



Inspiring all girls to be **Strong, Smart, and Bold**

AUGUST 2016

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To raise money for our programs, we are hosting the **Be Bold Margarita Competition**, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, which has become a very successful, fun event.

Last year we had highly creative and energetic amateur margarita-making teams from a variety of Houston businesses, friends, and even amateur sporting groups vying for the top awards. The event raised much needed funds for our programs as well as introduced the Girls Inc. mission to new people throughout Houston. **Sponsors, teams, and silent auction items are needed!**

The competition will take place on **Thursday, October 6, 2016** at BBVA Compass Stadium, at 2200 Texas Street, from 6-8 p.m. We are proud to announce that the Houston Dash will be presenting the event, with all proceeds benefiting Girls Inc. of Greater Houston. There will be many opportunities with the Houston Dash with your sponsorship. In addition to the margarita teams, the highly popular *Queso Throwdown* will be back. For information, contact Laura at [laura@girlsinc-houston.org](mailto:laura@girlsinc-houston.org).

**Whole Foods Giving Day – Wednesday August 17**



We are pleased to announce that Girls Inc. of Greater Houston has been chosen to take part in Whole Foods Giving Day. Join us at the **Whole Foods Montrose** store at 701 Waugh Dr, Houston, TX 77019 on **Wednesday, August 17, 2016**.

A portion of the sales that day will be directly donated to Girls Inc. of Greater Houston.

Girls Inc. staff and program participants will be on hand from 11 am - 7 p.m. See first-hand the change that Girls Inc. can make in a girls' life and hear directly from the girls the impact programs are having on them. Demonstrations will be taking place of some of our more popular activities and staff will be there to answer any questions you may have from **11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Please stop by and say hello! They have a great salad bar for lunch or dinner!



## Summer camp strong!

The summer break does not stop our “strong, smart, and bold” girls from staying active and engaging with the wonderful world around them. Our **Camp BitSMART** for girls ages 7-11 met at Hogg Middle School, where they enjoyed physical activity, arts and crafts, personal development sessions, and more.

Of course, it’s not a Girls Inc. camp without a myriad of fun STEM activities. This summer, the little engineers built cardboard boats and tested them in the swimming pool with Halliburton volunteers, planted seeds in their own garden glove, and competed in a catapult-launching contest. The campers even learned about metamorphosis and observed butterfly larvae transition into their chrysalis form.

Many exciting guests stopped by, like archeologist Dr. Scotty Moore, who inspired the girls to unearth their inner Indiana Jones with fun scavenger challenges. Author J.L. Clark read an excerpt from her novel, *The Avalon Relics: Lilith Links* and had the girls creatively express themselves in a storytelling session. Another memorable camp visitor was Stephanie Ochs from the Houston Dash, who came to do soccer drills in the gym. Despite the rain, the girls still got to kick it like a pro.



## Follow Girls Inc of Greater Houston on social media

Facebook - GirlsIncHouston  
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The participants also engaged in thought-provoking discussions on diversity, anti-bullying, and social justice – from which they became inspired to make a difference in the world as strong, smart, and bold leaders. After the two-week camp, the girls were ready to use their newfound knowledge and enthusiasm to shine even brighter into the new school year.

Although **Camp BitSMART** was the last summer camp before semester programming begins in mid-September, there will be a Spring Break Camp tentatively scheduled for 2017. For more information on the camps and programs, contact Susie Ventura at [Susie@girlsinc-houston.org](mailto:Susie@girlsinc-houston.org).

### Please donate today!

Your support is making a difference! With your help, we equip girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Girls build confidence and embrace positive decision-making to take charge of their health and wellbeing, and achieve academic, personal, and career goals.

## We are proud to introduce Susie Ventura as our new Program Director

Susie Ventura has served in leadership roles for various youth development organizations with very similar visions as that of Girls Inc. including C5 Youth Foundation of Texas, Amigos de las Americas, and The Children’s Center. Her passion is celebrating young minds as she believes in their power, creativity, and potential to do great things as young leaders. “I am excited to join Girls Inc. to continue fulfilling my personal goal to inspire girls to **happily** think for themselves,

to stand up for their beliefs, and pursue higher education. Most importantly, I want to convey to them that the actions and choices they make as the young individuals of the world can affect and create change now,” she says. Susie enjoys activities like camping, hiking, singing, acting, painting, traveling, and eating dessert. She is thrilled to be a first time mom to her eighteen-month old son, Noah. We are excited to add such a dedicated and passion person to our team.

**Donate Today!**

Consider making a donation to Girls Inc. of Greater Houston. You can find us online at <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/GirlsIncofGreaterHouston/OnlineDonation.html>