

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:

# Global Citizenship

***Our mission is to help girls thrive in an ever-changing global climate by providing interactive experiences through the use of technology and cultural connections.***

Programs with a focus on global citizenship that we already offer include Cinco de Mayo with Dora and World Thinking Day. Each year on February 22 -- World Thinking Day -- girls participate in activities and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries.

Girl Scouts of the USA is one of 145 member organizations of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). WAGGGS provides Girl Scouts with opportunities for international friendship and understanding through many fun and educational activities outside the United States.

The ability to Skype and/or teleconference (and a place to "camp out" in our new facility when accommodating time changes) will make this Center's programs possible. Girls will have fun! Activities can take place at different council sites and at the Center.

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I asked a woman at the bus stop which bus I should take and she waited with me until my bus came, even though she missed her bus. When I apologized, she said to me, "You are my guest of India." She taught me a lesson in how to treat people around me with respect.

*– Eri Ishimura, girl visitor to Pune, India*



## EXAMPLES OF PLANNED PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

**Local Cultural Awareness** – workshops and events designed to expose girls to cultural differences in fun and engaging ways. The goal of this program is to create sensitivity toward other cultures: language, food, traditions, and societal norms.

Ideas include partnering with **Dorcas International Institute** to create ways for girls to better appreciate what issues are faced by new immigrants.

We will introduce girls to the Chinese culture at **Blackstone Valley's Chinese Dragon Boat Races & Taiwan Day Festival** and to Portuguese culture at the **Day of Portugal and Portuguese Heritage** in Rhode Island in April.

**Global Sisterhood** – a series that will allow younger girls to connect with Girl Scouts in other states; and older girls can “meet” (via technology) with Girl Scouts from other countries. After getting to know each other through interactions via video, they can identify a service project to work on together.

This is already being done through a process called **Twinning**. Working together, Girl Scouts and their WAGGGS sisters provide leadership, inspiration, and service that is global—girls transcend borders and transform lives.

**Girls Scouts of Nassau County** and **Girl Scouts of Peru** tackled the topics of juvenile diabetes, obesity, and nutrition, sharing information and discussing the critical roles of self-esteem, self-confidence, exercise, and a balanced diet in living a healthy life.

### **WAGGGS World Center Trip**

**Rotation** will offer Girl Scouts, ages 14 and up, one trip every other year with rotating destinations to each of the four world centers owned and operated by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (in Cuernavaca, Mexico; Adelboden, Switzerland; London, England; Pune, India). Girls will meet girls from other countries attending seminars, trainings and events.

A **Global Cinema Series** will be aimed at older girls and focus on girl empowerment and the struggles young women may face in other cultures. Girls can connect with producers, film makers, actors and other professionals and then take action by creating their own videos. We'll provide girls with the opportunity to explore potential careers by meeting and networking with professional women through panel discussions and other venues. **New equipment will enable GSSNE to hold screenings at the Girl Leadership Experience Center.** Providing video equipment and editing software for the participants ensures that ALL girls may participate in this exciting endeavor.

**International Leader Travel** - GSUSA is seeking applications from young women to join a pool of volunteers interested in global leadership opportunities. Members of this pool may be asked to represent GSUSA at the WAGGGS leadership events and trainings. Locally, our goal is to create a special fund to defray the cost of these trips so that ALL adults are able to access these life-changing opportunities.



girl scouts  
of southeastern  
new england

“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.”