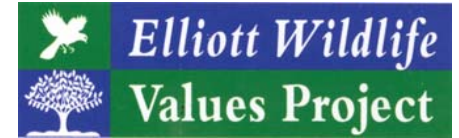




Linking Girls to the Land 2004 Council Grant Summaries



From 2004-2005 fourteen Girl Scout councils and one international Girl Scout committee will work with federal and state natural resource agencies in order to complete a community and council service project or outdoor or environmental educational opportunity that promotes career development and the preservation of wildlife and natural resources.

	State	Council Name	Project Title	Project Summary	Number of Girl Scouts Served
1	CA	San Diego - Imperial	Mountain Adventure 2004	<p>Mountain Adventure 2004: 100 low-income girls who are part of the council's <i>Girls Are GREAT</i> program were introduced to the great outdoors through a resident camping weekend and follow-up session at Camp Whispering Oaks. Key program elements developed include: field ecology, biological research, nature exploration, sensory awareness, career exploration, hiking, challenge course and educational science activities. Girls created an environmental community service project in their own urban community and were reunited to share their results. Girls also earned the "Outdoor in the City" badge. Girls learned how to live as part of a community in harmony with nature and gained self-confidence, determination, decision-making, problem-solving and career development skills. The project has been modeled by councils nationwide.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: U.S. Forest Service - Cleveland National Forest, California State Parks</p>	149
2	CA	San Geronio	Camp PINE CONE (Promoting Interest in Nature by Exploring and Camping in Nature's Environment)	<p>Camp PINE CONE (Promoting Interest in Nature by Exploring and Camping in Outdoors in Nature's Environment): 100 at-risk, underserved, ethnically diverse girls experienced overnight camping for the first time at Camp WiWoCa, a council camp property. They learned basic outdoor skills, such as setting up a campsite and basic first aid. The key educational components, developed with BLM support, include Leave No Trace, Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree. BLM hosted a career development session and recruited NPS and USFS staff as well as successful women from ethnically diverse backgrounds to serve as positive natural resource role models. Girls gained respect for the outdoors, increased self-confidence, and built teamwork and critical-thinking skills. Girls ages 15-17 gained leadership experience as they participated as Assistant Unit Leaders and Program Aides.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: Bureau of Land Management - California Desert District, U.S. Forest Service</p>	140

	State	Council Name	Project Title	Project Summary	Number of Girl Scouts to be Served
3	CA	Spanish Trails	Campfires, Tents, and So Much S'Mores	<p>Campfires, Tents, and So Much S'Mores: Girls from underserved Girl Scout areas and their parents were introduced to the outdoors through weekly hands-on trainings in Leave No Trace outdoor skills, ethics and respect for our natural resources as well as camping skills. To test their skills and knowledge, girls participated in a culminating overnight camping trip at a Girl Scout property. BLM, USFS, and NPS volunteers also discussed career paths with the girls.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agencies: Bureau of Land Management – California Desert District, U.S. Forest Service – Cleveland National Forest, National Park Service</p>	87
4	CT	Connecticut Trails	Pondering Ponds with Eco-Techs II	<p>Pondering Ponds: Girls learned about pond life, water cycles, non-point pollution and their solutions, and its effect on ground water by exploring a pond and lake ecosystem at Laurel Resident Camp, situated in a rural, underserved part of their council. Girls used scientific methods and global positioning technology to map and compass the pond and lake. With support from CT DEP, a nature trail was developed by Counselors-In-Training. Girls were trained as environmental program facilitators called Eco-Techs and used the trail to teach younger girls about the flora and fauna. They also taught programs focusing on conservation, wildlife and ecosystems during camp and community events.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection</p>	2,790
5	CT	Southwestern CT	Rocky Craig Interactive Nature Trail	<p>Rocky Craig Interactive Nature Trail: Participants developed a self-guided, interpretive nature trail at the council's Rocky Craig Program Center. The trail includes hands-on discovery stations focusing on ecology and non-point source pollution and is linked to Girl Scout earned-age level awards and the Water Drop Patch. CT DEP, NRCS and local collaborative partners provided geological, hydrological, curriculum development expertise. Girls and adults were trained to teach environmental programs. Participants developed five programs-in-a-box to be used by adult volunteers to teach girls about non-point source pollution and resource protection (such as water quality and watersheds, trees, habitats, etc.). Program materials were used at a Career Night with the collaborating agencies and with urban and after school groups during the year. The project serves as a model for three other Outdoor Program Centers in their council.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agencies: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection</p>	368

