

The pandemic rewrote the childhoods of young people, upending their education, friendships, and lifestyles. In the face of profound uncertainty, Girl Scouts remains a constant force.

Girl Scouts provides girls with the resources, community, and support they need to thrive in our rapidly changing world. Girl Scouts' afterschool and out-of-school programs enrich student learning with our diverse lineup of badges and other hands-on activities; fosters community and connection; exposes girls to new experiences; and gives girls the skills and confidence to say, "I know I can do this!" By exploring activities and experiences within the four pillars of Girl Scouting (STEM, Outdoors, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship), girls set big goals and achieve even bigger successes.

We work with policymakers at all levels to advance solutions that support the whole girl, and our 2023 policy goals help give her the chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success.

Policy Priorities

Inspire Greater Civic Engagement and Civic Education

- Expanding girls' access to civic education, including service-learning projects and informal educational programs that take place out of school;
- Improving girls' practical understanding of the systems, laws, and processes that govern society at the local, state, and federal levels; and
- Encouraging a sense of personal and community responsibility to engage in civic processes such as voting.

Fuel Girls' Passion for STEM

- Invest in STEM programs through state partnerships with community organizations and schools;
- Promote proven techniques for engaging girls in STEM, including single-gender learning environments and hands-on, inquiry-based learning;
- Introduce girls to diverse role models and mentors in STEM;
- Expand out-of-school STEM programming to girls and traditionally underrepresented groups, including English-language learners, racial minorities, and other students served by Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and
- Encourage state agencies to invest in developing STEM career paths for girls and other traditionally underrepresented groups.

Strengthen Girls' Financial Literacy and Business Skills

- 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;
- Expand state initiatives that support financial literacy and entrepreneurial programs through partnerships with community organizations and schools; and
- Leverage educational technology to strengthen youth's financial literacy capabilities.

Expand Girls' Access to Outdoor Exploration

- Ensure all girls can participate in transformative outdoor experiences regularly and in varied ways;
- Engage girls from underserved communities in outdoor experiences by identifying barriers to access and inclusion;
- Provide girls with opportunities to explore solutions to conservation-related issues, thereby advancing their understanding of the natural sciences, natural resource management, and related STEM careers; and
- 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.

Uphold a Strong Nonprofit Community

- Protect and expand nonprofit exemptions from state and local property, sales, and use taxes and from collecting sales and use taxes;
- Reform and simplify the state grant application process;
- Encourage individuals' charitable donations by supporting existing and new tax incentives that foster charitable giving, including universal or non-itemizer charitable deductions; and
- Eliminate floors, caps, or limits on existing charitable giving incentives.