

## Girl Scout Programming around the SDGs

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Girl Scouts current programming has an impact on Sustainable Development Goals 5, 13, and 17. Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) aims to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. This goal has two targets that apply to Girl Scouts. The target of ensuring “women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life” meets Girl Scouts mission of building future female leaders (UN Women, 2017). Girl Scouts programming gives girls the skills to be advocates for other girls in their community and around the world. When girls are aware of their role in the global community they are driven to strive for solutions that help everyone locally and abroad. Additionally, Girl Scouts works with all actors influencing policy. The bipartisan Congressional Girl Scout Troup is an example of how the issues Girl Scouts advocates for can bring everyone together to work towards a common goal.

The target to “Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels” is being promoted through Girl Scouts Office of Public Policy and Advocacy (UN Women, 2017). This office is dedicated to promoting the legislative agenda Girl Scouts publishes every year. The current agenda promotes policy that improves girl’s financial literacy, outdoor appreciation, access to STEM education, and promotes global citizenship.

Girl Scouts current programming supports this legislative agenda. Two examples of programming include afterschool STEM education and the cookie sales program. The after school STEM program provides girls a supportive environment to explore STEM. The cookie sales program teaches girls financial literacy skills early on (Girl Scouts, 2017). Girl Scouts is making leadership development available for all and not only for those who can afford it. In New York City, Girl Scouts has launched Girl Scout troops for homeless girls (Stump, 2017).

SDG 13 focuses on combating the effects of climate change. The legislative item to increase outdoor activities of girls helps to create environmentally conscious leaders. When girls connect with the outdoors they gain a greater appreciation for the environment and can become advocates for its protection (Girl Scouts, 2017).

SDG 17 is centered on building partnerships for sustainable development. Girl Scouts Policy and Advocacy office builds partnerships with other non-profits and agencies that work towards achieving the mission of Girl Scouts. These partnerships are important because the changes needed to achieve sustainable development cannot be accomplished alone. Girl Scouts advocacy works to make sure that the United States continues to have a thriving non-profit community in which partnerships for change can be built.

Girls Scouts Programing can be fostered to help build the leadership of women in the US and globally. For all of the sustainable development goals we need strong leaders to lead the way. In Girl Scouts is where they will be found and supported.

References:

Girl Scouts. (2017). Girl Scouts of the USA 2017 Legislative Agenda (pp. 1-7, Rep.).

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