



Peninsula Girl Scout Program Center 1600 NE Winters Road, Bremerton



The Opportunity

This is an opportunity for you to truly make a difference in the lives of young girls by providing a special place to meet and learn --- where they will be accepted and grow in a nurturing environment. An opportunity for girls to build character and skills for success in today's real world. A place where they will develop their leadership skills by working together with other girls and committed adult volunteers; a place where they will build skills of courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place --- skills that will last a lifetime.

Challenge

Since 1939, Girl Scouts has been serving girls from the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas out of a one room building in downtown Bremerton. While the land is owned by the city of Bremerton, the building was originally built by a local Kiwanis Club and donated to Girl Scouts and Campfire USA. The city has allowed Girl Scouts to operate out of the facility free of charge.

In 2006, the city of Bremerton made the decision to widen Warren Avenue the street that the building fronts. As a result, Girl Scouts will have to move out by April 2009, the building will be torn down and will no longer be available for our use. This closure means that:

- Girls and volunteers will have limited places for free meeting, activity and training space.
- Volunteers will not have quick, easy access to resources and trainings and
- We will no longer have space to house staff in close proximity to girls in the region, and

While the news of street improvements has been disappointing, this opportunity also gives Girl Scouts of Western Washington the chance to purchase a building that can better meet the needs of girls in the area.

It's All About the Girls

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls - all girls - where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, they build character and skills for success in the real world. Girl Scout programs respond to the unique educational and emotional needs of girls, addressing their current interests, the critical issues that affect their lives and their future roles as women. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities like leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

Some 26,000 girls grades K-12 are served by Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

Funding will allow Girl Scouts to:

- Stay in the community,
- Expand and strengthen our programs to serve more girls,
- Provide **free** space for girl activities and adult trainings, keeping costs low and accessible to ALL girls, despite their economic circumstances, and
- To deliver on our mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

The New Facility

Since we were notified about the demolition Girl Scouts has been working with local volunteers to identify a new home to serve as the base for Girl Scouts in the Peninsula. In consultation with local volunteers, we have evaluated our options for leasing, purchasing, or moving the existing building and concluded that purchasing a building would be in the best long term interest of the program.

As a result, we purchased a 5,800 sq ft structure at 1600 Winters Road at the edge of the Bremerton city limits. The building requires modifications to convert the facility for youth program use. The modifications include interior changes, adding signage, replacing some windows, adding an ADA chair lift and bathroom, replacing the roof as well as a few other projects including new flooring, paint, etc. .

The facility is located on a major highway which facilitates easy drop-off and pick-up for after-school troop meetings and summer day camps and easy access to weekend events that typically draw from a larger geographical area. The facility will be designed to meet the needs of Girl Scout troops, weekend events and workshops with storage for equipment and supplies, thereby allowing for easy set up for activities. There is ample **free** parking to accommodate events serving large numbers of girls.

The facility will house our staff which include four full-time year round and two seasonal staff and provide room for expansion. It will serve as the hub for Girl Scout programs serving girls from grades K-12 living in the peninsula region.

Through troop meetings we expect to serve 50-60 girls a week. Through weekend activities and events we expect to serve hundreds of girls a year. Through summer day camp we expect to serve an additional hundreds of girls each day for two weeks each summer.

The size and flexibility of the facility will give us the ability to provide a much greater array of activities than our current site which had limited parking and could only accommodate small meetings. Having this facility will ease the burden on troops that are finding it increasingly difficult to find appropriate after-school meeting sites or sites that do not charge a fee for use. This program center is essential because it is a site the girls and volunteers do not have to pay for. Girl Scouts of Western Washington has already provided 41% of our member girls in the city of Bremerton with financial assistance to pay for camp and troop dues, and we have provided substantial financial assistance for girls from Kitsap, Clallam, Jefferson, and Mason counties.

The Campaign

The original purchase price of the property was \$870,000 plus thousands of dollars in architectural, engineering, and construction costs. The C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust at the Seattle Foundation awarded the Girl Scouts of Western Washington \$74,600 to purchase and renovate the new facilities. To date GSWW needs to raise \$600,000 for this building. Of this amount, we are recommended to receive, subject to state legislative approval, \$205,000 in state funding from the State Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development (CTED). Time is of the essence since we move into the building in April 2009.

Community assistance is crucial to the successful completion of this project. Foundations, corporations, local service clubs, Girl Scout families and individuals are urged to contribute via the Girl Scouts of Western Washington website (<https://www.GirlScoutsWW.org/donate>), or through checks made payable to GSWW-Bremerton Campaign, P.O. Box 900961, Seattle, WA 98109, in order to ensure the continuance of healthy and safe programming for girls in the Peninsula region.

About Girl Scouts of Western Washington

At Girl Scouts we know that given the opportunity, every girl can become a leader with the courage to act on her values, develop the ability to make clear decisions, and acquire the self-confidence to make a difference in the world around her. Girl Scouts helps girls grow courageous and strong through girl-driven programs, reflecting the ever-changing needs and interests of girls.

Girl Scouts of Western Washington currently serves more than 26,000 girls in partnership with nearly 12,500 volunteers throughout 17 counties in Western Washington. We operate program and regional offices located in Bremerton, Seattle, DuPont, Bellevue, Aberdeen, Marysville, Longview, and Renton, as well as six camp properties located in Longview, Hoquiam, Belfair, Carnation and Lilliwaup.