



**Girl Scouts.**

**Girl Scout Council of Greater New York Awarded \$150,000 Grant from The New York Community Trust for Career Exploration Program.**

*NYCT grant to Girl Scout Council will launch new career exploration program for girls attending low performing middle schools in the Bronx.*

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK, August 8, 2008** – The Girl Scout Council of Greater New York, Inc. announced today that it has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the New York Community Trust to establish the Girl Scout Career Exploration Program (GSCEP). This program, which will be conducted during the school day, will begin with seven Bronx middle schools in the 2008-9 school year. GSCEP will provide a three-year progressive curriculum to expand the personal and professional horizons of more than 1,000 New York City girls from minority backgrounds attending under-resourced middle schools. The mission of GSCEP is to instill in girls an enthusiasm for higher education and awareness of a wide range of careers while enhancing their academic performance and credentials and developing skills to promote future economic self-sufficiency.

The design of GSCEP aligns with the New York City Department of Education Fair Student Funding Formula and New York State middle school curriculum requirements of home and career skills. Each school quarter, GSCEP will focus on one eight-week career exploration track. The four tracks are leadership development, science, business and media/arts and will include special career exploration events/activities, such as job shadowing, college tours, career panels and retreats.

“We now have the opportunity to change the fate of so many young girls by providing them with early exposure to various career paths, instilling leadership development skills, and heightening their self-esteem so that they become confident and courageous young women today and self-sufficient women in the future,” said **Dolores Swirin**, CEO of the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York. “We deeply appreciate the New York Community Trust’s support in helping us launch this important initiative, which aligns with our Council’s vision of reaching 100,000 girls annually by 2017 with innovative and substantive programming.”

“Many thanks to the New York Community Trust and Girl Scout Council of Greater New York,” said **Roshone Ault**, Principal of the South Bronx Academy for Applied Media/MS 296. “I look forward to collaborating together on creating a positive impact on the lives of SBAAM scholars.” The South Bronx Academy for Applied Media/MS 296 was the first of six schools to sign up for the 2008-2009 school year.

GSCEP will provide a new pathway for girls to experience Girl Scouting, which is centered on three outcome-based leadership keys – discover, connect and take action. As the largest girls-only leadership development program in New York City, the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York is the ideal organization to introduce girl-specific Career Exploration programming to New York City’s most at-risk middle school girls.

**About the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York**

Founded in 1913, The Girl Scout Council of Greater New York is New York City’s largest girls-only leadership development program. Our mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouting offers research-based, age-appropriate educational programs that encourage the positive development of girls, aged 5 to 17 in a single-sex environment. We offer the Girl Scout experience to all girls in the five boroughs of New York City and currently reach more than 21,000 girls in virtually every zip code with the assistance of 7,000 adult volunteers. To learn more, visit our website at [www.girlscoutsnyc.org](http://www.girlscoutsnyc.org).

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