


**ROSIE'S
GIRLS**

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Dear Friend:

During this past summer YWCA Rhode Island in partnership with Sophia Academy and the National Association for Women in Construction, Rhode Island Chapter, co-created and co-delivered the YWCA Rosie's Girls program.

Rosie's Girls combines the best of YWCA Rhode Island and Sophia Academy gender specific programming and offers a unique experience for adolescent girls (ages 11-13) designed to build self-esteem, perseverance and leadership through learning and applying basic skills in the trades (e.g. carpentry and stone cutting).

Rosie's Girls is supported chiefly through a mix of funding and donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. The overwhelming majority of our campers require financial aid. In fact, last summer 100% of our campers received full tuition scholarships to attend our program.

The pages that follow offer a small window into the summer of 2013 program specifics and the day in the life of a Rosie's Girl. And now that summer is officially over and the saws that buzzed Rosie's Girls program are silent we have begun to plan for the summer of 2014.

We invite you to join other women and men in becoming a member of our "Rosie's Circle", a group committed to pledging financial support to the program to ensure that no girl will be turned away from the camp because of family income.

- *\$50 will help supply two campers with a set of hand tools
- *\$150 provides twelve girls with a day of carpentry instruction
- *\$750 provides a full scholarship for one girl to attend Rosie's Girls for three weeks

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Deborah

Deborah L. Perry
YWCA Rhode Island
President/Chief Executive Officer



Sign me up! I want to join the Rosie's Circle:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Enclosed is a donation in the amount of:

___ \$750

___ \$150

___ \$50

___ Other

Mail to:

Rosie's Circle
c/o YWCA Rhode Island
514 Blackstone Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895



Rosie's Girls

Building Strong Girls

Girls in early adolescence have few, if any, opportunities to learn about careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), technical or trades-related careers – careers with potential for significant earnings and professional achievement.

Fewer than 5% of all students enrolled in high school construction or technical programs are girls. Our experience demonstrates that it is not because women and girls don't want to pursue careers in non-traditional fields; it often simply does not occur to them.

What is Rosie's Girls?

Rosie's Girls summer program is an exciting day camp that helps girls develop and strengthen their capacities and confidence while exposing them to a range of educational and career opportunities they may have never considered.

At Rosie's Girls camps, girls (entering 6-8th grades) receive training in skilled trades and technical fields combined with lots of arts activities and games.

The program was piloted in 2000 by Vermont Works for Women and has been successfully replicated in various sites around the country including Santa Monica, California, Cleveland Ohio, seven cities in South Carolina, and in Rhode Island.

How Did Rosie's Girls Get its Name?

Rosie's Girls takes its name from Rosie the Riveter, the fictional World War II icon who represented the women who went to work in shipyards and factories to fill shortages while men fought overseas.

What are the program goals?

The goals of Rosie's Girls program are:

- to increase girls' self-efficacy and self-confidence;
- to expose girls to a variety of trades and technical fields; and
- to encourage participants (and the adults in their lives and communities) to challenge the expectations our society has for girls and women.



Rosie's Girls What Happens

Building Strong Girls

Rosie's Girls campers have a chance to get their hands dirty, express themselves creatively and explore what the world has to offer them and what they have to offer the world. Combining hands-on instruction in the skilled trades with lots of arts activities and games, the program supports girls in finding their own strength, power and confidence in a fun, positive atmosphere.

Building and Exploration

Rosie's Girls learn and apply basic carpentry skills including measuring, cutting, hammering and tools safety.

Rosie's Girls explore other nontraditional career fields from women such as welding, firefighting, and automotive technology.

Arts and Creative Expression

Rosie's Girls express themselves through activities that span a broad range and include collage design, Paper Mache, vision boards and improvisation.

A Girl's World

Rosie's Girls engage in thought provoking activities that examine the messages they receive about the role of women and girls in our society and explore who they are and what they can be

Physically Challenging Activities

Rosie's Girls engage in teambuilding, soccer, and plain old everyday fun.



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ROSIE'S
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Rosie's Girls Helping Girls Identify and Challenge Limiting Cultural Assumptions

Building Strong Girls

According to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (JCPES), women who completed high school earned 50% more than those who did not and those who completed some college increased their annual earnings by 20-25% more. And those with bachelors or advanced degrees earned about 50% more than those with some college.

YWCA has a long-standing commitment to providing programs and services for teen parents and advocating for systems that help them become successful and productive members of our community.

Curriculum Focus

The Rosie's Girls curriculum includes a variety of "Girls World" activities that seek to help girls understand the subtle (and not so subtle) messages that women and girls receive about how they should act, what they should look like, who they should please and what they can become – messages that can limit girls' options, opportunities and attitudes.

Media Messages

Program participants are also provided with opportunities to critically assess the media's impact, particularly print advertising's impact, on them and our society by examining the implicit and explicit messages in the ads they see – and to challenge their underlying assumptions about women and girls. Exercises are divided between those that are intended to give girls an opportunity to explore media messages and those that give them an opportunity to react and take positive action.



Rosie's Girls

What They Are Saying

Building Strong Girls

"Rosie's Girls has taught me leadership skills."
- Alexa, age 9

"Having carpentry skills makes me feel more confident and empowered."
- Yamelly, age 12

"All of the team challenge games and activities were so much fun."
- Linsey, age 9

"Rosie's Girls has opened my eyes up to looking at things differently. I think I am more willing to try new things because I know if I have the confidence and follow the directions, I can do anything I put my mind to."
- Nyree, age 13

"Camp has helped me think more outside the box!"
- Angela, age 12

"Building the gardening beds and planting the vegetables was the best. It makes me want to build one in my own backyard. I'll know how to construct it and which seeds to plant now."
- Lesly, age 11

"Making friends at Rosie's Girls was easy because we are all building the projects together so you need to work as a team and have a lot of communication."
- Kaita, age 12

"The Rose and Thorn activity helps us reflect back on our day. Its fun to hear what everyone's favorite part of the day was."
- Junia, age 12