

Girl Scouts is 2.5 million strong—more than 1.7 million girls and 750,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™] to change the world. Over 50 million women can call themselves Girl Scout alums, including more than half of female business leaders, 60 percent of female members of Congress, and all female secretaries of state in U.S. history. Girl Scouts offers girls of all backgrounds and interests the single-best leadership experience in the world, as well as helps families support their girls' development into strong, confident leaders.

We work with policymakers at all levels to advance public policies that champion all-girl safe spaces and honor the unique developmental needs of girls through extracurricular activities like Girl Scouting. To build tomorrow's leaders, we're prioritizing the following public policy goals in 2020.

PROMOTE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS

Increase Girls' Involvement in STEM

If our country is to maintain its competitive advantage in the global economy, we need to make sure our young people—especially girls—take on careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). That's why we're committed to ensuring every girl has the chance to explore and build interest in STEM fields. In July 2019, GSUSA introduced new badges and programming in cybersecurity, computer science, space science, coding, and observation and data collection, contributing to hundreds of thousands of new STEM experiences that allow girls to learn new skills, grow their confidence, and tap into their limitless potential.

Girl Scouts supports policy efforts to:

- Promote proven techniques for engaging girls in STEM, including single-gender learning environments and hands-on, inquiry-based learning
- Engage girls in engineering and computer science to prime them for the 21st century workforce
- Introduce girls to diverse role models and mentors in STEM
- Expand out-of-school STEM programming to girls and underrepresented minority groups

Strengthen Girls' Entrepreneurial and Financial Literacy Skills

Whether she chooses to become the CEO of a Fortune 500 company, the CFO of her family, or an entrepreneur who starts her own business, a girl must develop financial know-how and business skills to power her future. We provide girls with countless hands-on, age-appropriate experiences in entrepreneurship and financial literacy, including through our widely known Girl Scout Cookie Program, which is often girls' introduction to business planning and entrepreneurship. By participating, girls develop important business and entrepreneurial acumen, acquiring five skills that serve them for life: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. In addition to selling cookies the traditional in-person way, girls can participate via the Digital Cookie[®] platform, which

puts them in the driver’s seat of their own digital cookie businesses and teaches them vital modern lessons about online marketing, app usage, and ecommerce.

Girl Scouts supports policy efforts to:

- Ensure all girls gain financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills
- Bolster the role of youth-serving organizations in promoting real-world financial literacy and entrepreneurial experiences in all-girl environments
- Leverage educational technology to strengthen youth’s financial literacy capabilities

ENCOURAGE GIRLS TO EMBRACE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Expand Girls’ Access to Outdoor Adventure

The outdoors is a fundamental component of Girl Scouting—specifically, engaging girls in outdoor experiences that build capable, adventurous outdoor advocates. By getting outside, girls feel connected to the environment, one another, and their communities at large, and many report that their outdoor experiences at Girl Scouts strengthened their self-reliance, perseverance, and leadership skills.

Building on our history of life-changing outdoor experiences and existing badges, we’ve launched 12 new Outdoor High-Adventure badges in partnership with The North Face. New programming is designed for girls to explore nature and take on adventures like backpacking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, and tree climbing—giving them the confidence to support one another, take healthy risks, and spend dedicated time in nature.

Girl Scouts supports policy efforts to:

- Ensure all girls can participate in transformative outdoor experiences regularly and in varied ways
- Engage girls from underserved and marginalized communities in outdoor experiences who may have limited opportunities for (but are interested in) this engagement
- Engage girls in environmental stewardship and advocacy so they learn the value of protecting our world and, in the process, learn to advocate for themselves

Prevent Bullying/Relational Aggression and Foster Healthy Relationships Among Girls

According to the Girl Scout Research Institute, about 30 percent of girls have experienced some form of bullying or relational aggression from their peers. Bullied girls have higher rates of absenteeism; have lower grades; and are at increased risk of depression, eating disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, and suicide.

To address this problem, Girl Scouts gives girls a blueprint for developing healthy relationships and preventing bullying behavior outright. Our evidence-based BFF (Be a Friend First) bullying-prevention program, designed for middle-school girls, focuses directly on reducing bullying, particularly relational aggression and cyberbullying.

Girl Scouts supports policy efforts to:

- Engage local education agencies in providing education and training programs for middle-school (and elementary school-age) youth to reduce relational aggression, bullying, and adolescent violence, as well as in creating safe schools and communities
- Support girl-only bullying-prevention initiatives that focus on relational aggression and girls' unique needs, relationship behaviors, and experiences

FOSTER GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND A GLOBAL VOICE FOR GIRLS

Girl Scouts is dedicated to ensuring that girls develop an increased awareness of the larger world around them and understand their relationship to it so they can grow into responsible global citizens.

GSUSA's global citizenship program provides girls with experiences that help them become responsible and effective leaders who recognize new and differing perspectives and connect with others as they take action to improve their local, national, and global communities.

Girl Scouts supports policy efforts to:

- Promote education about global issues, particularly those affecting girls and women, and ultimately help girls develop a sense of global citizenship
- Promote access to education for girls around the globe

UPHOLD A STRONG NONPROFIT COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS THE GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

We support policies that incentivize charitable giving. Charitable giving policies fuel the health of our nation and communities around the world. Total charitable giving in the United States in 2018 amounted to an estimated \$427.71 billion. While overall giving remains healthy, the number of U.S. households who give to charity has declined every year for the last decade. We support changes in tax policy that encourage more people—specifically those who don't have access to the charitable deduction—to give more.

Girl Scouts supports policy efforts to:

- Encourage individuals' charitable donations, which serve as the backbone of all nonprofits
- Ensure a healthy, effective, and vibrant nonprofit community that sustains the nation's philanthropic tradition
- Maintain the financial stability of the Girl Scout Movement so we can offer the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to an ever-increasing number of girls