



of Greater Houston

RESEARCH-BASED PROGRAMMING

Girls Inc. of Greater Houston programs are offered year-round during summer, spring break and after school (throughout the school year). Camps are offered on-site at partner schools in Houston, Aldine, Chinquapin, Spring and several school districts in the Greater Houston area. In addition to these schools, we also facilitate programs at community partner locations. This includes, but is not limited to community centers, libraries, and churches.

Girls Inc. of Greater Houston has made attending Girls Inc. programs convenient for all girls by providing virtual programs. These unique online programs give girls an opportunity to engage in the Girls Inc. Experience by participating in hands-on remote learning. In most cases, we provide the materials needed to participate in the activity. All you have to do is register ahead of time and log in to join us for an exciting and engaging experience.

At Girls Inc. of Greater Houston, we offer a variety of programs to meet the needs of girls of all developmental stages of their life. Girls Inc. academic enrichment programs focus on reading literacy, economic literacy, science, and math. These programs help girls develop enthusiasm for and skills in STE²M (science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurial, and math)-based subjects. Please click on each topic area to learn more about the dynamic programs we have to offer.

Project Literacy

Project Literacy is a Girls Inc. of Greater Houston reading literacy initiative which addresses the reading literacy-based needs of girls in 1st – 3rd grades. Our Girls Inc. team works closely with educators to align programming with school-day learning.

Girls Inc. of Greater Houston places an emphasis on these grade levels because studies show that one in six children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time. This is a rate four times greater than that for proficient readers.



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Some areas of literacy we focus on are phonics, fluency, phonemic awareness, vocabulary and comprehension. The activities we offer are appealing to girls because they are engaging, fun and interactive. Girls work in groups, individually or with volunteers to improve their reading skills. If you cannot make it to one of our in-person programs, please plan to join us virtually! We provide take-home activity kits for our young readers so they don't miss a minute of Girls Inc. Project Literacy. Some activities that girls can engage online are read-alouds, hands on projects, parent engagement activities and so much more! If you are interested in having Project Literacy at your school, please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org

Financial Literacy

The Girls Inc. of Greater Houston Financial Literacy program promotes financial education and a positive relationship with money among our youth. Learning the concepts of financial literacy at an early age is essential to ensuring a girl's confidence to make informed decisions about her future. By changing girls' attitudes, mindset and behaviors about money and wealth, we can change the trajectory of their lives.

Girls ages 6-18 can participate in this program. Some concepts girls learn about are:

- Saving money
- Determining between wants and needs
- Managing a budget
- Entrepreneurship
- Stock markets and investing
- Their role in the economy

This program is intriguing to girls because their role in the economy plays an important role in the concepts they will learn. The girls enjoy working in groups to solve financial scenarios and then present their ideas to their peers. We also bring in guest speakers from women who are currently working in the field of finance. The goal is to have the girls meet someone who will answer their career-related questions and help them understand what it is to work in a financial position. While this program is typically offered through in-person settings, we are currently offering this program virtually as well. We have take-home kits available so your daughter can participate in the online programs and have all the supplies she needs! If you are interested in participating in Financial Literacy, please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org.



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Imagine Science

Girls Inc. of Greater Houston is a part of a dynamic collaborative partnership with the YMCA of the U.S.A., Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and National 4H Council to bridge the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) gap among historically under-represented youth. Our role within this partnership is to deliver our certified curriculum, Operation SMART (Science, Math and Relevant Technology), to girls in grades 3–8 at various partner sites. The goal of Imagine Science is to work with our community partners to engage youth in having sustained exposure to STEM.

Girls Inc. Operation SMART develops girls' enthusiasm for STEM. Girls learn new skills in this program by exploring their curiosity, problem solving, working in teams and getting the opportunity to creatively come to conclusions based on their own research. Through hands-on activities, girls explore, ask questions, persist, and solve problems. Another intricate part of this program is the professional interactions girls get with women who are in STEM careers. Girls get a chance to interact with women who are currently working in the field. During in person programming, we are able to tour job sites, attend business lunches, ask women questions and see what a real-life work environment looks like.

Virtually, our girls engage in the same interactive activities. We provide STEM kits for the girls to ensure they have all the materials they need to successfully participate in each activity. Guest speakers join us online during synchronous activities and the girls get to ask questions to the female professionals. By interacting with women pursuing STEM careers, girls come to view these careers as exciting and realistic options for themselves.

Camp SMART

Girls in Camp SMART engage in STE²M (Science Tech Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Math) in which they learn and explore careers with women leaders and professionals. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend a week-long day camp during Spring Break and/or a two-week long summer camp! Both camps fill up quickly because of the affordable rate and the lively programs we provide. The Spring Break Camp and Summer Camp are for girls ages 7–12 years old.

Field trips, professional guest speakers, hands-on activities, Shark Tank presentations, social emotional programs, team building, and friendships are all just some of the many



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benefits girls receive from participating in SMART Camp and Summer Camp. Currently, Spring Break camp is offered at a cost of only \$20 per week. Typically a daily schedule consists of 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The cost and the operating hours of Spring Break camp are subject to change.

