



# Girl Scouts Community Troops Program Impact Report 2022-2023

**girl scouts**   
of tropical florida



During the 2022-23 school year, **Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida's (GSTF) Community Troops** program provided a fully subsidized Girl Scout experience to over **600 girls in 19 low-income communities** across Miami-Dade County.

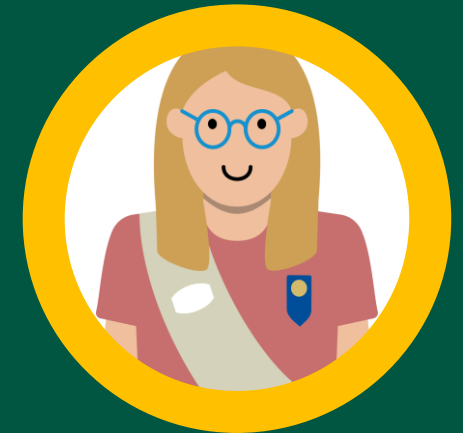
Through Community Troops, GSTF seeks to ensure that no girl in Miami-Dade County is excluded from participation in Girl Scouts due to socio-economic status or lack of supportive community infrastructure.

The program is Girl Scouting at its core: girls are organized in troops that meet weekly in their neighborhood, they 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



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, STEM, community impact, goal-setting, and social skills.

Eleven domains were compared including: healthy relationships, engagement in challenging goal-setting, self-confidence, self-esteem, and improved ability to work toward goals while making adjustments.

After participating in the CT program, girls reported...	
	increased levels of self-confidence.
	increased levels of integrity.
	increased engagement in challenging goal setting.
	increased ability to identify and address community problem.



**5 of the 8 domains increased from pre and post survey.**

The areas of self-confidence and integrity significantly improved.



# 2022-2023 Program Highlights



## Entrepreneurship



On October 5, Miami Dade College's Idea Center hosted 22 Girl Scouts in Community Troops for an **Entrepreneurship Day** to launch GSTF's new **college access series**.

The visit included a private tour from MDC alum and local entrepreneur Caro the Tour Guide; remarks from MDC EVP & Provost and Girl Guide Alum Dr. Malou Harrison; a workshop on "How to Build Your Personal Brand," featuring local entrepreneur and film maker Xenia Marcinko; and a pitch workshop where girls were able to showcase their business ideas in front of a group of peers.



## Outdoors



On October 22-23, 25 girls from Community Troops in South Dade held their annual **One Day Campout**.

Girls learned camping essentials including tent building, fire safety and how to build a campfire. Girls also learned songs, played games, tie dyed and made new friends at Camp Mahachee while earning their **Campers Badge**.



## Outdoors



On October 29, 23 Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors from Community Troops attended **Outdoor Skills-O-Rama** at Bill Sadowski Park. Girls learned knot tying, tent building, how to use navigation equipment (e.g., maps, compass) and honed their archery and sling shot skills. The girls also earned their **Outdoor Skills-a-Rama patch**.



## Outdoors



On November 5-6, 39 Girl Scouts from Community Troops in North Dade participated in a **One Day Campout**.

The girls learned traditional camping activities such as tie dying, how to make “sit upons,” bracelet making, fire building and more. Staff from Nicklaus Children’s Hospital also taught the girls how to create a balanced meal from the Five Food Groups and the benefits of eating foods with various colors. The girls were very engaged and earned part of their **Food Badge** and their **Camper Badge**.

## Life Skills



On December 3, 9 girls from Community Troops participated in GSTF's **Zombie Apocalypse Event**.

The theme focused on survival skills in a "Zombie Apocalypse!" Girls learned how to create a shelter and a stretcher to use for emergency transport as well as how to create a cell phone charger.



## Entrepreneurship



On December 11, 65 Girl Scouts from Community Troops rallied at University of Miami's Knight's Sports Complex for **Cookie U**, preparing for the launch of Cookie Season!

