

**CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

Date 9/12/2017

Contact Information

Organization Name: Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania
Address: 330 Manor Road, Miquon, PA 19444
dow@gsep.org
Phone: 267-332-6788
Hassan
Website: www.gsep.org
Year Incorporated: 1917
jdougherty@gsep.org

Executive Director Name: Kim Fraitess-Dow
Executive Director E-mail: kfraitess-
Board of Directors Chair Name: Deborah
Primary Contact Name: Julia Dougherty
Primary Contact E-mail:

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure
 Donor Advised Fund(s) Fund for Chester County Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare
 Health Education
 Human Services
 Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):
Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) serves a nine-county footprint of Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Annually GSEP serves close to 40,000 girls with the support of 15,000 adult volunteers. GSEP serves more than 8,000 each year through outreach programs. In membership year 2017 GSEP will serve 175 girls in Chester County.

Mission: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Proposal Summary:

GSEP is requesting a grant of \$1,000 from the LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation in direct support of the Funded Initiative Program in Chester County for the 2017-2018 membership year.

The Funded Initiative Program is an outreach program that GSEP brings to girls in low-income communities struggling with high demand for, yet a lack of, high quality out-of-school-time programming. In order to ensure that the Funded Initiative Program serves girls in communities with the greatest need, GSEP targets school districts with high rates of free or reduced lunch certified students.

Annual Budget \$16,879,121 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 94 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> 72 _____ % of budget for program expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 _____ # of Board Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> 21.1 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> 6.9 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses	_____ over 300,000 _____ # of Volunteer Hours
<input type="checkbox"/> 100 _____ % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

1. Comcast Corporation
2. Lenfest Foundation
3. PECO

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$1,000 _____



Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation **Grant Proposal Narrative**

History and Goals:

Girl Scouts was founded more than 100 years ago on the principles of diversity and inclusion. Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) is the largest leadership development organization for girls in Pennsylvania, and the 9th largest Girl Scout council in the U.S. out of 112. GSEP serves close to 40,000 girls, ages of 5 to 18, in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia counties, with the support of more than 15,000 adult volunteers. Whether girls are helping those in need through community service, learning how to build a fire at camp, or meeting women leaders, Girl Scouting allows them to discover their own identities, connect with peers, and make the world a better place.

GSEP engages girls through a variety of program pathways, including Traditional and Funded Troops, summer camp and outdoor programs, single-event and series programming on special topics, and the entrepreneurial cookie program. All GSEP programming is guided by an overarching framework called the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), which ensures a focus on helping girls attain specific outcomes related to leadership. The GSLE defines five leadership outcomes that correspond to the three keys to leadership: Discover, Connect, and Take Action. Each year, depending on the Journey curriculum girls are completing, the program will target a set of priority outcomes for girls. As each girl achieves each outcome, her success directly validates the Girl Scouts' mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Funding Request:

GSEP is requesting a grant of \$1,000 from the LeBoutillier Charitable foundation in direct support of the Funded Initiative Program in Chester County for the 2017-2018 membership year. Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania is the current form of the organization, Freedom Valley Girl Scouts, where Zelinda served on the board and as a leader for ten years. Girl Scouts is proud to continue Zelinda's legacy by continuing to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

The opportunity to participate in Funded Initiatives is provided at **no cost** to girls who wish to join. Funding from the foundation will be used to defray the cost of program expenses, including membership registration, books, uniforms, materials and supplies, and salaries for trained staff who design, manage and implement. In membership year 2017-2018 Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) increased membership dues from \$15 to \$25 per girl and adult member. This membership fee is passed directly through to GSUSA. GSEP is committed to maintaining the number of girls we serve in outreach programs even given this significant increase. Council will continue to solicit funding from various corporations, foundations, and individuals to offset this additional cost and provide the best possible program to girls in Chester County and throughout the nine county footprint.

Program Description:

The Funded Initiatives Program is an innovative, out-of-school-time leadership development program that engages approximately 8,000 girls between the ages of 5 and 17 who reside in underserved areas throughout GSEP's nine-county footprint. In membership year 2017-2018 GSEP plans to serve 175 girls through the Funded Initiatives Program in Chester County. Girls in Funded Initiatives attend weekly meetings at convenient community locations both during the school year and in the summer. They complete a research-based curriculum that helps them attain specific outcomes, building their self-esteem, and enabling them to see themselves as current and future leaders.

All Girl Scout programs are guided by the GSLE which was developed by the Girl Scout Research Institute. The GSLE ensures program quality and consistency by delineating three processes that govern the way activities are conducted and three keys to leadership that programs promote.

The three processes are:

- Girl-led: Girls play an active part in determining the what, where, when, how, and why of their activities.
- Learning by doing: Rather than listening to someone tell them what to do or how to do it, girls do it themselves.
- Cooperative learning: Girls work together toward shared goals in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration.

The three keys to leadership are:

- Discover: Each girl will discover her own special skills and talents, find the confidence to set challenging goals for herself, and strive to live by her own values.
- Connect: Each girl will connect with others, which means she will learn how to cooperate with a team, resolve conflict, and build healthy relationships.
- Take Action: Each girl will take action and make the world a better place, learning about her community and the world along the way.

