Central Illinois Girl Report

Executive Summary



Being a girl in central Illinois today means navigating complex digital, social, and structural pressures. While these challenges are real, girlhood is not a crisis to be managed, but a journey of potential that thrives when supported by dedicated "third spaces," strong mentorship, and community investment.

The Regional Challenges	The Girl Scout Advantage
Economic Stability **4 in 10** GSCI Households cannot afford basic necessities.	**Equity & Access** Safe spaces and supportive role models build lasting confidence and empathy.
Academic Empowerment **36.3%** in math proficiency and science to **44.3%**	**STEM & Engagement Gap** Early hands-on STEM badgework makes **Girl Scouts nearly twice as likely** to pursue STEM careers.
Social Safety **24%** of high school girls are bullied on school property causing **13.2%** to miss school	**Addressing Regional Crisis of Bullying** Collaborative troop structures ensure **88%** of members experience mutual respect and inclusion.
Mental Wellness **50%+** of high school girls experience persistent sadness, and **1 in 4** considers suicide	**Anxiety & Depression Crisis** Troops provide digital breaks and skill-building that give **72%** of members positive stress coping tools.
Geographic Access **1 in 6** Rural youth lack transportation. **35%** Lack broadband for telehealth.	**Navigating Rural Isolation** GSCI brings mobile programming and flexible community spaces directly to small towns.

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