Girl Scouts Go Green in Santa Clara County

Santa Clara Valley Water District
2014 Safe, Clean Water Grant Program
2014-2016 Grant Results
April, 2017
18 Partner Sites
• Rocketship Mateo Sheedy Elementary
• Grant Elementary
• Horace Mann Elementary
• Rocketship Discovery Prep
• McKinley Elementary
• Barron Park Elementary
• Monta Loma Elementary
• Washington Youth Center
• Joyce Ellington Library
• Castro Elementary
• Theurakauf Elementary
• Hubbard Elementary
• Trace Elementary
• Sherman Oaks Elementary
• Galarza Elementary
• Adelante Academy
• Empire Gardens Elementary
• Village Avante
Target Population – the girls you helped!

• At over 80% of our partner sites a majority of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (an indicator of economic disadvantage).

• These students have few or no opportunities for hands-on environmental education.
2014-2016 Results: All Project Tasks Completed on Schedule!

1. Watershed curriculum updated
2. Instructors trained
3. 487 participants
4. Watershed-focused field trip
5. Community service projects
6. End-of-program surveys
Task 1: Curriculum Update

Girl Scouts Go Green: A 10-week program, where girls spend four to eight hours engaged in hands-on environmental learning and four to six hours on a complimentary field trip.

Session 1
- Water Cycle Introduction
- Water Cycle Demonstration
- Rain Gauge Relay
- Growing In Polluted Water

Session 2
- Paper Bag Watershed
- Oil Spill

Session 3
- Edible Landfill
- What Is E-waste And Pharmaceutical Waste?
- Game -Which Bin Does It Go In?

Session 4
- Service Project - Clean Up Our Backyard
- How Much Waste Do You Produce?
- Small E-waste Collection Box

Session 5
- E-waste And Expired Pharmaceutical Campaign
- Take Action Project
- Who Are The Decomposers?
- Mercury Biomagnification In The Ocean

Session 6
- Problem Solver Skits
- “I Promise” Fish Interviews
- Evaluations
Task 2: Instructors Training
What’s in a program box?

Edible Landfill

Objective: Girls will learn what a landfill is and that there is no “away” to which we can throw things.

Materials:
♦ Landfill Sample Picture
♦ Cardboard Trays
♦ Crackers
♦ Fruit Leather
♦ Pretzel Sticks
♦ Graham Crackers
♦ Fish Crackers
♦ Rice Cereal
♦ Chocolate Chips
♦ Raisins
♦ Honey
♦ Green Sprinkles
♦ Biodegradable Spoons
♦ Scoop or Cup

Activity: Girls construct a landfill with edible ingredients representing elements found in landfills (e.g. fish crackers = organic waste, and chocolate chips = glass, tires and metal). After, the girls enjoy their ‘landfills’ as a snack.
Thanks to the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 487 Girls learned about the impact of contaminants entering our waterways and actions they can take to prevent trash and pollutants from entering waterways.
Task 4: Field Trip
Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

Small Fry
Kindergarten S.T.E.P. Field Trip to Guadalupe River Park & Gardens

Discover two anadromous species native to the Guadalupe River

- Explore the habitat requirements of salmon and trout
- Learn about the unique physical characteristics of fish
- Collect macroinvertebrates for a glimpse into a fish’s diet

CALIFORNIA KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS
Sciences: Physical Sciences 1a, Earth Sciences 3a-c, Life Sciences 2a, 3c
Investigation & Experimentation: 4a, b, d, e
Task 4: Field Trip
Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

River Sleuths
1st Grade Field Trip to Guadalupe River Park & Gardens

Explore San Jose’s Central Park and Discover Urban Wildlife

- Conduct a scientific exploration along the Guadalupe River
- Learn about riparian plants, insects, and local wildlife
- Embark on a habitat hunt
- Discover animal homes and adaptations necessary for survival

CALIFORNIA FIRST GRADE STANDARDS

- Sciences: Life Sciences 2a, 2b, 2c
- Investigation & Experimentation: 4b
- Language Arts: Listening & Speaking 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.4
Task 4: Field Trip
Santa Clara County Audubon Society

Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve
Task 5: Community Service Project

Girls prevented waste or pollutants from entering waterways through a trash pick-up event, reaching an additional 7,500 people with education about preventing pollutants from entering waterways.
Task 5: Community Service Project

Girls also developed posters informing community members the importance of proper disposal of trash and pharmaceutical waste, raising awareness in an additional 7,500 people about recyclables so they don’t impact the waterways.
Task 6: Post-Program Survey Outcomes

You made a difference! Because of this grant . . .

97% of girls were able to explain why mercury and pharmaceuticals are harmful when they enter our waterways.

80% of girls reported that they could have a job that helps the environment.

82% of girls were able to name two or more actions they can personally take to prevent waste or pollutants from entering waterways.

91% of girls showed increased interest level in learning about environmental science.
Challenges

• Initially, we experienced difficulty getting into fall afterschool programs. Many schools already had full afterschool schedules by the time we began work under the grant (8/1/14). However, we were able to get back on track by the second year of the grant period.

• During the first year of the grant, we had lower than expected attendance at some sites (15 girls instead of 20, for example). To address this issue we expanded the number of sites for the second year.

Notwithstanding these challenges, we exceeded our goal of serving 480 girls over two years.
Thank You!

Thanks to the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 487 girls learned about the impact of pharmaceutical waste and other pollutants on Santa Clara County waterways and the actions they can take to prevent contaminants from entering our waterways.
Questions?

Monica Yu, Director, Institutional Giving, MYu@girlscoutsnorcal.org

Mey Saechao, Program Director, MSaechao@girlscoutsnorcal.org