



GSTF Community Troops Impact Report 2023-2024



During the 2023-24 school year, **Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida's (GSTF) Community Troops** program provided a fully subsidized Girl Scout leadership experience to over 600 girls in 17 low-income Miami-Dade communities.

Through Community Troops, GSTF seeks to ensure that no girl in Miami-Dade is excluded from participation in Girl Scouts due to socio-economic status or lack of supportive community infrastructure.

The program is Girl Scouting at its core: girls are organized in staff led troops that meet weekly in their neighborhood Girl earn badges, get outdoors, develop entrepreneurial skills, and build self-confidence.



Community Troops not only expands girls' vision and expectations for their futures, but also makes a tangible impact on girls' confidence and self-esteem that will help them succeed far beyond Girl Scouts.



Evaluation Info



After participating in the Community Troops program girls reported...



increased levels of self-confidence.



increased levels of integrity.



greater ability to display caring behavior.



increased engagement in challenging goal setting.



improved level of healthy relationships with their peers.



improved sense of belonging among peers.



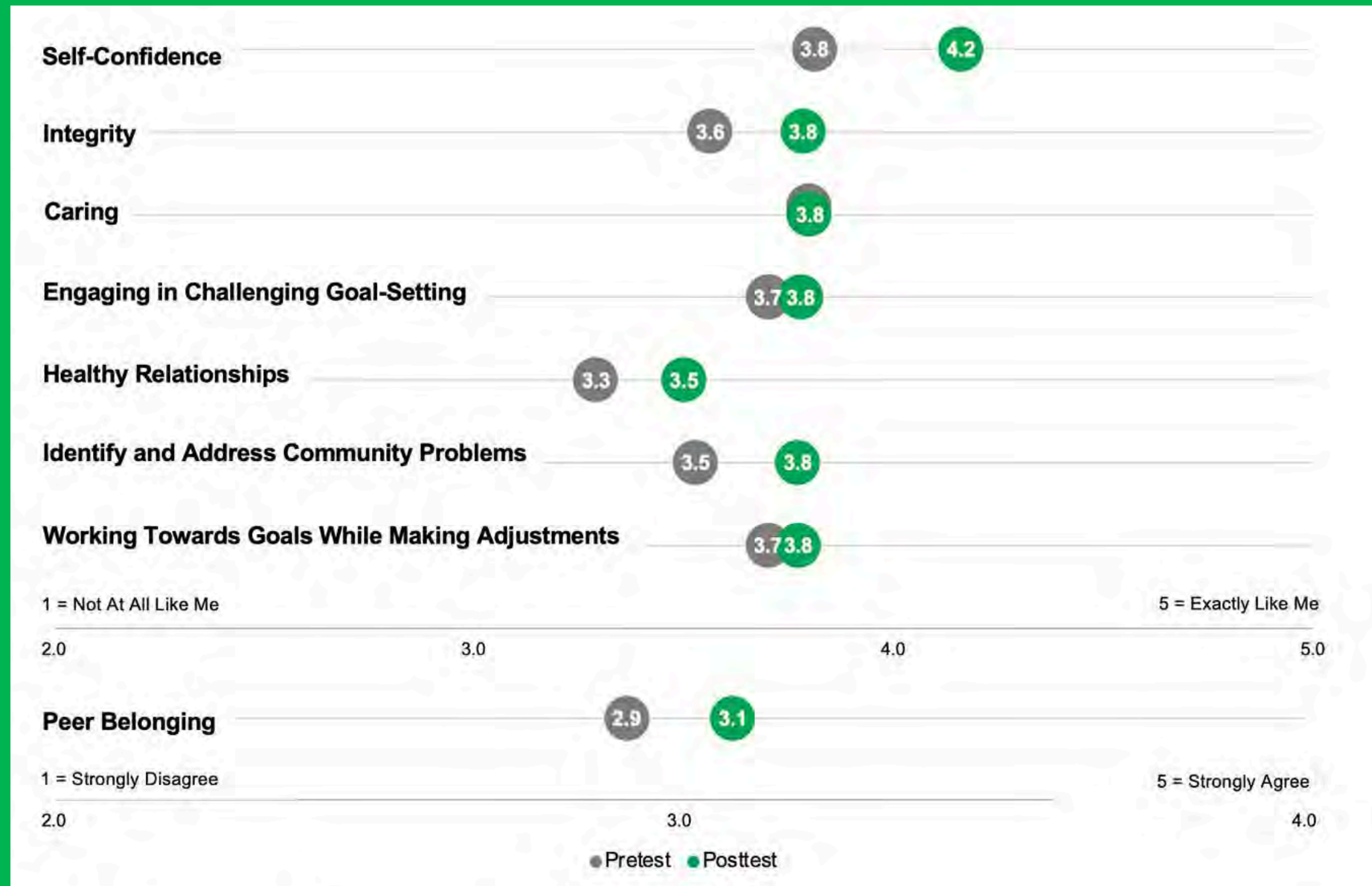
increased ability to identify and address community problems.



