

Girl Scouts of Northern California

2017 Candidate – Legacy Foundation Partnership Project

Girl Scouts of Northern California's mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts is committed to serving "every girl everywhere" – making Girl Scouts available to any girl who wants to take part. Girl Scout programs help girls engage in positive self expression and valuable out-of-school-time learning activities.

One of the largest Girl Scout Councils in the nation, Girl Scouts of Northern California serves 47,000 girls (ages 5-17) in 19 counties. While the majority of these girls participate through traditional pathways of summer camps and volunteer led troops, about 4,000 girls participate in innovative and critically needed Girl Scout community outreach programs. These community outreach programs are designed to bring Girl Scout experiences to girls in settings where they need Girl Scouts most – juvenile detention centers, shelters, migrant family housing and under resourced schools in high risk neighborhoods.

Innovative programming like "Got Choices" empowers our community's most vulnerable girls to improve the direction of their lives. Operating in continuation schools, juvenile detention centers, youth community centers middle and high schools in underserved neighborhoods, Got Choices is a year-round prevention and intervention program. It is designed for girls 11-18 who are at risk, disconnected, or gang-impacted – girls who are involved or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Founded 20 years ago, "Got Choices" has expanded to touch the lives of almost 1,000 girls in seven Bay Area Counties.

Helping these participants, whose backgrounds include a constellation of risk factors, is where IWF NorCal can help to make a huge difference in girls' futures. The \$10,000 grant will help to scale the "Got Choices Program" in Alameda and San Francisco counties – truly helping to achieve "every girl everywhere".

GSNC is financially sound. All troop dues go to support the national organization while cookie sales and grants support their local troops and programs. Funding for Got Choices and other innovative programs are primarily supported by grants and donations.

Opportunities for IWF Nor Cal members to partner with the Girl Scouts of Northern California

+ Attend Camp CEO as an adult mentor. Camp CEO, held each year in August, is a three day overnight camp where successful executive women from the Bay Area act as mentors and role models for high school girls from under resourced communities including from the Got Choices and Lead the Way programs. The time commitment is four days including a precamp training program. GSNC counselors have 24 hour responsibility for the campers. In the evenings, the mentors get acquainted with each other.

+ Share your expertise by speaking on topics of interest to girls in the Got Choices program at high schools, detention centers and Teen Mom programs Time commitment – three hours.

+ Lead/participate in a workshop at the Lead the Way conference for high school girls including both Got Choice scouts and those from more traditional volunteer led troops. Time commitment – one day.

+ Host a Girl Scout Connect networking event at your place of business. Give up to 40 high school girls an opportunity to connect with role models and learn about networking by actually participating in it. Time commitment – four hours plus planning time.

IWF Nominator: Robin MacGillivray (GSNC Board member)

Girl Scouts of Northern California CEO: Marina Park (IWF NorCal member)

Website: WWW.gsnorcal.org