These processes and keys to leadership are at the core of Girl Scouting. As a leadership development organization, GSEP is primarily focused on managing and delivering its programs in ways that will help girls be responsible decision makers and citizens. By giving girls the chance to do things themselves, Girl Scouting helps its members become more self-confident and self-sufficient.

School Year & Summer Funded Troops

Funded Troops meet once a week during the school year for 16 weeks and multiple times a week for 6-8 weeks during the summer. At weekly troop meetings, girls utilize the Leadership *Journeys* curriculum to guide them. This curriculum includes readings, discussions, games, projects, and other activities that get girls thinking about the world around them and their place in it. *Journeys* are the Girl Scouts national curriculum, aimed at giving girls the benefits of the Girl Scouts “Keys to Leadership” discover, connect, and take action. *Journeys* are organized around an integrated theme:

- *It’s Your World—Change It!* This *Journey* focuses on helping girls develop the visionary, collaborative, and strategic components necessary to be an effective agent of change. Activities encourage girls to think about how they would like to make a contribution to the world and what it means to advocate for their values.
- *It’s Your Planet—Love It!* In this *Journey*, girls learn about environmental issues such as clean water and air, noise pollution, global warming, soil contamination, and agricultural processes. Girls explore what it means to be responsible stewards of the planet.
- *It’s Your Story—Tell It!* This *Journey* gives girls the opportunity to tell their stories through a range of creative approaches. Self-esteem is a natural by-product of this *Journey* because through storytelling and creative expression, girls gain a deep understanding of themselves and their potential, and develop the confidence to become leaders.

In addition Girl Scouts of the USA’s (GSUSA) released three new STEM *Journeys* in summer 2017. Each of the new programs is topic-specific and aligned with the five program outcomes Girl Scouts uses to evaluate program effectiveness. The three new programs are:

- *Engineering, think like an engineer*: Girls learn how to think like a designer by participating in hands-on design challenges and completing a Take Action project.
- *Computer Science, think like a programmer*: Girls participate in interactive computational-thinking activities to learn how programmers solve problems.

- *Outdoor STEM, think like a citizen scientist:* Girls learn the scientific method by undertaking a citizen science project that involves making observations, collecting data, and working with scientist to receive feedback on research and findings.

Each *Journey* includes an age-appropriate curriculum for six age levels (K-1; 2-3; 4-5; 6-8; 9-10; 11-12). The curriculum is formalized through girl activity books and adult leader guides. Each year, troops will complete the curriculum for their age level that corresponds to the Journey selected by the GSEP membership team. Funded Troop meetings are led by Program Implementers, who are paid, part-time staff members working directly with girls and school site liaisons. Program Implementers are trained to deliver the GSLE curriculum and to address girls' age-specific developmental challenges and interests.

Girls in Funded Programs also have access to supplemental Girl Scout programs. GSEP holds these during the weekend on special topics, such as the environment, technology, or health and wellness. Through the cookie program, girls learn to sell cookies and develop five important skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. Girls are also encouraged to earn their Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. The award recognizes girls who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable Take Action projects that have a sustainable impact in their communities – and beyond. In 2016 57 girls completed their Gold Award projects.

Funded Series

Funded Series are limited-engagement programs, during the school year and summer, designed to give girls an in-depth experience related to a special topic. These programs typically last for four or eight sessions, with each session lasting 45-90 minutes. Funded Series frequently include field trips to local colleges, museums, Girl Scout camp sites, or other community locations to enhance the experience for girls. An example of Funded Series programming is *Imagine Your STEM Future* (grades 9-12) and *Imagineer* (grades 2-8). These two STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)-focused programs expose girls to careers in the sciences. Other Funded Series programs focus on such topics as body confidence, anti-bullying, and environmental sustainability.

Measurement:

GSEP has implemented increasingly rigorous metrics to determine program effectiveness. GSEP uses two tools to evaluate the Funded Initiative Program's impact. First, Funded Troop leaders maintain attendance records that track the participation of all girls enrolled. This enables the Council to ensure that girls are consistently engaged, and to take corrective action if girls are not remaining active.

GSEP also administers a pre-survey and post-survey designed to assess the program's impact over the course of each school year. This survey assesses girls' progress with respect to specific leadership outcomes delineated by the GSLE program model, as well as their reported engagement in school.

The GSLE defines five leadership outcomes that correspond to the three keys to leadership: Discover, Connect, and Take Action. Each year, depending on the Journey curriculum girls are completing, the program will target a different set of priority outcomes for girls. To provide context, the full list of outcomes is provided below:

1. Girls develop **strong sense of self:** *Girls have confidence in themselves and their abilities, and form positive identities.*
2. Girls develop **positive values:** *Girls act ethically, honestly, and responsibly, and show concern for others.*
3. Girls develop **healthy relationships:** *Girls develop and maintain healthy relationships by communicating their feelings directly and resolving conflicts constructively.*
4. Girls **seek challenges** in the world: *Girls learn to take appropriate risks, try things even if they might fail, and learn from mistakes.*

5. Girls feel empowered to **solve community problems**: *Girls desire to contribute to the world in purposeful and meaningful ways, learn how to identify problems in the community, and create “action plans” to solve them.*

As each girl achieves each outcome, their success directly validates the Girl Scouts mission to **build girls of courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place.**