Fees for summer camp have not been determined at this time. Please stay tuned to our website and follow us on social media to get real time updates about summer camp registration. Limited scholarships are available. Virtual Programs available. If you are interested in participating in Camp SMART, please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org.

BOLD LeadHERs Initiative (BLI)

Bold = Bright, Outstanding, Laudable, Distinguished

The BOLD LeadHERS Initiative (BLI) is a program which specializes in leadership and college and career readiness for young women in high school. The use of research-based curricula and professionally trained staff align together to develop these young women into peer leaders. In addition to professionally trained staff, volunteers and mentors join us to offer career perspectives and experiences.

BLI consists of four components:

- Research-based curricula
- Skill development workshops
- Civic service projects
- Academic engagement

This program is offered throughout the community all year-round. The experience girls get in this program are unique and diversified. They learn about SAT and ACT tests, soft skills, how to apply for financial aid, interview skills, and career trends. The girls also get the chance to meet professional women who are in various fields of work. The goal is to provide exposure to as many careers as possible so girls are aware of the diverse career options available to them. A unique part of this program includes opportunities to apply for local scholarships. If girls commit to starting the program as early as 13 years old they will have good chances to apply for these scholarships.

If you are interested in participating in the BOLD LeadHERs Initiative (BLI), please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org.



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Op SMART (Science, Math, and Relevant Technology)

Operation SMART is a dynamic and engaging program for girls that develops enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Through interactive and hands-on activities, girls explore, ask questions, persist, learn new skills and solve problems.

This program is unique because we combine STEM learning with career exploration. By collaborating with corporate partners we are able to provide exposure to real women in STEM fields. Girls get opportunities to participate in job shadowing, career panel discussions, site tours, interactive field trips, mentoring, and much more.

Partnering with businesses in our community gives us the opportunity to be creative about how we can best reach our girls and meet them where they are in their career planning. If you are interested in participating in the Operation SMART program, please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org.

Media Literacy

Every day, girls are influenced by the media. Whether it is internet ads, videos, social media or tv, girls are influenced in some way on a consistent basis. Media Literacy is a program which focuses on increasing girls' awareness of the power of the media.

Through interactive activities, girls become knowledgeable about the effects of media messages on girls and women. Girls learn to analyze what is produced in the media and advocate for change in entertainment, news, and advertising. Girls are provided opportunities to create media that are more realistic and reflective of their lives, the positive use of media, and careers in media. If you would like to learn more about our Media Literacy program, please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org.

Friendly PEERsuasian

Develops skills to resist pressure to use harmful substances such as drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and household chemicals. After learning healthy ways to manage stress and pressures that contribute to substance use, girls are provided opportunities to educate other youth on the topic.

This program is very interactive which gives girls an opportunity to build confidence to face stressful and difficult situations. For example, this program includes an opportunity



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to participate in skits, have meaningful conversations with peers, give advice to girls in hypothetical situations and create safe spaces to be themselves. This program is for girls ages 11-14. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org.

Healthy Maturing

Healthy Maturing is Girls Inc. of Greater Houston's adaptation of the Girls Inc. Healthy Sexuality program. This programming focuses on self-esteem, stress management, healthy relationships, health and hygiene. There are also additional options to discuss the study of anatomy and physiology, the menstrual cycle, and emotional and physical consequences of sexual relationships.

When this program is facilitated we break the girls up into developmental age groups to provide accurate, age-appropriate information. **These age groups are 9–11 and 12–14.** This program can be offered in person or online. If your daughter participates in an online session, we have take home kits available.

Parent components are available prior to programs beginning. We encourage you to review the information and ask us any questions you have. We view parents as the first and primary educator. These talks can be intimidating or tough, so let us know how we can help. Please contact us about how we can help navigate these conversations. This program is currently only offered to our schools upon request. It has been adapted to meet the Texas Education Sex Ed Policy.

The adaptive and full curriculum can be offered to the public upon request. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org.

Project inSIGHT

Aims to keep middle school girls in school from 6th through 8th grade and continue to high school by employing a comprehensive, multi-tiered program model to address the needs of girls at risk for dropping out. The program looks deeply into academic and non-academic risk factors related to school failure and dropout faced by middle school girls.



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The three-tiered project approach uses social work to implement: (1) Girls Inc. of Greater Houston's school-based model programs, (2) mentoring services, and (3) case management services to keep the girls more engaged in school and help them make positive decisions.

Funded by Rockwell Fund Inc., this program uses a Licensed Social Worker along with a team of graduate level social work interns from schools including University of Houston, Baylor University, and Texas State University. Social workers work closely with school staff to select girls who are showing signs of drop out.

In addition to these girls, any girl interested in the program may ask the site contact to join. Social Workers assist the girls in developing individualized plans for success and achievement of goals. There are regular mentoring sessions for small group mentoring. Mentors are professional people from the community or local universities. Mentors must be a part of a professional organization or university group.

If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor, contact Juno Okoro at juno@girlsinc-houston.org. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact Ashley Young at ashley@girlsinc-houston.org.