



## Task Force Results Brief: *A Vision for the Girl Leadership Experience Center*

### Task Force Makeup and Process

Girl Scouts of Rhode Island (GSRI) worked with a 15-member Task Force made up of staff, volunteers and alumnae committed to creating space and programs that will provide girls with a cutting edge, 21<sup>st</sup> century environment that supports their leadership journeys. The group meetings were facilitated by Fund Consultants, Inc. who then helped compile the full report.

The work of the Task Force included:

- Interviews with Rhode Island women in leadership roles
- Consultations with GSUSA member councils known for innovative programs and/or use of space
- Discussions with organizations serving youth and/or girls in the GSRI service area
- Conversations with Girl Scouts and non-Girl Scouts regarding their interests and the types of programmatic elements that would inspire and engage them
- Identification of organizations/institutions engaged in potential areas of program focus
- Attendance by GSRI CEO at GSUSA's national leadership conference, providing the Task Force with a look at the important work being done to re-image Girl Scouts as a flexible and agile organization
- Participation at GSUSA's conference on *Global Competencies* by two members of the Task Force

**“The key qualities for leadership are creativity, willingness to change your course, endurance, resilience and persistence.”**

**“Don't forget that we all have a responsibility to make the world a better place.”**

*– Quotes from RI women leaders interviewed by GSRI Task Force*



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### Task Force Recommended Vision for the Girl Leadership Experience Center

Within the framework of the nationally-defined **New Girl Scout Leadership Experience – Discover, Connect, Take Action**, our vision for GSRI's 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.”*

This vision will be recommended to our Board to be incorporated into the overall vision of the Girl Leadership Experience Center and all of the community-based programming that follows.

*“Our new Center - and its connected, school and community programs – will be poised to support the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience – and to fully prepare today’s girls to become tomorrow’s leaders and influencers, to take action, and to make a difference in the world.”*

*– Jean Ann McGrane, CEO, Girl Scouts of RI*



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### Areas of Excellence for the Girl Leadership Experience Center Programming

Our Task Force report helped us outline a strategic, localized plan, honing in on six areas of excellence that speak to the needs of our specific girls and communities. These focus areas will be integrated into all our efforts – both in the Center and and by taking programs out in the communities we serve.

- **STEAM** – STEAM is a program that encourages girls to engage in and embrace Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, all key areas of competency in leadership roles, and many, areas that girls have traditionally shied away from.
- **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**: This area of excellence focuses on girls being active in community service; advocacy for what girls want to do, such as greening the planet, preventing bullying, supporting others in need of help.
- **LIFE SKILLS**: Life skills is a key area that helps girls achieve independence and self-sufficiency by exploring financial literacy, career options, the development of healthy relationships, and personal safety.
- **TRAVEL/ADVENTURE**: GSRI will continue our tradition of using travel and adventure to expose girls to research, dreaming, and planning.
- **CAMPING/OUTDOOR SKILLS**: Developing connections to the natural world and embracing environmental stewardship will be explored with the use of our beautiful campsites.
- **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**: Through technology, cultural exposure, and connecting experiences, girls gain understanding of their place in the world and the capacity and disposition to act on issues of global significance.

Over the next months and into the next few years we will be developing new programs – and enhancing existing programming – with the integration of these six areas at the forefront of everything we do.

The report also identified an immense opportunity to leverage our resources and strengths with the resources and strengths of businesses and educational institutions that are unique to our area.

Examples of the types of programs we are already developing, within these areas of excellence:

- We will partner with local successful business women to create specific programs to address the gap when it comes to teaching girls the skills they need to gain financial empowerment.
- We will identify resources and teachers to support leaders and girls in developing global competencies.



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- We will partner with local colleges and university to create programs within the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

### **Our Standards of Excellence**

The Task Force identified the following standards of excellence. We will:

- Partner with the best and the brightest individuals, organizations, and institutions, particularly those who share our vision and are leaders in our areas of focus
- Ensure the work we do is validated, outcomes-based
- Create programs that are high quality and in demand
- Evolve continuously – technologically and in any way needed
- Be risk taking/cutting-edge; push the envelope
- Remain girl-centered in everything we do
- Offer unique, hands-on, experiences – setting ourselves apart
- Be accessible to all girls; be mobile
- Serve as a model for other councils

**“Girl Scouts has taught me to be a role model for other kids... to respect myself and others.”**

– *RI Girl Scout*



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### Our Environment

The Task Force identified the following culture and environment that we want to achieve within our Girl Leadership Experience Center.

We will establish a culture within the Girl Leadership Experience Center that will encourage women and girls to work together and support each other. And we will provide the necessary physical environment and resources to sustain our areas of excellence:

- Comfortable space
- Technology
- GS Law/Promise posted in every room
- High functioning staff
- Well-trained staff and volunteers
- Volunteer/staff partnerships
- Consumer friendly
- Welcoming
- Free-flowing communication
- Openness/honesty/trust/good karma
- Fun
- Variety of resources available to troops
- Well-funded
- Environment that celebrates our history
- Interactive environments
- Multisensory

**For more detailed findings and the full Report Summary, visit [www.gsri.org](http://www.gsri.org)**

**“When girls succeed, so does society. The inequity in leadership across the board has to be changed and GSRI is launching a strategic vision to help girls make that happen.”**

— *Anna Maria Chávez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA*