

**Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council  
Program Summary: Texas Rural Communities**

**Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (GSSJC) respectfully requests that Texas Rural Communities make a \$10,000 investment in Girl Scouts on the Go in Brazoria County for the 2015-2016 year. Your investment will allow us to empower 1,625 girls on seven Brazoria County school campuses with our character, skill, and value development programming.**

Girl Scouts on the Go is being delivered in low-resource public school campuses in Brazoria County throughout the 2015-2016 academic year on the following school campuses:

- Barrow Elementary, Brazoria – Columbia-Brazoria ISD
- Longfellow Elementary, Alvin – Alvin ISD
- T.W. Ogg Elementary, Clute – Brazosport ISD
- O.M. Roberts Elementary, Lake Jackson – Brazosport ISD
- Sweeny Elementary, Sweeny – Sweeny ISD
- West Columbia Elementary, West Columbia – Columbia-Brazoria ISD
- Wild Peach Elementary, Brazoria – Columbia-Brazoria ISD

Girl Scouts delivers the premier leadership development program for girls that equips them to achieve academic, personal, and professional success. Research demonstrates that young women lack the confidence needed to overcome barriers to achieving personal and professional leadership. Girl Scouts delivers comprehensive skill-building programs in an all-girl, cooperative environment to meet this need.

All Girl Scout activities are framed in three processes:

- **Girl-led:** This process encourages girls to decide which topics they want to explore and how they want to go about them.
- **Learning-by-doing:** Research shows that girls need hands-on, active learning, which this process encourages. Our learning-by-doing process involves a reflection step that asks girls to think about how a given activity worked and what they would do differently in the future.
- **Cooperative learning:** In general, girls prefer a collaborative leadership style, rather than the traditional, top-down, command-and-control style, giving girls the opportunity to develop their leadership skills in a way that makes them most comfortable.

Research demonstrates that young women lack the confidence, mentorship, and support they need to assume leadership roles. Girl Scouting meets this critical need in an all-girl environment where girls thrive. Leadership development is the foundation of GSSJC's programming which provides for a stronger future workforce. Girl Scouts delivers the premier all-girl leadership development program for girls that equips them to achieve academic, emotional, and social success and be our community's next generation of leadership.

**Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council  
Request to Texas Rural Communities, Inc.**

**Section I: Contact Information**

**a. Name, Mailing Address, Telephone Number and e-mail of Contact person for grant:** Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council; 3110 Southwest Freeway Houston, Texas 77098; Contact: Wendy Baca, 713-292-0367, [wbaca@sjgs.org](mailto:wbaca@sjgs.org)

**b. Name and Address of Organization:** Same as above.

**Section II: Organizational Description**

**a. Give a brief overview of your organization, including its mission, purpose, a short history and any major accomplishments.** Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. GSSJC was founded in Houston, Texas in 1922, just 10 years after the Girl Scout Movement was founded in Savannah, Georgia by Juliette Gordon Low. Our vision is to close the gender disparity in leadership and build girls who are equipped to succeed in an increasingly global, competitive society.

GSSJC has delivered outreach programs like Girl Scouts on the Go in Brazoria for almost 30 years to meet underserved girls' needs for the character, skill, and value development activities of Girl Scouts. The community need is significantly larger than we have the resources to provide, and we intend to deliver Girl Scouts on the Go well beyond the 2015-2016 year through the support of our community partners and funders.

**Section III: Program Description**

**a. What community and/or constituency needs will your program meet? How did you identify the need?** Girl Scouts is committed to diversity and inclusion and reaching underserved populations with Girl Scouting, and we achieve this goal through our in-school programs like Girl Scouts on the Go in Brazoria County. In communities underserved by youth development programs like Brazoria County, traditional volunteer-led troops are difficult to form due to transportation challenges and limited parental and financial resources. We meet girls' need for our leadership development programs by bringing paid staff directly to girls onto the school campus to serve as positive adult role models and mentors. Our in-school programs like Girl Scouts on the Go allow us to reach girls who want to be Girl Scouts but would not have the opportunity to participate otherwise.

**b. Give a brief description of your program. What are its primary goals? How will you accomplish them?** Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council respectfully requests that Texas Rural Communities make a \$10,000 investment in Girl Scouts on the Go in Brazoria County. Your investment will allow us to place paid staff on underserved public school campuses to deliver contemporary, issues-based Girl Scout programming to girls who lack the resources to be Girl Scouts.

In response to teachers' and administrators' requests to keep girls engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), we are including hands-on, age-appropriate science activities on topics including bugs and insects, flowers, and the environment. Girls will continue

to learn the code of conduct of Girl Scouting, as these values are at the core of our programming, and we will continue to focus on manners and respect for others, in response to requests from school partners.

GSSJC will achieve the following goals through support from Texas Rural Communities:

- Reach approximately 1,625 at-risk girls in Brazoria County on seven school campuses;
- Deliver Girl Scouts on the Go in 27 one-hour sessions throughout the school year;
- Reach at-risk girls with Girl Scouts who lack the resources to participate;
- Work with school administrators to deliver programming that addresses current issues that face their student populations and best empower them to succeed; and
- Continue to deliver a high-quality leadership development experience to Brazoria County girls.

Our overarching goals of our school-based programs are to empower girls to develop:

- Their full potential and overcome obstacles they face as they strive for success;
- Interpersonal and healthy relationship skills and relate to others with respect;
- Positive values and sound decision-making skills to guide her throughout her life; and
- Leadership skills that allow her to work collaboratively with others and improve the fabric of our community.

**c. Describe the program participants or beneficiaries. Are you planning to serve people of a particular age group, ethnic background or income level? How many people will your program serve?** GSSJC is reaching 1,625 underserved girls with Girl Scouts on the Go in Brazoria County during the 2015-2016 year. Girl Scouts on the Go is delivered to elementary-aged girls. While we do not require girls and families to report their race/ethnicity or income, the following breaks down the demographics of the school populations:

**Barrow Elementary – Columbia-Brazoria ISD**

Economically disadvantaged: 59%  
At-risk of dropping out of school: 44%  
African American: 14%  
Hispanic: 20%  
Caucasian: 63%  
Two or More Races: 3%

**Longfellow Elementary – Alvin ISD**

Economically disadvantaged: 66%  
At-risk of dropping out of school: 42%  
African American: 3%  
Hispanic: 46%  
Caucasian: 48%  
Native American: 1%  
Asian: 1%  
Two or More Races: 1%

**T.W. Ogg Elementary – Brazosport ISD**

Economically disadvantaged: 88%  
At-risk of dropping out of school: 27%  
African American: 15%  
Hispanic: 64%  
Caucasian: 17%  
Two or More Races: 4%

**O.M. Roberts Elementary – Brazosport ISD**

Economically disadvantaged: 44%  
At-risk of dropping out of school: 25%  
African American: 14%  
Hispanic: 37%  
Caucasian: 44%  
Asian: 3%  
Two or More Races: 2%

**Sweeny Elementary – Sweeny ISD**

Economically disadvantaged: 55%  
At-risk of dropping out of school: 38%  
African American: 15%  
Hispanic: 24%  
Caucasian: 54%  
Two or More Races: 7%

**West Columbia Elementary – Columbia-Brazoria ISD**

Economically disadvantaged: 54%  
At-risk of dropping out of school: 55%  
African American: 11%  
Hispanic: 37%  
Caucasian: 49%  
Two or More Races: 3%

**Wild Peach Elementary – Columbia-Brazoria ISD**

Economically disadvantaged: 66%  
At-risk of dropping out of school: 54%  
African American: 6%  
Hispanic: 24%  
Caucasian: 65%  
Native American: 1%  
Asian: 1%  
Two or More Races: 3%

**d. Describe the aspects of your program that are unique or innovative. Is your program a model for other communities? How will you communicate your program's success to other communities?** Girl Scouts is the only organization in Brazoria County delivering all-girl

character development programming. Our comprehensive programming is designed to empower the whole girl and build her skill set so she can achieve personal and professional success. Other youth-serving organizations in Brazoria County include Boys Scouts, the YMCA, and Boys & Girls Club, but Girl Scouts is the only agency providing girls with a supportive, all-girl environment designed to close the leadership gap between men and women.

**e. Include a one-page profit/loss statement and a budget for your program, including the total budget for each line item and how TRC funds would be used. If TRC were unable to fund the total amount you have requested, would you accept a smaller grant?** GSSJC's unaudited profit/loss statement for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2015 and the projected budget for Girl Scouts on the Go in Brazoria is attached. GSSJC would be happy to accept a grant of any size from TRC to empower Brazoria County girls with Girl Scouting who would not otherwise receive it.

**f. Describe the expected outcomes or accomplishments for your program. How will you measure these outcomes?** GSSJC gauges our programmatic success through quantitative tools to create continual quality improvement and report our achievements to our community partners. We work closely with the Girl Scout Research Institute and use questions adapted from their National Program Evaluation System to measure our success in achieving outcomes in girls. Girl Scouts' impact is framed by the three core components: girls **discover** their interests and causes that matter, **connect** with others, and **take action** on projects in the community.

Last year, GSSJC focused on one outcome in each of the three categories (discover, connect, take action) through surveying a sample of girls in our annual survey and including questions related to the three outcomes in program-specific surveys. We are pleased to report the following positive responses for the 2013-2014 year:

- 85 percent demonstrate positive values based on the Girl Scout code of conduct like honesty, respect for oneself and others, personal responsibility, and patriotic citizenship;
- 85 percent can promote cooperation, team building, and collaborative decision making that benefits the entire group; and
- 83 percent are resourceful problem solvers and can implement creative solutions that address community needs.

GSSJC surveys girls at the completion of each program year to determine our success in achieving positive outcomes in girls, and we are in the process of tabulating these results for the 2014-2015 year. GSSJC gains critical feedback from school partners on the Girl Scouts on the Go program to ensure we are meeting girls' greatest needs with our curriculum, and we also measure our success through our site retention rate.

GSSJC is working with the Girl Scout Research Institute and other councils across the country in collaboration with the Tufts University Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development. Through our partnership with Tufts University, we are creating more consistent and valid external measurements that are aligned with best practices in the youth development field to best

gauge our success in empowering girls with the leadership development skills they need to achieve future success.

**g. Give a timeline for your project or program and expenditure of proposed grant funds.** Girl Scouts on the Go in Brazoria County is being delivered in 27 sessions throughout the current 2015-2016 school year.

**h. If the organization has received a grant award from TRC in the two preceding years, report the timeline, outcomes and financial expenditures related to the award.** GSSJC has received two awards from TRC, and we submitted reports in September of 2014 and 2015. Enclosed are copies of the reports for your reference.