

girls
inc.

of Orange County

Spring 2026

IMPACT REPORT



Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold

At-A-Glance

Through the Spring of 2026, Girls Inc. served **6,225 participants** in Orange County.

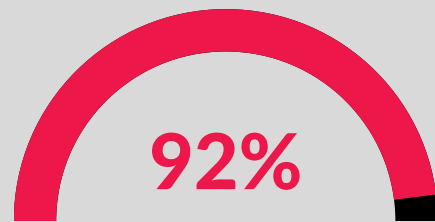
Students, alumna, and caregivers received a variety of learning opportunities to build skills in Health & Wellness, Academic Achievement, Leadership & Advocacy, and College & Career Readiness.

Across K-6th programs...



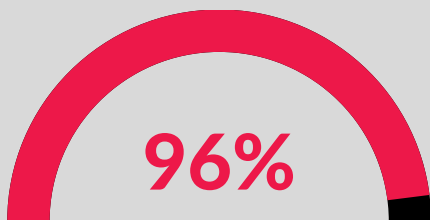
of participants demonstrated positive interest and attitudes toward STEM.

Across 7th-8th programs...



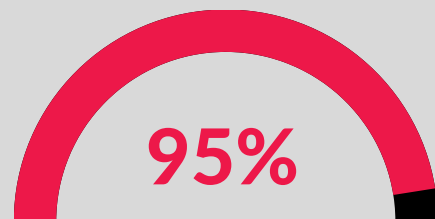
of participants learned how to establish boundaries in order to protect themselves online.

Across 9th-12th programs...



of participants learned how to maintain healthy relationships.

Across parents & caregivers programs...



of participants understood how to explain Self-Advocacy to their child.

School-Based Programs

In the Spring of 2026, Girls Inc. served over **2,800 participants** in **28 schools** across **6 districts** in Orange County with school-based programming. These programs covered topics including entrepreneurship, early literacy skills, STEM, college readiness, healthy relationships, digital safety, body image, and more.



89%

of Elementary School participants demonstrated an understanding of principles to develop and establish a viable business.



87%

of middle school participants felt confident meeting their financial goals.

A large red graphic showing a semi-circle with the text "100%" inside it, indicating that 100% of the respondents are satisfied.

of High School participants demonstrated knowledge of college planning requirements and preparation for post-secondary education.

Non-School Based Programs

The **Girls Meet the Workforce** program has empowered **313** 9th-11th graders. Through hands-on experiences focused on college and career readiness. Participants have engaged in college preparation, career exploration, resume building, mock interviews, and other skill-building opportunities designed to support their future success.



Girls Inc.'s partnership with **Minnie Street Family Resource Center** and the **Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living** continued to thrive this spring, providing programming focused on literacy, social-emotional learning (SEL), and STEM. Through these collaborations, **235 participants** have built academic skills, strengthened their confidence, and explored hands-on learning experiences in supportive, engaging environments.



157 graduating seniors from Girls Inc.'s **College Bound** program were celebrated for their high school accomplishments. **\$215,000** in scholarship funds at the national and local level were awarded to 33 participants.



Non School-Based Programs

Now in its third year, the **Eureka! Council**—an extension of Girls Inc.'s Eureka! summer program—brought together **15 participants** to strengthen their leadership and advocacy skills. As their final project, Council members developed a three-workshop series addressing key challenges facing middle school students, with a focus on social connection, school success, and mental wellness. This summer, they will lead the workshop series for Eureka! 2026 participants, empowering the next cohort to foster a positive and supportive community among their peers.



The **HOPE (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality)** youth leadership program empowers Latina high school juniors to become confident leaders and prepare for a self-sufficient future. This spring, Girls Inc. selected **four participants** to take part in this civic engagement program. Throughout the program, they developed a community project focused on substance abuse prevention and mental health awareness, culminating in a presentation at Latina Action Day in Sacramento, California.



Non School-Based Programs

This spring, **Girls Inc. Ambassadors** program welcomed a new cohort of **18 ambassadors** who explored health equity through research, data analysis, and advocacy, developing community action projects that addressed health equity in a variety of ways. This summer, they will represent Girls Inc. of Orange County at the first-ever Girls Leading Change: A Girls Inc. Advocacy Summit in St. Louis, where they will present their projects and collaborate with young leaders from across the country.



This spring, the inaugural **EmployHER Summit** was held at Anaheim High School in partnership with *Anaheim Councilwoman Natalie Rubalcava*, engaging **53 students** in grades 7th to 12th in career exploration and workforce development. Attendees participated in hands-on workshops with partners, including *Benefit Cosmetics* and *Credit Union SoCal*, and gained insights from inspiring guest speakers through a keynote and career panel. The summit empowered attendees to explore career pathways, develop professional skills, and connect with industry leaders.

Participant Highlights

Girls Inc. of Orange County alumna **Ariel Castelan** was recently featured by Telemundo's *Mujeres Imparables*, highlighting her inspiring journey of leadership and personal growth. Ariel's experience with Girls Inc. helped build her confidence and opened the door to her selection as a Girls Inc. National Ambassador. Through this opportunity, she was recognized by Telemundo, where she shared her story to inspire other young women to believe in themselves, embrace new opportunities, and use their voices to create change.

Check out the full post [here!](#)



“

This program impacted me because it taught me how to say no in situations where I would feel pressured and uncomfortable.

”

- Middle School participant

“

This program has impacted me by empowering me to believe in my abilities in getting a job, managing money, and knowing what to do to get a job.

”

- High School participant

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