

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

When girls succeed, so does society.

Partners in Educational, Personal and Leadership Success

21st Century Standards: More than Academics Alone

Educators, government and private industry describe the most important skills, knowledge and behaviors “students” will need to be successful in the work environment and life.¹

- ◆ Good communication skills
- ◆ Building relationships
- ◆ Strong ethics
- ◆ Problem-solving skills
- ◆ Ability to innovate
- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Thinking creatively
- ◆ Thinking critically
- ◆ Application of knowledge
- ◆ Positive attitude

Social, cultural and economic shifts, that once took shape over a generation or more, are now rapid and often have a global impact. This ever more complex and uncertain world clearly requires a new kind of leader—one who values diverse cultures and viewpoints and who is capable of critical thinking, creative problem-solving and teamwork to address changing conditions and challenges.

Girls state that actions taken by a good leader include the following: making decisions, listening well, resolving conflicts, getting consensus, speaking in front of others, taking charge, taking responsibility, teaching others, serving as a role model and preparing and organizing.

¹Ohio Department of Education, September, 2008 Volume 2, Number 7, A (Updating U.S. Department of Commerce, *Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills*, “What Work Requires of Schools,” 1991).

²The Harvard Family Research Project Evaluation Exchange, “Supplementary Education: The Hidden Curriculum of High Academic Achievement”, Spring 2005.



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Girl Scouting makes a difference. Whether it is workforce readiness, financial literacy, business skills, support of formal education or leadership, girls and adult leaders report (and our outcomes research confirms) that Girl Scouting provides a unique and valuable role in equipping girls to be successful in life today and prepared for success in the future.²



Transformation occurs when girls apply the learning and positive youth development processes that underlie every Girl Scout activity.

Findings Spotlight

“To be successful in the 21st century, children and youth need access to experiences... that will help them develop the skills to understand, interpret and utilize knowledge in the real world.”²

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A National Example for 21st Century Learning

Girl Scouting offers more than a safe and accepting, all-girl environment during high-risk, non-school hours. Girl Scouts give girls life skills, primarily by engaging girls and teaching them to apply a learning and decision-making process, rather than by directing them to participate in any specified type of activity. All Girl Scout activities are designed so that girls will:

- **Decide what activities they want to learn or do (girl-led).**
- **Work in small groups and teams to discuss, debate, discover, practice and teach (cooperative learning).**
- **Reflect on their activities and use experience to guide further plans and actions (experiential learning).**

As a non-formal, educational organization, Girl Scouting has a long history of partnering with parents, schools and the community to prepare girls, both personally and as leaders, to succeed in school and in life. Grounded in the *Girl Scout Promise and Law*, Girl Scouts' non-formal, experiential and cooperative learning program promotes girls' personal growth and leadership development. Partnering with caring adults, girls design fun and challenging activities that empower them to raise their voices within a local, national and global movement for girls.

³ The Girl Scout Research Institute, 2003, 2004 and 2006.



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Findings Spotlight

Research shows that girls value a more inclusive and empowering approach of shared leadership. Girls state that actions taken by a good leader include the following: making decisions, listening well, resolving conflicts, getting consensus, speaking in front of others, taking charge, taking responsibility, teaching others, serving as a role model and preparing and organizing.³