



**ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Note: If the Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, this Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. Please visit our website at www.chescocf.org to obtain an electronic version of this application.

Date: May 12, 2022

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP)
Address: 330 Manor Rd, Miquon, PA 19444
Manager

Contact Name: Kathryn Vore
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Year Incorporated: 1917

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes No

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served): Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia counties

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: GSEP serves 35,000 girls throughout our nine-county footprint, ages 5-18, with the support of 15,000 adult volunteers.

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

Organization Description: GSEP's programming teaches girls to become stewards of their environment, active citizens who are engaged in their communities, and leaders who give back through service opportunities. In order to maintain the principles of diversity and inclusion our organization was founded upon, we offer financial aid to every girl who applies because we believe that every girl, regardless of race, background, or socioeconomic status, deserves access to the quality leadership development programming that GSEP provides.

Annual Budget \$ <u>17,425,658</u>	<u>82</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>81</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>25</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>12</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>15,000</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>7</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	_____ # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

1. The United Way of Berks County - \$132,554.23
2. Comcast, NBC10, Telemundo62, and Comcast Spectacor - \$90,000
3. The Pew Charitable Trusts - \$60,000

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 1,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: GSEP respectfully requests a grant of \$1,000 in direct support of the Funded Initiatives Program in Chester County for the 2021-2022 Membership Year. This year, the program aims to serve This program provide low-income girls with innovative, out-of-school-time leadership development programming at no cost.

Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation Grant Proposal FY22

I. Organization's History, Goals, Key Achievements and Distinctiveness

Girl Scouts was founded over 110 years ago on the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in order to prepare *all* girls to meet their world with courage, confidence, and character. For over a century, our organization has been building female leaders of the next generation through various leadership experiences, advocacy efforts, and community service opportunities that are for and by the girls we serve.

In 2007, three Girl Scout councils merged to create Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP), which is now the largest leadership development organization for girls in Pennsylvania, and the 8th largest Girl Scout council in the United States, out of 111. GSEP annually serves close to 35,000 girls, ages 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. GSEP engages girls through a variety of programs, including troops, summer camp/outdoor programs, single-event and series programming, and the entrepreneurial cookie program. Whether girls are participating in community service, learning how to build a fire at camp, or meeting women leaders, Girl Scouting allows them to discover their identities, connect with peers, and make the world a better place.

II. Funding Request

A study by Malala Fund states that: "The educational consequences of COVID-19 will last beyond the period of school closures, disproportionately affecting marginalized girls." During the 2020-2021 school year, children's education and development was severely impacted due to the pandemic. Access to girls in schools was not possible, and the number of girls participating in after school and summer Girl Scout programming decreased significantly. Every girl deserves to become the leader she wants to be, and the world needs her to be, which is why our programming is important now more than ever.

After the social isolation, inconsistency, and trauma caused by the pandemic, girls are relying on Girl Scouts to provide them with the skills they need to continue their educational and personal development. Creating accessibility to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience becomes a strategic imperative, as girls who need financial aid are specifically positioned to benefit most from Girl Scout programming. According to the Girl Scout Research Institute, girls from lower socioeconomic statuses tend to experience amplified positive effects of Girl Scout programming. These girls particularly show a larger gain in problem solving skills, leading to higher academic success and higher reports of having adult mentors to help them pursue their goals. Moreover, during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have experienced a disproportionate amount of trauma within the home. The normal protective factors of positive adult mentorship through in- and out-of-school activities mitigates these effects. Girl Scout programming can provide key elements to overcome any deficits that COVID-19 and remote learning may have created for girls of all socioeconomic statuses. All girls, regardless of financial or family circumstances, deserve access to quality programming that enables them to reach their full potential, which is this program's primary objective.

