

REPORT 2018 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas		Federal Tax ID#: 74-1109759	
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Head Of Organization

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Application Contact

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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2018 October Cycle	Report Date: 10/01/2019 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 51,690	Date: 10/19/2018
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas (GSSWT) anticipated 2,000 girls would participate in Gamma Sigma during the 2018-2019 program year. GSSWT exceeded this goal by serving 2,001 girls across seven local school systems (46) campuses. Through GSSWT's partnership with the Najim Family Foundation, Gamma Sigma members learned servant-leadership by coordinating service projects in collaboration with local organizations to benefit the community-at-large.

Projects included:

oCollege Bound - Girls hosted a college bound fair including vendors representing colleges/universities, internships and scholarship opportunities. They helped attendees practice completing admission and FASFA forms.

oSenior Walk - Girls raised awareness about abusive relationships which included prevention, support and recovery services. Organizers created announcements, flyers, SWAPs and hosted a booth with testimonies.

oCampus Beautification - Girls created murals and cleared litter and weeds from school courtyards. They installed recreational equipment including an outdoor learning center, raised garden beds, covered pavilion and STEM equipment.

oProm Dress Collection Drive - Girls collected formal dresses to be distributed to girls who could not afford to purchase prom dresses.

GSSWT also partnered with St. Peter--St. Joseph Children's Home (St. PJ) to provide weekly sessions of our 2019 Camp Metro summer day camp to at-risk girls. Held at our West Side Girl Scout Leadership Center, girls enjoyed activities and field trips that prepared them to recognize and address social barriers that challenge their lifelong achievements. Funding from the Najim Family Foundation provided 37 weekly sessions for 10 girls in foster care and at St. PJ's at Camp Metro.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas (GSSWT) modified spending on program and office supplies during the 2019 program year. This was the result of having excess supplies from previous years and using them prior to purchasing more. Also, as anticipated, GSSWT expanded into IDEA Eastside Academy; however, this was only for Gamma Sigma Pearls(TM) where 26 girls were registered. GSSWT plans to offer Gamma Sigma Girls(R) at IDEA Eastside Academy in the upcoming year. It should also be noted there was a personnel change in the Gamma Sigma Specialist position during the 2019 program year; however, this did not lead to modifications from the original proposal.

4: What needs were addressed?

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) continued to address the need for female youth education and extracurricular activities. There is an evident gap in the availability of all-girl programs; particularly in disadvantaged communities. According to the Excel Beyond the Bell/UP Partnership, only 13% of the demand for out of school time programming is met in Bexar County. Gamma Sigma and Camp Metro are valued extensions of the GSLE and continued to help fulfill this gap for female youths during the 2019 program year.

Personal achievement and academic success are key GSLE objectives. The State of Girls report from the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI) examined the health and well-being of girls living in the United States and found that Texas ranks a concerning 42nd in the nation. The data suggests the need for positive all-girl programming is great. For girls in Gamma Sigma, the program offered many their first feelings of support and to be part of something bigger than themselves. Many recognized the significance of becoming first in their families to graduate and the value of higher education earning the Najim Family Foundation Agent of Change patch. Through take action projects, girls became engaged in their communities and explored solutions to community problems. At Camp Metro, at-risk girls were provided with continuity of academic enrichment throughout the summer, and the safe, structured environment provided girls in foster care and from St. Peter--St. Joseph Children's Home a much-needed sense of normalcy to their frequently disrupted lives.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

With the support of the national Girl Scout Research Institute, Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas (GSSWT) uses pre- and post-surveys to evaluate the quantitative outcomes of Gamma Sigma and Camp Metro.

