to take girls and their families on a live virtual tour of the camp without having to leave their communities.

Another grand vision includes the construction of a series of tree houses – already designed -- so compelling that a new group of girls will be inspired to attend our camps and discover the beauty of nature.




girl scouts
of southeastern
new england