



UNLEASH STRONG!
BE A GIRL SCOUT.

If anyone was under the impression that Girl Scouting had disappeared from the landscape or was only about little girls selling cookies by the Stop and Shop, take another look at Girl Scouting today. As we think about some of the challenges that all girls face today around gender equity, self-esteem, embracing STEM studies, and becoming strong, self-determined young women, Girl Scouting has evolved to address those relevant issues bringing research-driven, evidence-based programming that complements a girl's academic experience, but with an important single-gender lens.

Today, Girl Scout programs fall under four programmatic pillars: [STEM](#), Outdoors, Entrepreneurship and Life Skills, which encompasses physical and emotional health and all the “soft skills” that will be needed to make girls confident to aspire to higher education and become career-ready. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience leads to 5 Outcomes that are intended to arise from all of the experiential learning inherent in the Girl Scout program portfolio: Positive Sense of Self, Positive Values, Healthy Relationships, Challenge Seeking, and Commitment to Community. And while some of the old favorites still exist among the Girl Scout badge universe, Girl Scouts today are earning badges in robotics, rocketry, financial literacy, coding, civic engagement, and mechanical drawing.

Right here in Connecticut, Girl Scouts of Connecticut serves more than 26,000 girls and over 12,000 adults, many of whom are direct volunteers. The organization can provide a high-quality, girl-centered, and girl-led experience for tomorrow's female leaders and change-makers right in your schools. Research shows that girl-only spaces like Girl Scouts give girls a safe place to share their opinions and ideas with other girls and caring adults and to try new things without fear of failure.

In recent research released by the Girl Scout Research Institute, [The State of Girls 2017: Emerging Truths and Troubling Trends](#), the report found that regardless of an increase in high school graduation rates, economic conditions affecting girls in the United States and here in Connecticut have not fully recovered from the Great Recession.

“Increasing the number of women in leadership positions should matter to anyone who cares about the future of our nation and our world,” said Mary Barneby, CEO of Girl Scouts of Connecticut. “Yet instead of doing what we can to lift girls up, too often society tells them to sit down. Girls are our future leaders; we need their voices in the boardroom, the courtroom, the caucus room, and the laboratory. Girl Scouts is about having an experience that forever shapes and defines a girl's understanding of herself and what she can become.”

A closer look at The State of Girls data for Connecticut shows the following:

- More girls are living in poverty and low income families today than ten years ago.

- In Connecticut, 13 percent of girls ages 5-17 are living in poverty, and 34 percent of girls ages 5-17 live in single-parent homes.
- Since 2007, reading and math proficiency has improved for girls and the high school dropout rate has decreased from eight percent to six percent. More girls are also engaged in volunteer activities today than in 2007.
- Connecticut ranked eighth in the nation when it comes to girls' well-being, including education, economy, extracurricular and out-of-school activities, and physical and emotional health. This sounds great, except that we slipped two spots from number 6 since 2014. And still about 36% of girls surveyed reported that they had experienced depression, with 23% even mentioning suicidal thoughts.

Girl Scouts wishes to [partner with educators](#) all over the state to bring sustainable Girl Scouting to the after school site. Where using volunteers to serve as troop leaders may be scarce, Girl Scouts is looking for creative ways to partner with teachers and other program facilitators to develop year-round, multi-level Girl Scouting, especially for girls in underserved districts. We welcome all girls to Girl Scouting!

We know that girls need our support more than ever! Please don't hesitate to contact Ana Valentin-Jackson, Director of Community Outreach, to learn how Girl Scouting can enhance the educational and social success of the girls you serve.

To learn more about Girl Scouts, visit gsofct.org.