

THE GIRLS INC EXPERIENCE

“The future success of our global economy relies on girls having access to the education and resources they need for careers and leadership roles in finance, economics and technology....when girls are given the opportunities to reach their full potential, all of society benefits.”

- Arlene Isaacs-Lowe
Global Head of CSR at Moody's Corporation
and President of the Moody's Foundation

girls inc.

of Delaware



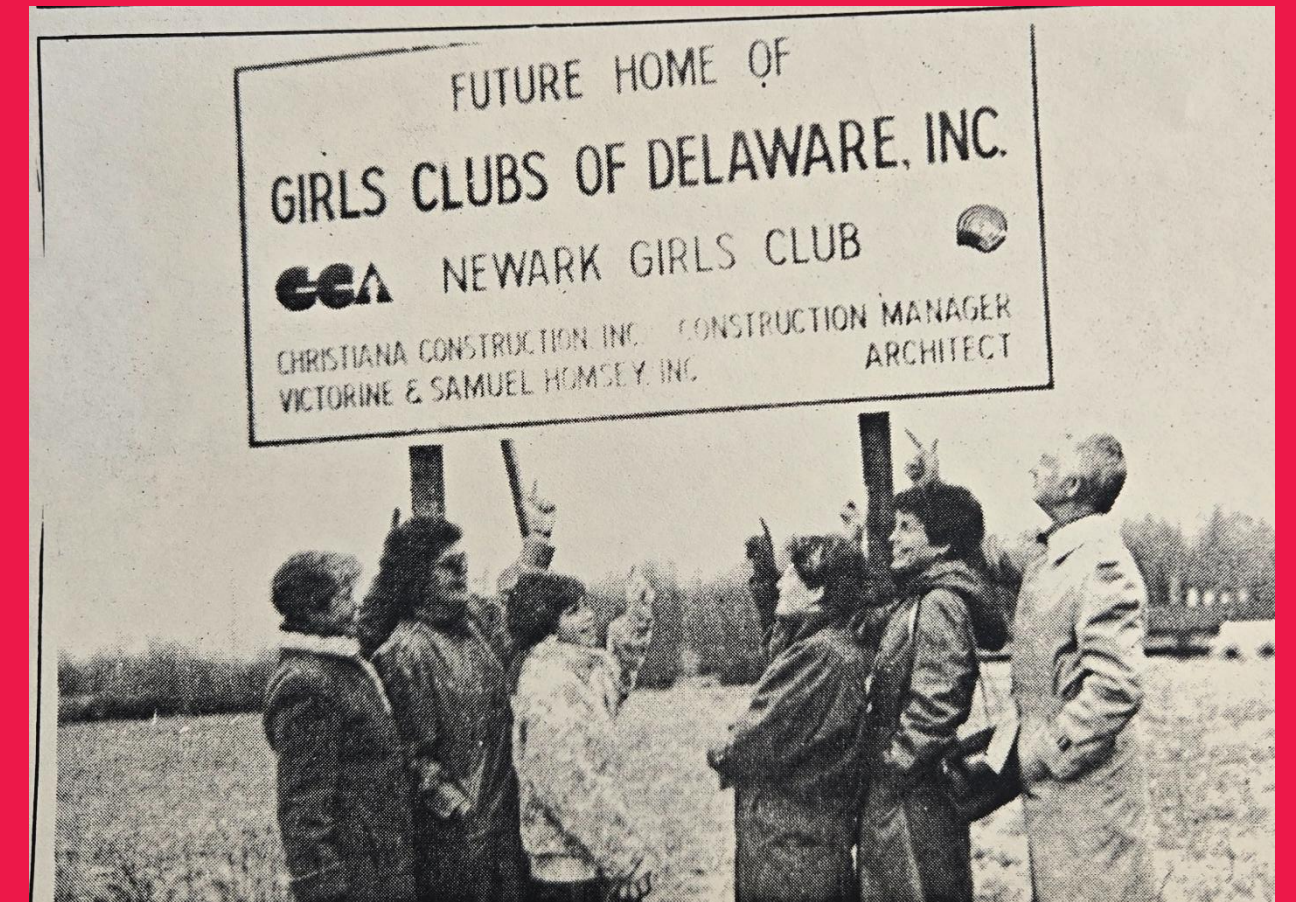
72 YEARS

HISTORY

FOR GIRLS:

Girls Incorporated originated as the Girls Club and was founded in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1864.

The early clubs were safe havens and social/educational centers for the young women who worked in northeastern mill towns during the Industrial Revolution. Girls Clubs of America was later formed, in 1945 from a nucleus of 19 clubs. The purpose was adjusted to address the need for strong central administration and a focus that would have a national impact on policies, attitudes, and institutions. Membership voted to change the name to girls Incorporated in 1990, to underscore the organization's view that girls' needs are more complex and tougher than ever.



