



STREAM Girls Partnership Overview **Washington Trout Unlimited and the Girl Scouts USA**

Program Description

STREAM Girls is an experiential, field-based learning opportunity that expands traditional elements of STEM education to include Recreation and the Arts: STREAM. Designed by TU for middle school-aged Girl Scouts, the program integrates watershed environmental education with journaling, sketching, fly fishing, and fly tying. Girls use inquiry-based methods for assessing a stream in their community and make connections between water quality and the overall health of the stream ecosystem. The program's content can be adjusted to fit either a multi-day afterschool or weekend format and is offered from late spring through mid fall when stream temperatures are mild enough for water-based activities.

TU seeks a partnership with Washington GSUSA Councils that will result in continuing STREAM Girls projects on streams and rivers across the state. Initially, TU staff and volunteers will offer expertise, training, and equipment, while GSUSA provides program support and infrastructure. Once the initial partnership is successful, GSUSA will invest in the program by acquiring materials and providing staff to co-lead the program with TU volunteers into the future.

The following activities will be completed, but not necessarily in the order they are listed:

1. Session one: watersheds and STREAM Walk
2. Session two: Go With the Flow!
3. Session three: macroinvertebrate survey
4. Session four: fly-tying
5. Session five: fly casting
6. Session six: stream stations and bracelets

Program Purpose

This partnership is mutually beneficial. TU is actively broadening and diversifying its membership through efforts such as the TU Women's Initiative and TU Headwaters Youth Program. STREAM Girls effectively aligns with both by connecting Scouts and Scout leaders to their water resources so that they may become active stewards of creeks and rivers GSUSA has an ongoing interest and plan for giving girls access to hands-on STEM education and unique outdoor programming.

STREAM Girls was developed to address the STEM gender gap by offering an informal watershed education experience where investigative science intersects with art, conservation, and recreation. Research has indicated that girls are interested in STEM fields and STEM careers but need out-of-classroom exposure and adult support to foster this interest. The informal, hands-on curriculum provided by STREAM Girls is a great way for girls to get such exposure and TU's volunteer network provides a ready-made system to build out these programs across different regions.

Program Location

In most instances the program will be held at GSUSA facilities. Many of these camp properties are close to lakes and rivers. Alternative locations will be pursued if GSUSA does not have a suitable facility, with priority given to locales with access to streams.

Roles and Responsibilities

GSUSA and TU will co-staff the program, with TU volunteers acting as program instructors, and GSUSA Troop Leaders and staff providing logistical support for the Scouts. Interested Scout leaders and staff will also be trained as instructors and work with TU volunteers in the delivery of the program. GSUSA will run background checks on all program volunteers and provide liability insurance for GSUSA Scouts, volunteers, and staff. TU's liability policy will cover TU volunteers and staff.

TU will provide:

- Staff and volunteers to teach the program and train GSUSA adults. (Approx. 5-10 TU volunteers each day, can be same volunteers and work in shifts)
- Training to GSUSA staff/volunteers in the delivery of the program.
- Curriculum and agenda.

- Program supplies and equipment for all activities including stream sampling instruments, program handbooks, craft materials for bracelets, fly tying, and fishing equipment.
- Patches for participants.

GSUSA will provide:

- Prior to the program: promotion of the event, recruitment of participants, and background checks for all volunteers.
- Personnel to provide logistical and supervisory support for the scouts during the program.
- Facilities, meals, and lodging for scouts, staff, and volunteers.
- Supervision, especially during non-program hours.
- Transportation to field sites if needed.
- Any additional fee money collected (after GSUSA costs are covered) to pay for workbooks, art and fly tying supplies, etc.

Sustainability

The ultimate goal of the partnership is to establish STREAM Girls in several regions of Washington and demonstrate the program's effectiveness through evaluation and feedback. In order to sustain program growth, a combination of TU and GSUSA volunteers and staff will be trained via on-going train-the-trainer events. Depending on the success of the program, TU and GSUSA could also engage in joint fundraising to implement more events.