

Social Justice Seeker Permission Form



Caregiver permission is required for Girl Scout activities involving sensitive topics. Your Girl Scout has the opportunity to participate in the following Girl Scout activity with their Girl Scout troop. If you give your permission for your Girl Scout to participate, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return it to their troop leader. No Girl Scout will be able to participate in this activity without written consent from a caregiver.

Social Justice Seeker Program Description:

Although many of us are hesitant to discuss race, racism, and injustice, it is critical that we do so. Racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. are so embedded in our culture, our education system, and the media, that without conscious effort to unlearn these things, we will continue to internalize these beliefs. The Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge is designed to help Girl Scouts build a greater understanding of how racism impacts our daily lives and how we can work together to create a more equitable world.

Designed in partnership with the YWCA of Cleveland and based on the 21 Day Challenge, this learning path is intentionally designed to take a few weeks to complete. Social Justice Seeker is divided into 4 sections: Exploring Identity, Anti-Racism, STEM for Social Justice, and Leadership and Activism. Throughout the course, you'll be presented with challenges such as reading an article, completing hands-on activities, watching a video, participating in an interactive website, or reflecting on personal experience. Participation in the activity is designed to help discover how racial injustice and social injustice impact our community and to identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination.

Some of this content may feel a little uncomfortable - GSNEO asks that Girl Scouts approach each activity with an open heart and open mind.

Sensitive Issues Activity Permission: I have read the description for the activities listed above. I understand that my Girl Scout, (print first and last name) _____, will be exposed to issues and discussions that are, or could be, considered to be of a sensitive or controversial nature. I have discussed this activity with my Girl Scout and am confident of their maturity and ability to participate. I understand, and have shared with my Girl Scout, that their attendance is optional for all or part of the activity. I understand that I may request to review materials prior to the activity, and/or I may attend the activity with my Girl Scout.

- I permit my Girl Scout to participate in all activities/conversations.
- I permit my Girl Scout to participate only in activities/conversations related to the following topics: _____

- I do not permit my Girl Scout to participate in any activities/conversations.
- I need more information about this activity before deciding if my Girl Scout can participate.

Caregiver signature: _____ Date: _____

What Seniors & Ambassadors Do:

Learn about how people differ from one another, how to celebrate those differences and make a difference in the world.

Representation matters! Older Girl Scouts will explore the concepts of STEM for social justice, intersectionality, representation, and the origins of race. These concepts help girls understand how our different identities and experiences interact, and how those identities may afford a level of advantages or disadvantages. Girls will participate in a combination of videos, articles, and activities like 'Privilege for Sale' – an activity to take inventory of the privileges they may or may not hold.

Girls will complete activities in our Exploring Identity, Anti-Racism, STEM for Social Justice and Leadership & Activism sections. Some activities included are:

Exploring Identity

- Diversity Makes us Stronger – includes infographic that explains how diversity, equity and inclusion relate to each other, a video on Girl Scouts' history of inclusivity, and an article/infographic to understand how systemic racism perpetuates differences in school districts
- Intersectionality – learn what intersectionality is and how our multiple identities interact. Activities include TED Talks about intersectionality and an interactive quiz
- Privilege – understand what advantages and privileges we may hold based on our race

Anti-Racism

- Discussing Microaggressions – teens discuss subtle forms of racism people of color encounter every day and how they affect self-esteem
- Rewriting Racist Headlines – addresses how racist ideas and headlines infiltrate everyday media
- 6 Steps to Speak up – an article to help prepare for allyship and provide talking points of how to discuss racism when racist comments are overheard
- Commitment to Combat Racism – a checklist to help guide girls to take action against racism

STEM for Social Justice

- Women Have Been Written Out of History – women have been written out of science history. Read the article to learn more about science's hidden figures
- Henrietta Lacks – The Woman with the Immortal Cells – watch this video to learn about Henrietta Lacks and how medical studies routinely experimented on Black people without their consent
- Do Algorithms Perpetuate Human Bias – listen to this TED Talk to understand how computer algorithms embed existing bias into code

Leadership and Activism

- Beyond the Hashtag: How to Take Anti-racist Action in your Life – read this article to learn how to make being anti-racism a necessary leadership skill
- 9 Famous Girl Scouts Who Left Their Mark on History – read this article about remarkable Girl Scout alum who have made a difference throughout history
- 10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism – read this article to understand how to engage in activism and how to bring social activism to the classroom and outside of school