	State	Council Name	Project Title	Project Summary	Number of Girl Scouts Served
6	LA	Bayou	Wetlands Adventures	<p>Wetlands Adventures: Girls worked with federal natural resource professionals and university advisors to scientifically study Louisiana's disappearing wetlands, develop wildlife conservation projects and explore environmental science related careers. Girls met with a landscape architect to design the "Nature Station," a wetland learning lab, on Girl Scout camp property using indigenous plants. The "Nature Station" was constructed with additional grant funding. The girls plan to meet as a special interest group in 2005 and will engage younger girls in the planting and development of another wetlands learning environment for the future.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: USGS National Wetlands Research Center</p>	17
7	MI	Peninsula Waters	Linking Girls to the Land in Michigan's Upper Peninsula	<p>Linking Girls to the Land in Michigan's Upper Peninsula: Girls learned outdoor skills from women role models that helped them explore wildlife conservation and natural resource issues on unique federal properties. They learned the principles of Leave No Trace, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, backcountry winter camping skills, hiking and orienteering skills, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. This project encouraged girls to become more involved in natural resource issues and to consider a career in wildlife conservation as an option. Older girls were trained as Program Aides for future programs.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agencies: U.S. Forest Service – Hiawatha National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Seney National Wildlife Refuge, National Park Service – Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore</p>	172
8	MT	Big Sky	Wildlife Stewardship Training	<p>Wildlife Stewardship Training: Girls, including members from Native American reservations, participated in weekend training sessions at Girl Scout camps in the Big Sky and Treasure Trails councils. The training covered topics such as encounters with wildlife, backcountry and campground camping, recognizing bear signs, storing food, and guidelines for viewing and photographing wildlife. Environmental career opportunities were also discussed. Using the "each one teach one" model, Girl Scouts agreed to train at least 10 members of their home community in Wildlife Stewardship. Future plans include Girl Scout trainers offering Wildlife Stewardship trainings at neighboring councils and at Glacier National Park and surrounding National Forests for visitors. GSUSA will also work with Big Sky to get wildlife stewardship and safety materials out to councils around the country.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agencies: Center for Wildlife Information, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service</p>	412

	State	Council Name	Project Title	Project Summary	Number of Girl Scouts Served
9	NJ	Morris Area	Seed Ball Dispersal Project	<p>Seed Ball Dispersal Project: Girl Scouts identified between 30 sites affected by surface water runoff, pollutants and other environmental factors or neglect, and re-seeded the sites with native plants utilizing the seed ball dispersal technique. The community service project improved site conditions, helped prevent erosion, and contributed to water resource protection in Morris County. Girls prepared the sites and made and disbursed terra cotta seed balls to re-introduce native plants to the area. Girls employed scientific techniques to observe, measure, record and photograph data. Participation patches were also created. Federal and local agency professionals provided conservation and water quality expertise and technical support. The National Park Service and Morris Utility Authority has requested Girl Scouts support for future seed ball projects. More information is available at http://www.magsc.org/seedball%20project/index.htm</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: National Park Service - Morristown National Historical Park</p>	1,500
10	NJ	Rolling Hills	NJ Naturalist Interpretive Program	<p>NJ Naturalist Interpretive Program: Nine nature program curricula were developed and offered to girls after-school and on weekends at Girl Scout Camp Dewitt and Delaware Raritan Canal State Park. The curriculum was designed to increase youths' conservation knowledge, appreciation of local natural resources, and land stewardship skills, and provide career exploration in the environment. Special effort was made to serve girls from ethnic backgrounds or at risk. Curricula and programs developed, including program boxes and badges, are being offered in 2005 and for years to come and are being shared with other councils in NJ. They plan to expand the program to include schools and other local youth groups.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park</p>	485
11	OH	Great Trail	Ecology Exposition	<p>Ecology Exposition: Girls helped plan a community event designed to provide awareness and hands-on activities about wildlife conservation, natural resources, wetlands, and the environment, with a specific focus on watershed protection and restoration and careers. Many agencies and organizations were invited to present. Girls from three inner city school systems were targeted and the entire membership was invited. The project linked Girl Scouts to local projects such as a community service day and the Nimishillen Creek Clean-up project that are designed to support the community's Watershed Action Plan. They plan to make this an annual event.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry</p>	544