improved ability to work towards goals while making adjustments.

GSTF has continued to work with EvalNetwork to collect Community Troops program data. Each girl completed an annual pre and post survey to determine the program's impact on outcomes across several domains related to leadership, community impact, goal-setting, and social skills.

Eight domains were compared including: 1) self-confidence, 2) integrity, 3) caring, 4) engagement in challenging goal-setting, 5) healthy relationships, 6) peer belonging, 7) ability to identify and address community problems, and 8) ability to work towards goals while making adjustments.

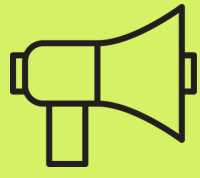


7 of the 8 domains increased from pre and post survey.

The areas of self-confidence, integrity, healthy relationships, and ability to identify and address community problems increased the most.



Program Highlights

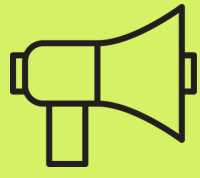


GIRL Fest marks the beginning of the Girl Scout year in September. This year, 104 Girl Scouts from Community Troops participated in GIRL Fest at the Westchester Regional Library.

The theme, “Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The Environment & Peace,” inspired Girl Scouts to learn about the environment and collaborate with nature to foster a more peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere. The girls enjoyed engaging with various program partners, connecting with sister troops, playing games, and creating arts and crafts. 30 girls from Community Troops also participated in a Council wide bridging ceremony, progressing to the next level in Girl Scouting.



On October 14, 30 girls in Community Troops participated in a fishing event at Tropical Park. Girls learned essential fishing skills and discovered the various fish that inhabit Florida waters. Girls practiced how to bait a fishing rod, attach a line, tie a hook, identify a great fishing spot, experiment with bobber-fishing, embrace the art of patience, set the hook, and cast their rods. Unfortunately, no fish were caught during the event but girls still had fun!



On October 28, GSTF held its “Be the Change” Older Girl Conference. 20 girls in Community Troops participated in the event where they engaged with fellow Girl Scouts from various troops, learned about advocacy, and listened to a panel discussion on how to champion issues important to them. By the end of the conference, girls made new friends and earned a “Be the Change” patch.



On November 10-11, Community Troops hosted the Great American Campout at Camp Mahachee. 56 Girl Scouts from Troops 1907, 2023, 1025, 2420, 2232, 1874 and 1877 participated, earning their Camping Badge. The campout was planned and run by older Girl Scouts (6-12 grade) with adult supervision.

Activities for this two-day campout included tie-dying, knot tying, fire building, tent building, making no-bake snacks, hiking, and more.



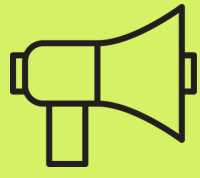
On November 18, 42 girls from Community Troops took part in a 1st annual Turkey Bowl at Camp Little House in South Miami. Girls participated in field day activities such as an egg walk, potato sack race, three-legged race, tent building competition and more.