Gamma Sigma results were:

85% of girls reported developing a stronger sense of self

83% of girls indicated/demonstrated an increase of positive values

93% of girls fostered healthy relationships

95% of girls sought challenges in the world

86% of girls became community problem solvers

Camp Metro results were:

87% of girls reported developing a stronger sense of self
 91% of girls indicated/demonstrated an increase of positive values
 92% of girls fostered healthy relationships
 93% of girls sought challenges in the world
 89% of girls became community problem solvers

Additionally, GSSWT partners with Excel Beyond the Bell/UP Partnership to monitor academic data for Gamma Sigma. The 2019 data is still being compiled and evaluated; however, GSSWT can provide the results of our 2018 program year. At the time of our 2018 final report, this data had not yet been released.

Gamma Sigma results for 2018 were:

64% of girls increased school attendance from the previous school year
 5% of girls required disciplinary action compared to 14% of students district-wide
 99% of girls received a grade promotion compared to 93% of all of Bexar County (grades 9-12)
 81% of girls are reading at an expected or accelerated level
 98% of girls are passing Algebra II compared to 70% of their peers

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

Gamma Sigma Pearls(TM) and Gamma Sigma Girls(R) will continue to be a priority for Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas (GSSWT). The program fulfills a need for underserved preteen and teen girls to have a safe space where they can explore common interests and engage in advocacy, taking action and college readiness through peer-to-peer mentorship. In 2019-2020, GSSWT will be expanding the Gamma Sigma program into the Judson Independent School District.

Camp Metro will also remain a top priority for GSSWT. Grounded in the proven social and emotional learning outcomes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Camp Metro provides positive at-risk behavior prevention through educational and recreational activities for girls in Bexar County who need it most. During the 2019-2020 program year, GSSWT will launch Kinder Camp Metro for girls transitioning into kindergarten in Fall 2020.

GSSWT will continue to sustain Gamma Sigma and Camp Metro by seeking additional grant funding, individual donations, and revenue from product program sales to offset the costs of operation. Funding support is also provided by some partnering school systems.

7: Please provide any other comments or information relevant to this grant.

From members:

oI was going through a lot of personal problems. Gamma Sigma was my escape and support. I felt I belonged.

oI made friends with girls I never thought to be friends with.

oI learned a lot about money and savings. And how important it is!

oI felt alone and scared in school. My teacher asked me to join Gamma Sigma. Now I want to come to school and maybe college one day!

oI was always in trouble, late for class or didn't show up. My advisor asked me to meet her after school. I did, and I walked in to a group of girls. I wanted to walk out, but one walked up to me and said so glad you are here. I really love coming to Gamma Sigma now and finding something I belong to.

oI like being a part of a team with the girls around me and have a desire to work in the community.

oI want to make a difference and change the bad to good.

From advisors:

oGamma Sigma helped my girls to be better humans. They are taking an interest in their school and community. They seem to be kinder to other students. They are braver than before, and they are not afraid to speak out.

oI had one young lady who had difficulty speaking and a slight stutter. Gamma Sigma has given her the courage to stand up in front of an assembly and speak. Very proud of her!

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Gamma Sigma: Food & Beverages	\$5,503	\$0	\$3,039	\$2,463
Gamma Sigma: Office Supplies	\$1,155	\$0	\$0	\$0
Gamma Sigma: Program Supplies	\$46,249	\$19,740	\$24,473	\$23,116
Gamma Sigma: Incentives	\$700	\$0	\$931	\$0
Gamma Sigma: Transportation	\$1,850	\$0	\$683	\$0
Gamma Sigma: Assistance	\$51,850	\$20,000	\$50,845	\$20,000
Gamma Sigma: Personnel	\$49,635	\$0	\$49,635	\$0
Gamma Sigma: Program Expansion	\$6,700	\$6,700	\$650	\$650
Camp Metro: Camp registration fees, camp activities and meals, \$150 per girl (NFF funds 30 camper spots out of 166 budgeted.)	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$5,310	\$5,310
Camp Metro: Girl Scout membership, \$25 per girl (NFF funds 30 girl memberships out of 166 budgeted.)	\$750	\$750	\$150	\$150
TOTAL:	\$168,892	\$51,690	\$135,716	\$51,689

Signature

Stephanie Finleon Cortez, Chief Development and Communications Officer