	State	Council Name	Project Title	Project Summary	Number of Girl Scouts Served
12	OH	Heart of Ohio	Project FUN (Families Understanding Nature)	<p>Project FUN: Girl Scout Camp Falls Run was enhanced by utilizing the site's natural setting and developing a progressive wildlife observation plan. Girls 11-17 and volunteers along with federal agency expertise: designed and constructed a 16' x 64" wildlife observation deck; developed Tree Haven Nature Trail; constructed and planted a small wetlands environment and observation deck; planned and ran the first FUN Day event; and created program resource kits to be checked out by troops and groups for environmental studies at Camp Falls Run. Girls learned about native plants, trail design and development, erosion prevention, trail accessibility and aesthetics, planting techniques for trees and herbaceous plants, native wildlife, and the interrelationships within the ecosystem. An increase in usage of the site is reported and the council plans to replicate the FUN Day event in 2005 at another Girl Scout property.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Buckeye Hills Resource Conservation Development, OH Department of Natural Resources - Boord State Nature Preserve</p>	217
13	SD	Nyoda	Prairie Ecosystem	<p>Prairie Ecosystem: Permanent day camps were developed on USFWS land to give girls the opportunity to work on the prairie land, learn about field ecology, biological studies, interpretation of the prairie wetland region, become an ambassador for the USFWS, and to explore careers. Programs were tailored to meet badge requirements and were advertised in camp brochures. Transportation was also offered to ensure participation of girls from 4 Native American reservations. A two-day camp will be offered in 2005 for Girl Scouts ages 11-17.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Huron Wetland Management District</p>	117
14	WI	Black Hawk	Echoes of Prairie	<p>Echoes of Prairie: Seventeen acres of new prairie was re-established on Echo Valley Camp property and used as an environmental education tool to teach both Girl Scouts and adult volunteers about ecosystem management techniques, science careers, and stewardship ethics. This large restoration provides grassland habitat for birds and other wildlife to repopulate. It also adds additional acreage to a tall grass prairie corridor as a joint venture with the USFWS and neighboring land owners. This process will be applied to the council's three other camp properties and the council service center, and serves as a model for other councils committed to land stewardship on their properties.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Wisconsin Private Lands Office</p>	1,405

	State	Council Name	Project Title	Project Summary	Number of Girl Scouts Served
15	Micro-nesia	Kosrae	Environmental Clean-Up Coconut Project	<p>Environmental Clean-Up: Girls cleaned up and restored the foreshores of the eastern and southern sides of Kosrae in an effort to offer a cleaner coastal environment for fish breeding and cleaner beaches and easier access for recreation purposes.</p> <p>Coconut Project: Girls learned the arts of craft making, soap making, cosmetics and essential oils using many parts of the coconut plant. This entrepreneurial project will provide girls job experience and income that will enable Kosrae to sustain this project and benefit future projects, while at the same time plant and conserve an important natural resource.</p> <p>Federal or State Collaborating Agency: Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority</p>	254
				TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRL SCOUTS SERVED	8,657