GIRLS INC.
TIMELINE, VISION & MISSION

SERVING GIRLS FOR MORE THAN
160 YEARS NATIONALLY & MORE THAN
70 YEARS IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE

TIMELINE



1864

The inaugural Girls Club was established in Waterbury, CT during the height of the Suffrage Movement.



Early 1900s

The early 1900's were marked by significant advancements in women's rights including the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.



1990

Membership voted to change the name to Girls Incorporated in 1990, to underscore the organization's view that girls' needs are more complex and tougher than ever.

VISION: Empowered girls in an equitable society.



MISSION: Inspire ALL girls to be **STRONG, SMART, and BOLD!**

girls
inc.

of Delaware

1895

The organization expanded its presence to Massachusetts with the goal of improving conditions for girls in the workforce and later grew to 125 clubs in the Eastern United States.



1953

Girls Club of Delaware was officially incorporated on November 27, 1953, by Mary C. Dennison, pioneering opportunities and safe spaces for girls in Delaware. The club began in 1954.



2025

Wenona Sutton was appointed Executive Director of Girls Inc. of Delaware, launching a new era of stability, growth, and strategic direction to strengthen programs, rebuild community trust, and expand opportunities for girls statewide.



SO WHY GIRLS INC?

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

HEALTH

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TO LEAD AND THRIVE, GIRLS NEED TO BE EMOTIONALLY STRONG. YET THE PREVALENCE OF DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY IS INCREASING AMONG TEEN GIRLS IN THE U.S.



In 2023, CDC found that:
4 in 10 (40%) students had persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. But this number was higher for girls at nearly 3 in 5 teen girls (53%).

Also, 2 in 10 (20%) students seriously considered attempting suicide and nearly 1 in 10 (9%) attempted suicide.



Female students and LGBTQ+ students experienced more signs of poor mental health and suicidal thoughts and behaviors than their male and cisgender and heterosexual peers.

Although the prevalence of mood disorders such as depression is roughly the same for pre-teen girls and boys—3% to 5%—by mid-adolescence, 14% to 20% of girls are diagnosed with a mood disorder.

SO WHY GIRLS INC?

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

EDUCATION

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THOUGH TITLE IX (1972) OPENED OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS IN EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS, DISPARITIES STILL EXIST, ESPECIALLY IN ADVANCED STEAM FIELDS.



Compared with boys, girls are less likely to repeat a grade and are more likely to like school and say good grades are important. They also graduate from high school at higher rates and are more likely to attend college when compared with boys.

Despite their achievements, by the time they enter high school, fewer girls take STEM-related advanced math and science courses. They are less confident in their math and science skills.



Furthermore, while there has been an increasing amount of focus in recent years on reducing the gender disparity in STEM, some fields still continue to see a decline in female representation.

In 1984, women represented 37.1% of all computer science degrees, but by 2015 this number fell to 18%.

SO WHY GIRLS INC?

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

LEADERSHIP & PAY

**girls
inc.**
of Delaware

CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL LABOR AND EDUCATION DATA, WOMEN AND GIRLS REMAIN UNDERREPRESENTED IN HIGH-PAYING TECHNICAL AND LEADERSHIP ROLES.



While there are more women today in key leadership positions than ever before, there still exists a pervasive gender gap in top leadership, and an even larger gap in the representation of women of color.

Among Fortune 500 companies, only 55 CEOs (11%) are women as of 2025. Only 2 of these are women of color.



A fear of being perceived negatively affects girls' behavior.

While 61% of girls say they like to be in charge, almost half of girls (46%) report not speaking their minds or disagreeing with others because they want to be seen as likeable.

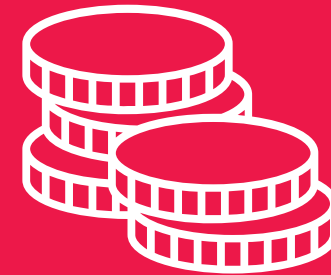
SO WHY GIRLS INC FOR DELAWARE?

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

LOCAL DATA

Afterschool unmet demand is high: DE fact sheet shows strong parent support; for every child enrolled, multiple would attend if a program were available.

Afterschool returns >\$3 for every \$1 invested (higher earnings, better school performance, reduced delinquency).



Poverty & The City of Wilmington Community Context
Wilmington poverty rate (2023): 23.2%,

Well above state average; median household income \$55k.



Delaware's literacy rates shows 75% of fourth-graders lacking reading proficiency as of 2024, placing the state 45th nationally in education outcomes.

HOW DOES GIRLS INC MAKE CHANGE?

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

IDENTITY PROGRAMS

GIRLS INC. PROGRAM MODEL:

EVIDENCE-BASED, RESEARCH-BACKED CURRICULUM FOCUSING ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND LIFE SKILLS.