Girls learned key skills for cookie season including budgeting, marketing and how to make their cookie pitch. UM Women's Basketball Coach and Girl Scout alum Coach Katie Meier also spoke about how Girl Scouts can be leaders in their communities and motivated the girls to be "cookie entrepreneurs."

## Life Skills



On January 14, 20 girls from Community Troops participated in an **MLK Parade** in Liberty City. Girls proudly represented Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida with a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary banner.





## Entrepreneurship



The **Girl Scout Cookie Program** is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world. Girls in Community Troops participated in the six-week-long cookie program from January 14 – February 26.

Through the Girl Scouts Cookie Program, Girl Scouts learn five essential skills: 1) Goal Setting, 2) Decision Making, 3) Money Management, 4) People Skills and 5) Business Ethics.

## Life Skills



On February 20, 22 high school girls from Community Troops toured the campus of **Barry University** as part of GSTF's college access program. For many, this was their first time on a college campus.

Girl Scouts had the opportunity to learn about the admissions process and financial aid; tour the school of nursing and business school; and visit the Student Union. The admissions counselors explained the difference between acceptance and graduation rates and gifted them with a Barry University drawstring backpack.





On February 24 – 26, 30 girls from Community Troops participated in a council-wide **Centennial Camporee**.

Girls had the opportunity to bond with Girl Scouts from other troops while participating in a variety of outdoor and STEM activities, hiking, s'mores and an amazing race competition. This year marked Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida's Centennial year and the theme was "celebrating our past, present, and future."



## STEM



On April 1, 22 girls from Community Troops attended the **American Airlines Aviation Day** to empower girls to “dream big” and learn about aviation.

The girls toured an American Airlines 777, visited vendor tables, heard from women in a variety of aviation careers, and earned an **Aviation patch**.



## Outdoors



On April 15, 33 girls from Community Troops participated in the **2023 Miami-Dade County Bayanza** at Crandon Park.

This year marked the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary for the countywide event. Girls helped give back to their community by assisting in a beach clean-up.

## Outdoors / STEM

On April 22-23, 56 girls from both South and North Dade Community Troops attended the **2023 Spring Campout** at Camp Mahachie. The theme focused on self-expression!

Girls earned badges ranging from **My Best Self, Science of Happiness and Science of Style**. They made scented water-based lotion, oatmeal facial scrub, participated in yoga, relay races, friendship circles, and more. Nicklaus Children's Hospital staff also spoke with the girls about self-expression and how to focus on positive affirmations.





## Life Skills

The **Silver Award** is the second highest award a Girl Scout can earn. On June 4, at GSTF's annual **Highest Awards Ceremony**, Girl Scouts Heaven and Jaslen received their Silver Award for hosting a community resource fair at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Homestead, FL. The goal of their project, which included an event and resource guide, was to make it easier for the community to find resources in their local area.



## Outdoors



On June 9, 80 girls from Community Troops attended an **End of the Year Party** to celebrate the girls' accomplishments throughout the year!

This year, girls voted to use some of their cookie money and travel to Aquatica Water Park where they participated in water fun, lazy and rapid rivers, games, and delicious food.



## STEM



On June 12-16, 31 girls in Community Troops participated in **STEM Camp** at Camp Mahachee where they explored a variety of STEM activities such as outdoor art, claymation movie making, studying local butterflies and plants, and more.

Girls **earned multiple badges** including ECO Friends, Shapes In Nature, and Outdoor Art Maker, ECO Learner, Shapes In Nature, Entertainment Technology, and Digital Movie Maker.





## Life Skills



From June 20-24, 16 girls from Community Troops participated in GSTF's First Travel Camp/College Tour.

Girls heard a **College Prep 101** presentation from former Coral Gables Senior High School CAP Advisor Liz Stack and had the opportunity to tour both **Florida Memorial University** and **Nova University**.



**The Girl Scouts Community Troops Program is supported by:**

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Thank You!

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