WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF THE HUDSON, INC. | BY SAMANTHA STAHL

CLOSING THE STEM GENDER GAP

Girl Scouts, along with our various corporate partners, are providing a deep dive into the STEM fields and creating programs that ensure a lifetime of success.



With the help of our communities and volunteers, we will transform the STEM workforce. By 2025, we aim to add 2.5 million girls to the STEM pipeline.

HE GIRL SCOUT WAY
For over 100 years, Girl Scouts has been breaking the boundaries for girls in every way. In this all girl, girlled, girl-friendly organization, girls will prepare for a lifetime of leadership success, and adventure in a safe, no-limits place designed for and by the girls.

The Girl Scouts legacy is seen all over the country – not just in our area. More than half of women in the business world are Girl Scout alumnae. Ninety percent of women who have been in space were in Girl Scouts. Every female Secretary of State in the United States history is a former member: Madeline Albright, Condoleezza Rice, and Hilary Clinton. Currently, in our 116th Congress, 59 percent of women members are Girl Scout alums.

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. (GSHH) is privileged to serve both girls and adult members within our seven county

footprint: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. We have over 25,000 girl members and over 10,000 adult members. Girl Scouts is a year round experience, and they can join at any time during the year. To make sure every girl has a chance to expand their horizons, we have over 4,000 girls in our Funded Initiative Program. This program allows girls to experience Girl Scouting regardless of their ability to pay and with no boundaries.

LEAD LIKE A G.I.R.L.

While some people still think of Girl Scouts as cookies, camps, and crafts, we are so much more. Girl Scouts are ground breakers, big thinkers, and role models. We design robots and improve our communities – and yes, we still sell the best cookies on the planet.

Girl Scouts unleashes the G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ in every girl, preparing her for a lifetime of leadership—from taking a night-time hike under the stars to accepting a mission on the International Space Station; from lobbying the city council with her troop to holding a seat in Congress; from running her own cookie business today to tackling cyber security tomorrow.

Our Girl Scout Leadership Experience is a one-of-a-kind leadership development program for girls, with proven results. It is based on time-tested methods and research-backed programming that help girls take the lead—in their own lives and in the world. Girls gain important skills in four areas that form the foundation of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Outdoors, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award in the world for girls—and the most difficult to earn—and it's uniquely available to Girl Scouts. It's a one-of-a-kind opportunity for girls to engage in a rigorous process that calls for leadership at the highest level. Each girl identifies a project that they feel passionate about and once achieved, it is seen by colleges, employers, and communities. Often, they are nationally and internationally recognized.

THE STEM PLEDGE

We at GSHH are pledging to bring together the gender gap in STEM fields. Within the next decade, over one million new jobs will be open in those fields, and we intend to have our girls fill those spots. Elementary school is where boy and girl stereotypes are formed, and by third grade, girls have already formed their own opinion on STEM. Only 11 percent of girls show an interest in STEM during high school.

Starting when they are Daisies, we engage the girls in programs and activities where they are learning the basics of the STEM field. As they grow older, they will continue to learn and educate themselves on what each field entails. With the help of our communities and volunteers, we will transform the STEM workforce. By 2025, we aim to add 2.5 million girls to the STEM pipeline.

Girl Scouts is proven to help girls thrive in five key ways as they:

Develop a strong sense of self.

Display positive values.

Seek challenges and learn from setbacks.

Form and maintain healthy relationships.

Identify and solve problems in the community.

One way to keep the girls interested, is releasing new badges and journeys for the girls to participate in. For instance, girls will now be able to receive badges in cyber security, coding and robotics. They will be able to hone in on engineering or outdoor STEM adventures.

OUR PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

Critical support of program partners and sponsors provide GSHH with the resources needed to help prepare girls to practice a lifetime of leadership. With access to new skills and experiences, girls will develop the courage, confidence, and character they'll need to tackle whatever comes their way.

One STEM program, developed through a partnership with the United States Military Academy at West Point, was designed





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to excite girls about the world of STEM. Girls attending the event rotated through three stations including, Physics, Bridge Design Challenge, and Nuclear Science. Each was designed to teach girls the concepts of STEM with hands-on experiments and activities.

This past year, GSHH and IBM hosted the 10th Annual Engineering is Fun program. Over 125 Girl Scouts participated in activities including a Boat Challenge, Snap Circuits, Fingerprinting, Science of Lipstick, a Robotics team, and wooden structure building.

