



## Girl Scouts—Your Voice Counts!

This is your chance to make a difference and support Camp Ledgewood’s STEM Center of Excellence! Share how important Girl Scouts is to you with your elected officials by completing and sending the letter templates below. By reaching out to your elected officials, you can complete some badge requirements as indicated. Letters and emails of support are needed to be submitted by March 25, 2023!

These letters are most powerful when paired with an accompanying letter from caregivers and/or troop leadership.

Included in this packet are letter templates and badge connections that align with this advocacy.

When the letters are ready to send, please email/mail to U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and U.S. Representative Emilia Sykes.

### **U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown**

503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
T:(202) 224-2315

**Email:** <https://www.brown.senate.gov/contact/email> (In the “Message Topic” select Federal Budget)

### **U.S. Representative Emilia Sykes**

1217 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
T: (202) 225-6265

**Email:**

- If you live in Congresswoman Sykes’ district, please fill out this form to email her: [https://sykes.house.gov/address\\_authentication?form=/contact](https://sykes.house.gov/address_authentication?form=/contact)
- Special note: If you do NOT live in her district, please share your letter with us and we’ll get it into her office via the appropriate Congressional staff.



## Sample letter for girls in grades kindergarten through grade 5:

Dear [Senator/Representative] [INSERT LEGISLATOR NAME]:

I am a Girl Scout who lives in your community, and I am learning about government and how it works in my town, my state, and my country.

I am writing to ask for your help. Girl Scouts is working on a special project for girls like me. One project I am interested in is at Camp LedgeWood. We are building a STEM Center. I am really excited about this because [EXPLAIN WHY YOU CARE ABOUT THE PROJECT/AREA OF INTEREST AND WHY LEGISLATORS SHOULD TOO! GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF AN EXPERIENCE THAT YOU'VE HAD OR WILL HAVE. **For example:** *I want to be a scientist when I grow up so that I can help people and make our community better!* **OR** *Girl Scout camp is a special place for girls to learn and try all kinds of things outside of school– even science!* **OR** *This summer when I go to camp, I'm excited to learn about space. I'll get to meet real NASA scientists, do experiments, and study Mars. I can't wait to earn my Space Badge. I want to be an astronaut when I grow up!*].

I hope you will help Girl Scouts teach more girls about STEM so we can help make our community and the world a better place.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

[INSERT GIRL SCOUT LEVEL]



## Sample email or letter for girls in grades 6 through 12:

Dear [Senator/Representative] [INSERT LEGISLATOR NAME]:

As a Girl Scout who lives in your community [**OR** *As a Girl Scout and one of your constituents*], I am writing to ask you to support the girls and troops in my council.

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO), is an organization that focuses on fostering a bright future for girls like me. GSNEO is working on many projects that need support. One of the projects I am interested in, The STEM Center of Excellence at Camp Ledgewood in Peninsula, OH, would really benefit girls in our community.

The STEM Center of Excellence at Camp Ledgewood is important to me because [EXPLAIN WHY YOU CARE ABOUT THE PROJECT/AREA OF INTEREST AND WHY LEGISLATORS SHOULD TOO! **For example:** *I'm passionate about our earth and learning about STEM is critical to solving the problems of our future like climate change. Camp Ledgewood provides space for me to appreciate nature and challenges me to think about our future.* **OR** *In our digital world, topics like cybersecurity and digital citizenship are important to me and my friends. Girl Scouts helps me learn more about these topics and connect them to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.* **OR** *I want to be a XXXXX when I grow up. Being able to explore STEM concepts will better prepare me on this journey.*]

There are plenty of ways this project will positively impact girls in our community:

- Girls who participate in Girl Scouts become better problem solvers, critical thinkers, and inspirational leaders; we earn better grades and have opportunities to earn scholarships.
- Girl Scouts builds girls' skills and encourages their interest in STEM and environmental conservation from an early age—areas girls are not typically encouraged to explore outside of Girl Scouting.
- Girl Scouts use their time, resources, and talents to give back to their communities. [CONSIDER INCLUDING AN EXAMPLE OF SOMETHING FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE.]
- [ADD HOW YOU WILL BENEFIT!]

I am excited about the opportunity to work with my government to create unique opportunities for Girl Scouts. I hope you will help support girls like me to become girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

[INSERT GIRL SCOUT LEVEL]



## Sample email or letter for adults:

Dear [Senator/Representative] [INSERT LEGISLATOR NAME]:

As a [board member/volunteer/supporter/troop leader/etc.] of Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO), I am writing to ask you to support the STEM Center of Excellence at Camp Ledgewood in Peninsula, OH with a federal appropriation through the FY24 THUD appropriations bill in the HUD-EDI account. The STEM Center will be a facility focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and will feed the talent pipeline for these much-needed workers in these fields, and regional asset that contributes to the economic growth of the region. The project will fit into the CDBG National Objectives because it will benefit low- and moderate-income persons or communities.

The STEM Center is not only a way to inspire Girl Scouts to pursue STEM-related education and careers, but also a way to collaborate with local educators to impact a larger group of youth by working with local schools and encouraging local students, both boys and girls, to use the facility as well. The STEM Center of Excellence is important to me because [EXPLAIN WHY YOU CARE ABOUT THE NEW FACILITY AND WHY LEGISLATORS SHOULD TOO].

There are plenty of benefits to this facility:

- Youth who participate in these STEM programs become better problem solvers, critical thinkers, and inspirational leaders; they earn better grades and scholarships, and they follow more lucrative career paths; plus, they see STEM as the foundation for a meaningful and successful future.
- Many youth convince themselves at an early age that they don't have the skills or interest in STEM so that by high school, only 11% of girls and 15% of boys say they can take on a STEM career. Early experiences at places like the proposed STEM Center will keep more students on the path to a STEM career.
- Girl Scout programming builds skills and encourages interest in STEM from an early age—areas girls are not typically encouraged to explore outside of Girl Scouting.

I am excited about this opportunity to have a STEM Center of Excellence in my community. I hope you will support the funding request and STEM initiative GSNEO is taking on in order to reduce the gender gap in STEM fields.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio [Board Member/Volunteer/Supporter/Troop Leader/etc.]



## Badge Connections for Girl Scouts

### Daisy

Democracy: Meet the people who work together in your government! Have an adult help you find out who your elected officials are and what kinds of things they do. Then, have them help you write a letter to support the STEM Center of Excellence! **Once your letter is written and sent, you have completed step two: Find out about state government.**

### Brownie

Democracy: Find out how people in the government decide what rules are made and how they are followed. With help from an adult, find out some of the people that represent Ohio in Congress. Then, write a letter to a representative or senator to share why the STEM Center of Excellence is important to you! **Finishing this task helps you complete step three: Find out about our country's legislative branch.**

### Junior

Inside Government: Find out more about the basics of government and start to become an active citizen. Submit your letter to elected officials to raise awareness about the STEM Center of Excellence. Use your words to inspire officials to be just as excited as you are! **Writing and sending your letter in helps you complete step five: Get involved in community government.**

### Cadette/Senior/Ambassador

Democracy: If you want to make a difference, start by fully understanding how your government works. Learn all about three branches of government-and more! Informed citizens are change makers. Write a letter to one of your federal representatives about why the STEM Center of Excellence matters and what action you'd like to see from them. **After you send your letter in, you can mark step three: Find out about the federal legislative branch completed!**