 **2019-2020 Informed, In Charge, & In Action Program**

**Overview**

Girls Inc. of Orange County’s Informed, In Charge, & In Action Program is a six-month advocacy program for high school girls. Its purpose is to support participants by helping them find the confidence to use their voice and to utilize it effectively, in order to make a positive change in their community.

Girls are often discouraged from raising their voice and speaking their mind. Even in the United States in 2019, women are still grossly underrepresented in our government and in leadership roles. This program will encourage and support girls that are passionate or curious about pursuing a career in any leadership role, politics, and/ or public office. This program will provide a safe space to learn about women/girls’ rights, how to effectively communicate, public speaking skills, as well as exposure to women in politics. By expanding their personal goals, this highly valued program is free of charge and designed to expose participants to the breadth of public office opportunities available to cultivate an **advocacy-driven career choice for every girl**. Through participating in the program, participants will receive:

* A *minimum* of at least 15 community service hours
* Exclusive participation in events held by Orange County’s bipartisan political action groups, Women in Leadership (WIL) and Women for American Values and Ethics (WAVE)
* 1:1 Mentoring with Girls Inc. Staff, members of WIL, WAVE
* Mentorship from Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley and other female elected officials
* Public Speaking, Leadership, and Essay Writing Workshops
* Career Panels
* Informed, In Charge, & In Action Curricula: Leadership, Government, Public Speaking, Professionalism, Career Exploration and more!
* **Access to GIOC exclusive scholarship opportunities historically ranging from $2,500 to full academic scholarships!**

The Informed, In Charge, & In Action Program inspires girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold enough to run for leadership positions, beginning in High School and within their communities now, in order to begin enacting legislative changes in the future. This program prepares high school girls for their futures in advocacy, politics, and leadership. Through their participation in the program, participants will have earned a minimum of 15 community service hours for creating an advocacy campaign, have the opportunity to collaborate with Women in Leadership, and the Women for American Values and Ethics.

**Qualifications to Apply**

30 girls will be selected from the applicant pool to participate in the Informed, In Charge, & In Action program. The application is open to all high school girls.

1. Current High School girls.
2. Reliable transportation to the meeting locations.
3. Able to commit to the required dates and times listed in table below.
4. **Submit a completed Informed, In Charge, & In Action Program application by Tuesday, October 15th before 11:59 pm.** Please complete the application electronically or using blue/black ink. Fill out each section completelty, and proofreed for for errors before submitting.

**2019-2020 Required Program Commitments**

Accepted participants are **required** to attend weekly sessions at the Grand Central Art Center, located at 125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92701. **By submitting this application, the applicant and her parent/guardian have read, understand, and agree that the participant will attend the following Grad Lab sessions in observance of the absence policy:**

|  |  |  |
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| Weekly Wednesday Meetings | October 23rd to April 29th | 4:00 PM-5:30 PM |
| Some Weekend Events  | TBD | TBD |

**Absence Policy**

Participants with perfect attendance will receive a certificate and exclusive Girls Inc. swag!

Every participant is allowed **two** excused absences throughout the duration of the program. Any absences after two excused absences will be unexcused. Continuous unexcused absences may result in release from the Informed, In Charge, & In Action Program. Late arrivals and early departures from sessions will be counted as absences. Arriving late or leaving early is defined as: arriving 30 minutes after the start of the program time or leaving earlier than 30 minutes before the end of program time.

**A Complete Application Packet Will Include**

* A completed application (without any required sections missing)
* Required short essay

**Application May Be Submitted By**

**Email:** storrejon@girlsinc-oc.org with subject: 2019 IICIA Application- Your First and Last Name

*Example: 2019 IICIA Application- Jane Doe*

**Drop-off:** Girls Inc. Youth and Family Center, 1815 Anaheim Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 *\*during business hours (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)*

| Girls Inc. of Orange County2019 Informed, in Charge, & in action Program ApplicationDue by Tuesday, October 15th, 2019 before 11:59 pm to storrejon@girlsinc-oc.org |
| --- |
| **Applicant Information** |
| Full Name: |
| School: | Grade: | Age: |
| Email: | Phone: |
| Current Address: |
| City: | State: | ZIP Code: |
| **Parent/GUARDIAN Information** |
| Parent/Guardian Name: |
| Email: | Phone: | Relationship to Applicant: |
| **ACADEMIC & Extracurricular Information** |
| Extracurricular Activity #1: | Years Involved: |
| Extracurricular Activity #2: | Years Involved: |
| Extracurricular Activity #3: | Years Involved: |
| Academic Achievements/Awards: |
| **Please name any Girls Inc. programs You have been involved with** |
| 1) | Dates: |
| 2) | Dates: |
| 3) | Dates: |
| 4) | Dates: |
| 5) | Dates: |
| **REQUIRED SHORT ESSAY** |
| Please attach your essay response to this application as a typed or handwritten document using black/blue ink. **Required Essay:** Tell me about something you are passionate about. Explain why you chose this issue or topic, and why it is important to you and/or your community. Are there particular circumstances, experiences, or persons that influenced your choice? If you can’t choose one, (that’s okay!) explain why you would like to be part of this program. **(500 Words or less)**Use the provided space or attach essays as an additional document.Please use black/blue ink or type your responses electronically. |

**Thank you! 😊**

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