Get Girls Outside!

Why is getting girls outdoors so important?

Findings from the 2014 More Than S’mores report show that outside activities:

- Challenge girls and support their social development by encouraging them to become more self-aware and to cooperate, communicate, and solve problems more effectively
- Support girls’ emotional development; time spent outside promotes attention restoration and improves concentration and creative reasoning
- Help girls become stewards of our environment by learning how to advocate for environmental issues at the local, national and global levels

Problem: Getting Volunteers Engaged in the Outdoors

- 40% of Girl Scouts are getting outdoors on a monthly basis, meaning that 60% of girls do not have access to opportunities that develop challenge seeking and problem solving skills, and an appreciation for the environment
- Volunteers are key to delivering outdoor activities for girls. However, fewer volunteers are implementing these activities due to lack of time and its perceived difficulty, which has led to a decline in girl participation in outdoor activities

Three barriers that volunteers face in leading girls through outdoor experiences:

- Lack of easy-to-implement activities and detailed plans outlining how volunteers can take girls outside
- Need for additional support in facilitating outdoor activities
- Lack of pre-organized outdoor activities that volunteers can take girls to
October 31, 2016

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Solutions: Supporting Volunteers Leaders

- Establish a new national partnership with SCA to help provide pre-organized activities for girls and volunteers through the Outdoor Internship and All Girl Crew Destination programs
- Develop additional outdoor activities that can be easily implemented such as activities tied to badges
- Provide support and training to help volunteers guide girls through outdoor activities via the development of new functionality in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)