

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars

“I love being a Girl Scout because I get to see my mom and I love being able to say anything I want to.”

— Girl Scouts Beyond Bars girl participant in York County

girl scouts
in the heart
of pennsylvania

www.gshpa.org



THE NEED

Nationally, 1.7 million children have a parent in prison, according to advocacy and research group The Sentencing Project; half are under age 10. Research has shown that children of incarcerated parents are more likely to withdraw, show physical aggression, take part in substance abuse, exhibit depression and/or anxiety and end up in the criminal justice system themselves. Girl Scouts Beyond Bars has a simple, yet complex, goal — to offset the devastating impact of incarceration on girls ages 5–17, whose mothers are in prison.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Monthly mother/daughter troop meetings give incarcerated mothers the opportunity to facilitate supervised activities with their daughters focusing on Girl Scout fun, while serving as appropriate role models. Girl-only troop

meetings explore the core Girl Scout program of leadership and life skills development. The unique dynamic of each girl-only meeting allows girls who share a common bond to speak openly about their challenges in a safe, compassionate environment.

Your support will facilitate the unique troop setting of Girl Scouts Beyond Bars and fully fund the girls' expenses in this transformational program.

Girl Scouts are more likely to develop and maintain healthy relationships by communicating their feelings directly and resolving conflicts constructively, than girls who do not participate in Girl Scouting.

— 2017 Girl Scouts Impact Study, Girl Scout Research Institute