In order to sign-up for the event, girls were encouraged to donate one canned good and/or a non-perishable item to go into “turkey” bags for families. Turkeys were donated from Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera’s office and the bags were distributed to 12 Community Troop families in need.

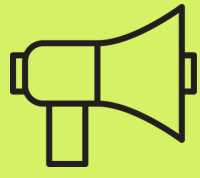


On December 9, over 100 girls from Community Troops participated in Cookie U, an annual GSTF event held at the University of Miami to launch Girl Scout cookie season.

At the event, girls were able to learn about different cookie flavors and cookie rewards as well as practice their cookie-selling skills on volunteer “Cookie Customers.” Following the event, girls attended a UM Women’s Basketball.



On December 9, 24 older Girl Scouts (Cadette, Senior, Ambassador) planned a “Santa’s Workshop” for the residents of Lotus House, making small holiday gifts for themselves, their families, and friends. Girls set-up booths where residents could make cocoa in a jar, holiday bracelets, Christmas cards, sugar scrubs, decorative mugs, and cookies.

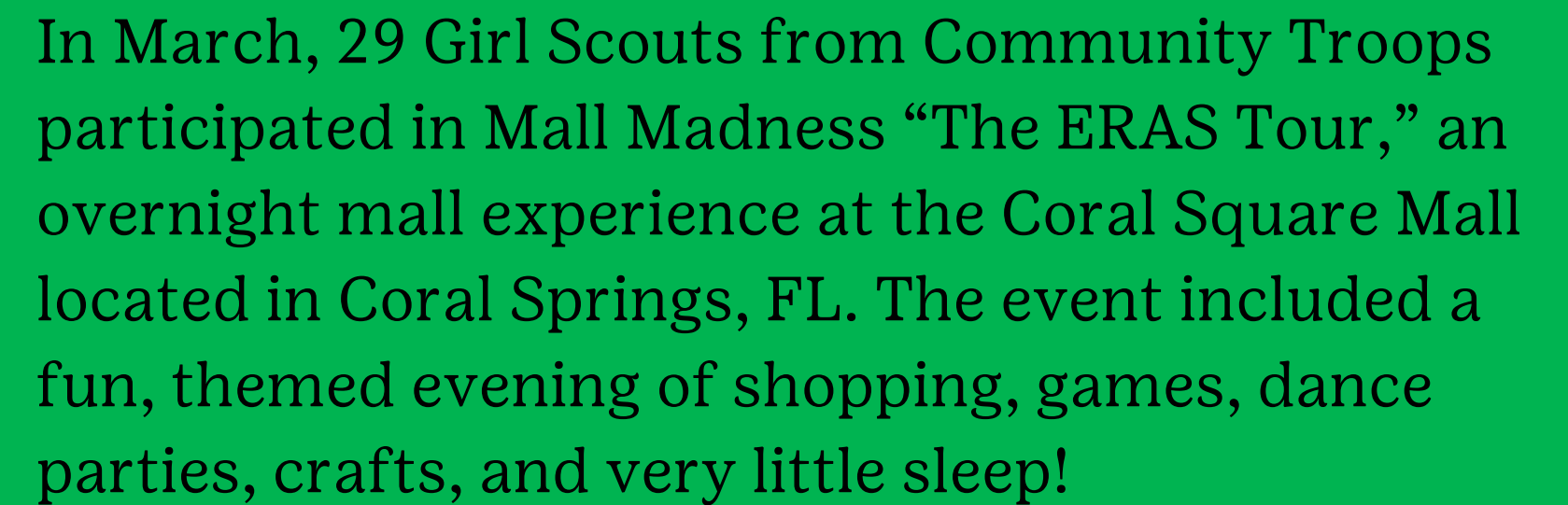


On January 15, 32 girls participated in the 2024 MLK Day Parade & Festival in Liberty City. Girl Scouts distributed candy during the parade and also took the opportunity to sell cookies while waiting to line-up! Girls enjoyed being part of this annual community-wide tradition.



