

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

When girls succeed, so does society.

Good Intentions

The Beliefs and Values of Teens and Tweens Today*

Major Findings:

- Youth today intend to make responsible choices and refrain from risky behaviors.
- Youth today value diversity and acceptance.
- Youth today demonstrate a strong sense of civic engagement.
- Youth today say they can withstand peer pressures and are willing to stand up for what they believe in.
- When confronting moral dilemmas and difficult decisions, youth today draw strong influence from a variety of sources, especially parents and family.
- Girls and boys differ in how they approach certain decisions.

Recommendations for Adults Working with Youth:

- Help bridge intent and action.
- Promote adult involvement in decision making.
- Encourage adult/youth community engagement.
- Treat personal struggles with respect.
- Value youth voices.

One role for adults is to help youth actualize their intentions and keep them focused on their goals, emphasizing the role that their actions today shape outcomes for the future.

*A report from the Girl Scout Research Institute in 2009, builds on a study published in 1989 by GSUSA, *Girl Scouts Survey on the Beliefs and Moral Values of America's Children*. Report found at: http://www.girlscouts.org/research/pdf/good_intentions_summary.pdf



December 17, 2012
Vol. 1, Issue 1, p. 1



Adults in Girl Scouts partner with girls to plan girl-led and cooperative learning activities.

Findings Spotlight

"I want to go someplace with my life, and if I make bad decisions, I won't reach all the goals I have, like going to college and living a good life."

*—Teenage girl,
St. Louis, Missouri*

The data analyzed represents a national sample of 3,263 students—boys and girls in third through 12th grades, both in and out of Girl Scouting.

SK:np/1301419-002

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

When girls succeed, so does society.

The Beliefs and Values of Teens and Tweens Today*

When presented with hypothetical scenarios and asked their response, youth today:

Feel pressure to obey parents and teachers "a lot."	83%
Say they will volunteer in their community.	79%
Say everyone has a responsibility to the environment.	78%
Say their religious beliefs are important to them.	71%
Say being around people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds is important to them.	59%
Cyber bully by forwarding an embarrassing picture to their friends.	6%

When confronting moral dilemmas and difficult decisions, youth today draw strong influence from a variety of sources:

Parents	62%
Teachers or coaches who care about them	44%
Friends	31%
Extended family members	19%

*A report from the Girl Scout Research Institute in 2009, builds on a study published in 1989 by GSUSA, *Girl Scouts Survey on the Beliefs and Moral Values of America's Children*. Report found at: http://www.girlscouts.org/research/pdf/good_intentions_summary.pdf



December 17, 2012
Vol. 1, Issue 1, p. 2



Findings Spotlight*

"Last year, I had a big problem, so I talked to my parents and we worked it out."

–Preteen girl, New York City

"When making decisions, I listen to my inner voice."

–Teenage girl, Austin, Texas