Funding from the Foundation would directly support The Funded Initiatives Program in Chester County, which would allow GSEP to continue its efforts to equip girls with the necessary tools to face challenges and provide them with a support system that fosters the development of leadership and life skills. The Funded Initiatives Program engages more than approximately 3,825 girls between the ages of 5 and 18 who reside in underserved areas throughout Greater Philadelphia. Girls in this program meet during the school year and summer through integrated troop or series programming in their schools and communities. At meetings, girls participate in fun and engaging Girl Scout *Journeys* that serve as the core curriculum. An age-appropriate, research-based curriculum, helps them attain specific leadership development outcomes, builds their self-esteem, and enables them to see themselves as current and future leaders. The opportunity to participate in Funded Initiatives is provided at no cost to girls who wish to join.

Girls also have access to supplemental Girl Scout programs that focus on the four program pillars: STEM, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship, and the Outdoors. Furthermore, funds raised from participation in the Girl Scout Cookie Program—in which they develop the five important skills that are characteristic of Girl Scouts: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics—are allocated to funds that provide girls with an introduction to outdoor camping experiences through a camporee.

GSEP also works with school and community organizations to start their Girl Scout engagement with a series instead of a troop. The series serves girls' entire school, community population, or grade level and provides them

with common tools and skills to set them up for success. Series are limited-engagement programs that take place during the school year and/or summer, and have a specific program focus. These programs typically last for four to eight sessions, and each session lasts for 45-90 minutes. Series programming may focus on STEM pathways that introduce girls to careers in the sciences, body confidence, anti-bullying, or mental and physical health.

In order to deliver the most effective programming possible to girls in Chester County, GSEP meets girls where they are through partnerships with local school districts and community sites directly in the county. GSEP's specific partners include the Oxford Area School District, the Radnor Township School District, Twin Valley School District, West Chester Area School District, Great Valley School District, as well as various community organizations, such as the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs. In past Membership Years, the Funded Initiatives Program has served more than 200 girls annually in Chester County who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunch to address community-specific needs, such as increasing school engagement, reinforcing girls' confidence, and providing necessary support from trusted adult mentors.

III. Anticipated Outcomes

GSEP's Funded Initiatives Program provides girls in underserved communities with the opportunity to participate in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) at no cost. Girls in this program choose pathways from a research-based curriculum in the areas of STEM, the Outdoors, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship that help them to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Girls develop a **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, her success directly validates the Girl Scout mission to **build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place**. This model enables girls to see themselves as current and future leaders with proven results. All girls, regardless of financial circumstances, deserve to have access to quality programming that enables them to reach their full potential, which is this initiative's primary objective.

GSEP's Membership Year runs from October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022, and evaluation surveys are distributed at the beginning and end of each Membership Year.

IV. How Impact and Results Will Be Demonstrated

GSEP has developed increasingly rigorous metrics to determine program effectiveness. First, leaders maintain attendance records that track the participation of all girls enrolled. This enables the Council to ensure that girls are consistently engaged. GSEP also administers pre- and post-program surveys designed to assess each program's impact over the course of each Membership Year. This survey assesses girls' progress with respect to the aforementioned leadership outcomes delineated by the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) program model, as well as their reported engagement in school.

In analyzing the data from the girl surveys, GSEP compares the change in the number of girls who scored high (in the aggregate) on each outcome from the beginning to the end of the program. In reporting, we identify both the percentages of girls who achieve the outcome at the end of the program and the percentage change in girls who achieved the outcome. The qualitative pieces are coded and analyzed by the Senior Director, Strategy and Data Management to identify commonalities and notable differences across age-levels, counties, and troops.

GSEP and the Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation have a common goal to remain responsive to community needs in order to have a meaningful impact on the population of Chester County. This request for support is an opportunity to continue that enduring impact. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, women comprise 50.8% of the nation's overall population. Therefore, investing in girls today will produce the greatest return in economic development, social progress, and public health by not only improving individual lives, but the lives of most of the population. Together, we can inspire the next generation of girls to lead with courage, confidence, and character.