The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the world where girls learn key entrepreneurial skills such as marketing, budgeted and money management. Girls in Community Troops participated in the six-week-long cookie program from January 13 – February 25.

During the 2024 Cookie Season, girls in Community Troops sold over 15,000 packages of cookies. The girls decided they wanted to direct the money raised towards their end of year trip.

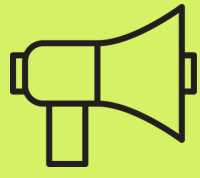




STEM



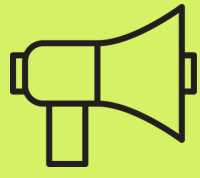
On April 6, 41 girls from Community Troops attended the 3rd Annual Aviation Day with American Airlines. The girls toured an American Airlines aircraft, visited stations to learn more about aviation careers, and earned their Aviation Day Patch.



As part of GSTF's college access series, 16 girls in Community Troops toured FIU and experienced college life from senior tour-guide and Girl Scout alum, Maggie. Girls learned about the college application and admissions process, different class offerings and were able to receive a full campus tour.



In April 12, 45 girls from Community Troops participate in the annual Miami-Dade County Baynanza event at the Historic Virginia Key Beach. Girls earned about the history of Virginia Key Beach while cleaning up debris from the beaches. Girls earned their Baynanza Patch.



In May, girls and their parents had a chance to bond at the Community Troops Mother's Day Tea Party at Larry & Penny Thompson Park. 22 girls attended with their families and made cards that were mailed to their mothers for Mother's Day, took photos, and played outdoor games.



STEM



On May 18, 6 older Girl Scouts from Community Troops attended GSTF's Careers in Healthcare Day at Jackson West Hospital. Girls heard from a female anesthesiologist/ICU medical director, a nurse and an engineer about their careers; toured the hospital; and also explored different medical departments while earning their Careers in STEM Badge.



On May 24-26, nearly 100 Girl Scouts joined the annual Spring Community Troops Camp-Out at Camp Mahachee. This fun-filled weekend included fencing, sling shots, outdoor cooking activities, comic strip making and crocheting.



In June, 80 girls from Community Troops participated in an annual year-end trip which they funded with earnings from cookie sales.

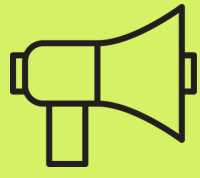
This year, the girls voted and chose Island H2O Water Park in Orlando for their destination. Before the trip, Girl Scouts learned about water and water safety and worked on their Wonders of Water Journeys.



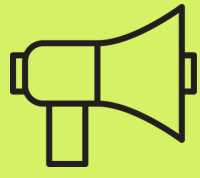
STEM



On June 10-14, 25 Girl Scouts from Community Troops participated in STEM Camp at Camp Mahachie. Girl Scouts learned about pollination and bees, earned Robotics 1, 2, and 3 Badges with Snapology Miami, completed Coding Badges 1 and 2 with Minds of Tomorrow, and worked on their Trees Badge and Junior Animal Habitat Badge.



As part of GSTF's college access series, 9 girls from Community Troop participated in a 1st annual Florida College Tour. Girls visited St. Thomas University, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, Valencia College, and University of Tampa where they toured campuses, met with current students, and learned about different programs and resources offered by each school. This experience provided valuable insight into college life and inspired the girls to plan for their educational futures.



On August 10-11, 12 girls from Community Troops participated in an overnight “College Hill,” an event which provided girls with a mock college life experience.

During the weekend, girls received a welcome packet with their class schedule; took part in team building activities; and learned about SAT/ACT prep, self-defense and Girl Scout Highest Awards.



The Girl Scouts Community Troops Program is supported by:

The Batchelor Foundation
The Carrie Meek Foundation
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