

**girls  
inc.**®  
of Orange County

# Starting Early and Staying Late



Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold

# Motivating, Educating, and Inspiring

**Girls Inc. walks side by side with girls throughout their journey. We are with them as they enter school and support them to and through their college experience and into the workplace. Simply, Girls Inc. starts early and stays late.**

**Elementary** - Girls enter the program as early as kindergarten. They participate in exercises to build skills in early literacy, STEM subjects, leadership, teamwork, social and emotional learning, and boosting confidence and resilience. Building a strong personal and educational foundation effects the rest of a girl's life. Elementary school girls have the opportunity to attend a special entrepreneurship camp in the summer. Click [HERE](#) to see the impact.

**Middle School** - In middle school, girls continue to build life skills and receive academic support. They also begin preparing for higher education and the workforce. They connect with female mentors from a variety of careers. Girls also have the chance to learn more in areas such as mental health, physical health, such changes in puberty, and safe and healthy relationships. Girls in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade have the opportunity to attend the Eureka! summer experience. This four-week camp on a college campus is 50% STEM and 50% life skills. Click [HERE](#) to see the impact.

**High School** – In high school, Girls Inc. works closely with girls to get them prepared for higher education or vocational training. Girls work with mentors to prepare college applications, personal statements, scholarship and financial aid applications. They work with career mentors to learn about a wide variety of careers and how to pursue them. In the summer, they have the opportunity for an on-the-job opportunity. Some of the summer hosts include Taco Bell, Edwards Lifesciences, and over 30 others. Click [HERE](#) to see the impact.

**College** – **NEW - Starting in 2022, Girls Inc. is expanding programming into college!** Project Accelerate girls will have the opportunity to participate with a team of workplace mentors throughout their college years and form networks and connections into the workplace. The goal is to retain our talent here in Orange County and beyond, so that girls have opportunities for paid internships and resources as they exit college.

**Girls Inc. is intentional about offering programs in all the areas of education, health and wellness, and life skills at all ages. A pipeline develops to ensure that girls have the tools, skills, and confidence they need at every stage of their development. We can't start early enough.**

The Girls Inc. pipeline serves approximately 5,000 girls annually.

**51%** of College Bound participants plan on declaring a STEM major (Girls Inc. starts STEM programming in Kindergarten)

**25** girls in college, will be the first to participate in Project Accelerate Career mentorships in 2022

**73%** of girls increased their early literacy skills (pre-program grade level skill literacy skill 43%)

**98%** of girls demonstrated knowledge Of college planning requirements (a Pre-test of 5%)

Girls Inc. has two former alumnae members on staff as educators and one serving on our Board of Directors.

Click [HERE](#) to Hear Our Philosophy



## Girls Inc. Alumna, Jane

“The best thing about Girls Inc. is the ability to join a supportive group of mentors, peers, and community members who all have the common goal of bettering the world. The path ahead for gender equity requires girls to know their worth and know themselves. I love how Girls Inc. empowers us to develop confidence in our abilities.

For Asian Americans, some of us can relate to not fitting neatly within our home culture or American culture. I have experienced microaggressions and blatant discrimination against me. I often feel like I must live up to the model minority myth while simultaneously defy it. Being from Wisconsin and growing up in Orange County, I rarely met someone who looked, thought, or was raised like I was; but those environmental differences did not stop me from being compassionate to others and myself.

Every program coordinator and mentor has their girls’ well-being and safety in mind, whether through personal check-ins or affirmations. Those check-ins inspired me to stay in touch with my emotions and voice my opinions without fear of judgment. Girls Inc. starts conversations about promoting women of color’s workplace and educational rights.

What every girl needs is self-acceptance. It does not come easy, nor does it come after a checklist of accomplishments. Self-acceptance is ultimately what Girls Inc. strives to deliver. I still utilize the skills I learned from my peers to approach gender inequality issues more inclusively. I put into practice my time management and goal-setting skills, and I still keep in mind that education is still not fully optimized for our future.”



**“I love how Girls Inc. inspires us to develop confidence in our abilities.” – Jane is a Girls Inc. of Orange County Alumna and a student at UCLA studying Data Science.**

# thank you

It is because of the generosity of our corporate and community partners that Girls Inc. continues to have the resources to reach so many Orange County girls. As the need continues to increase, now more than ever, **we are so grateful for you.**

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