Girls Inc. Identity Programs, central to the Girls Inc. Experience:

- Girls Inc. Operation SMART® - (STEM)
- Girls Inc. Literacy - (Reading Readiness)
- Girls Inc. Friendly PEERsuasion® - (Substance Abuse & Peer Pressure)
- Girls Inc. Healthy Living - (Healthy Sexuality)
- Girls Inc. Mind+Body - (Mental and Physical Health)
- Girls Inc. Sporting Chance - (Athletic Skills, Cooperative & Competitive Spirit)
- Girls Inc. Economic Literacy
- Girls Inc. Leadership and Community Action - (Leadership & Advocacy)
- Girls Inc. Media Literacy
- Girls Inc. Project BOLD - (Self Defense & Self Confidence)

The overall aim is to empower girls to achieve their academic, personal, and career aspirations by providing them with the necessary skills and confidence.



PROGRAM STRATEGY

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

PROGRAM DESIGN PRINCIPLES

DEPTH

EFFICIENCY

CONNECTIONS

PROGRAM DELIVERY

OUTREACH
PROGRAMS

IN-HOUSE
PROGRAMS

EXTENDED
LEARNING

GIDE IN-HOUSE PROGRAMS

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

ELEMENTARY

Programs

Delivery:

On-Site, One Saturday A Month



Bold Beginnings

Ages 5–9 | Grade Level: K – 3rd

Curriculum Focus: Reading Readiness, Healthy Living (Mind + Body), with an introduction to Community & Leadership

Bright Futures

Ages 9–11 | Grade Level 4th – 5th

Curriculum Focus: Operation Smart, Media Literacy, with an introduction to Community & Leadership & Sporting Chance



Extended Summer Learning – Smart Start Academy

K-3rd | Participants take part in sessions focused on literacy and sporting chance activities, designed to prevent summer learning loss and build healthy habits and confidence.

4th-5th | Participants engage in sessions emphasizing STEM problem-solving, literacy reinforcement, and leadership basics.

GIDE OUTREACH-BASED PROGRAMS

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Program

Delivery:

On-Site, One Saturday A Month



She Leads Program

Ages 12–14 | Grade Level: 6th – 8th

Curriculum Focus: Healthy Sexuality, Media Literacy (#HalfTheStory), PEERsuasion, and Leadership & Advocacy, with an introduction to Sporting Chance and Project BOLD

Extended Spring Break Learning – Sporting Chance

Participants engage in a 1-week sports program voted on by students (options include golf, volleyball, rowing, lacrosse, basketball, or soccer). The program emphasizes self-awareness, social awareness, empowerment, and engagement, using athletics as a vehicle to build confidence, teamwork, and leadership.



Extended Summer Learning – Bold Camp

Participants take part in a 2-week camp focused on safety, self-defense, and empowerment through Project BOLD. Girls build confidence, self-worth, and resilience while learning to respond to threats, prevent bullying and harassment, and navigate challenges at home, in relationships, and in their communities.

GIDE OUTREACH-BASED PROGRAMS

Inspiring All Girls to be Strong, Smart, & Bold!

HIGH SCHOOL

Programs

Delivery:

On-Site, One Saturday A Month



Project Dream Bold

Ages 14–16 | Grade Level: 9th – 10th

Curriculum Focus: Early career exploration through with a foundation in STEM and introductory AI literacy.

Leadership & Advocacy is introduced and culminates in a capstone experience at the end of the year. Experiential learning includes trips to Washington, D.C. and Dover.

Project Accelerate

Ages 16–24 | Grade Level: 11th–12th + College

Curriculum Focus: Advanced workforce development / college planning, networking and interview skills, paired with 1:1 mentorship. enrichment through guest speakers and experiential trips to Washington, D.C. and Dover.



Extended Summer Learning – 4 Week Eureka Camp

Participants complete a 3-week paid externship, take part in an overnight college visit, engage in career and personal development activities, and conclude with an enriching trip to the FIFA World Cup. Scholarship opportunities available.

THE GIRLS INC EXPERIENCE!

OUR VALUES SUPPORT EVERYTHING WE DO!

- ***Recognize and support the strength in every girl.***

We welcome and celebrate girls for who they are.

- ***Respect the dignity of each human being and demonstrate genuine care and concern for the well-being of others.***

We recognize the inherent value of all individuals.

- ***Understand and appreciate diversity, embrace inclusiveness, and advance equity.***

It is core to our mission that we model and support the equitable and fair treatment of all.

- ***Drive for results anchored in integrity and accountability.***

In order to achieve the highest impact for girls, we are accountable to the goals we set, transparent in measuring and reporting outcomes, and committed to continuous learning.

- ***Collaborate for impact.***

We achieve the greatest results by working cross-functionally internally while leveraging the Girls Inc. network and external partners who share core values.



THANK YOU