

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:

Making A Difference

Our mission is to help girls recognize their strength and ability to support and advocate for those in need through a variety of "Take Action" projects.

The concept of making a difference is integral to the Girl Scout experience. Everything we do is designed to ultimately make the world a better place. Once the Girl Scout Cookie Sale is over, troops can decide to make a donation from their cookie proceeds to a nonprofit organization, which differs from year to year. Recent beneficiaries have included the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation, Heart and Hope Fund, and the Matty Fund.

There's even a philanthropist badge for Brownies to earn.

Girls who earn the Girl Scout Gold Award – the highest achievement in Girl Scouting – are required to complete a service project with lasting effects. Each girl invests a minimum of 80 hours in her Gold Award project. At our local Young Women of Distinction Awards, scholarships are awarded to the three girls whose Gold Award projects stand out in terms of creativity, sustainability, and impact. The top recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship and two runners-up each receive a \$500 scholarship.

“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:

Conversations of Consequence – A speaker/panel series created to connect girls with women, especially Girl Scout alumnae, who have impacted change in a significant way. The purpose of this series is to inspire girls to find solutions to critical issues and to help girls identify their own “cause” by finding out which issues “speak” the loudest to them.

Walking in Their Shoes – We plan to create a variety of unique ways for girls to explore a range of societal issues in order to understand root causes and/or develop empathy with those less fortunate. Topics could include homelessness, global nutrition, prejudice, violence, hunger, loneliness and substance abuse.

How difficult is it to navigate the world when you are physically disabled? What’s it like to be homeless? What are the challenges you face when you are new to a country? Would I be treated differently if I looked different? How would I be treated if I were elderly?

Girl Scouts Give Back – A service corps of Girl Scouts (at the regional or council level) will allow girls to meet and serve together with Girl Scouts from other communities. Girls will be able to work on service projects that are fun, well-organized and meaningful and that will allow girls to explore a wide range of causes.

There is No Planet B – A series of environmental service projects, created to accommodate groups of varying sizes. Natural partnerships include Save the Bay, the Audubon Society, and the RI and MA Departments of Environmental Protection.

In all cases, a girl panel will ensure that topics covered are of the most interest to the girls.

Tomorrow, The World - Ultimately, funding and technology could provide access to making a difference on a national or global level. Technology would allow girls from Rhode Island, Pawcatuck, CT and southeastern MA to interact with sister Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world and, together, plan action projects that make a difference on a global scale.

There’s precedence for this. Girl Scouts of San Jacinto and their sisters, Las Guías de México, worked together towards the development of a community action project to benefit girls in both the U.S. and Mexico, with the intent to build girls’ self-esteem and leadership skills while focusing on teen pregnancy prevention.

Girl Guides of Honduras and the Girl Scouts—Arizona Cactus-Pine Council are teaming up in an effort to stop the crime of human trafficking—and to end the exploitation of girls and women.




girl scouts
of southeastern
new england