Another mentorship option is the PepsiCo and the Million Women Mentor's Programs. Ambassador Girl Scouts had the opportunity to shadow a Pepsi Executive and learn more about careers in technology, accounting, data analysis, and product development. Cadettes and Juniors were also treated to a day of career assessment and thought during GSHH's Pepsi Career Day.

In the past year, GSHH has held multiple programs and events where the girls can step out of their comfort zone and embark on new adventures. Our girls learned about female empowerment during the G.I.R.L. Teen Leadership Conference in October 2017. The girl-led event featured ever-important topics such as, Being the Woman in Charge, Healthy Relationship/Dating Violence, Advocacy, and Body Image. Seniors chose these topics and Ambassador Girl Scouts set up experts for the subject matter to moderate each panel. The highlight of the conference was the keynote speaker, Madison Salters, a journalist, a former Ambassador Girl Scout, who discussed women empowerment, body image issues, and the important work she is doing with Syrian refugees in France.

Girl Scouts know the importance of the outdoors and the environment, which is why we host our bi-annual Camporee. Last year, in the pouring rain, over 700 girls and 200 volunteers participated in this event. Activities ranged

from archery to karate and to the engaging activities at the STEMazing Discovery

We are pledging to bring together the gender gap in STEM fields. Center sponsored by Women in Communications & Energy. Girls enhanced their outdoor skills and were treated to a Birds of Prey Show and a hayride provided by the Bruderhof Community. With activities provided by Con Edison and BASF Kids Lab, and



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so much more, girls left that event with new skills and ideas on how they can change the world.

We cannot forget about our largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world: The Cookie Program. Everyone has a special place in their heart for Girl Scout Cookies. Not only because they're delicious, but because purchasing Girl Scout Cookies powers the Girl

Scout Cookie Program and helps girls fulfill their dreams and follow their passions. While the program is exciting, it's more than that. Girls realize that setting and reaching their goals is both fulfilling and empowering. Having the opportunity to run their very own cookie business gives them skills essential for success today and in the future - Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills, and Business Ethics.

THE FUTURE OF OUR PROGRAM CENTERS

In 2018, GSHH purchased our newest regional office in Montgomery. With this building, one of the main goals is to design and make it into

a new program center. This space will give girls and their families a chance to dive deeper into the STEM world. Both inside and outside space will be used as we have our very own pond in the front where girls will be able to participate in different types of pond studies. New programs are currently being created with these spaces in mind. One long-range goal is to renovate the space by taking out some walls and creating the ultimate culinary spot for girls to practice cooking. It's our obligation to give girls 110 percent when it comes to learning and building new skills, and this program center and our other buildings will bring us closer to our goal of expanding the STEM world.

The Girl Scouts legacy is seen all over the country.



Junior Girl Scouts learn about forensics and DNA from members of the ACS Women's Chemist Committee and chemistry professors and students at Mount St. Mary's College, to earn their Forensics badge.

GETTING INVOLVED

GSHH would not be the same if we didn't have amazing volunteers, and corporate partners. Offerings from corporate partnerships can range from a tour of their facility, presenting at a troop meeting or GSHH event, or to provide their expertise in STEM, and promote opportunities

for Girl Scouts in tomorrow's workforce.

Community donations give us the ability to create more exciting programs for the girls, and help us to maintain and improve our properties. Our Annual Giving "Fund Her Success" campaign runs all year round, and is an opportunity for families and friends of GSHH to make a financial contribution directly benefiting our girls. Girl Scouting provides girls with the skills to face daily challenges and make sound decisions that affect them today and into the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc., how to become a corporate partner, and investing in our girls' futures, please visit our website at www.girlscoutshh.org or contact me directly at (914) 747-3080 ext. 775 or sstahl@girlscoutshh.org.



Samantha Stahl is the CEO Administrator at Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson

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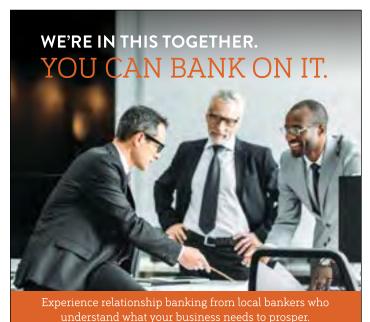
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