

G.I.R.L.S. NEWS

Grow. Invent. Recreate. Learn. Speak.

May 2025

girls
inc.

of the Island City



Bloopers! p.4

Lost Women of Science p.10

Inside Look: Natalie Duarte p.6

Happy Mother's Day!

I love you mamma!
Happy Mother's day! - Roxie

Dear mom happy
mothers day! I love you
so much! ❤️

I love you so much
-maddie

Dear mama,
you are the best mom
I could ask for because
you are always a person that
listen to me when I'm
having problems I love you!
Love, Michelle
P.S. Happy Mother's Day

I like my mom. I love
my mom. Your cooking
is the best!
♡ Reign

Dear, mom
you are the best mom
ever!
-Lina

I love you. Your
bike riding is the best
You are a great mom
You are good at cooking.
♡ Sammy.

Happy Mothers Day!
I love you Ma even though
your not good at cooking
you still fixing away give
me good food

Hello. I love you so
much 😊
love MABEL!

I love you mommy, you
are my favorite!
Do you want to have
a day date? I know
or have a lot of work
but I hope we can
find time because I do.
I love you very much!
♡ Ruby

Dear mom happy mothers
Day please see this
THIS IS FROM JOAH
READ THIS NOTE
AND LOVE THIS NOTE
happy mothers Day
love you From Joah
♡



By Gracie

Kindergarten



by Jocelyn

4th Grade



Star Awards

Introducing Star Awards!
Girls Inc. would like to recognize the students in each grade group who have shown they can be Strong, Smart, and Bold.



THE KNIGHT

by Rose

A black knight

Darkest fur, the moonlight shies

Golden eyes in the night glow

Claw sharp as a blade

Spring

by Rose

Snowfall of petals

Your leaves fall like snow

During night your leaves aglow

The spring waves hello

BLOOPERS



G.I.R.L.S. NEWS



Interview

Natalie Duarte

on life, Girls Inc., and
the importance of
empowering youth.

Interview by Mimi

All right, you ready?

Yeah!

So the first question is what advice do you want them[the participants] to take from Girls Inc.?

That is a good question. I think the best advice I could give girls to take away from Girls Inc. is a few things.

1) Always know that you are strong, smart, and bold which is our mission, that you are amazing and that you can rule the world if you would like. 2) And to always remember to use your voice, as your voice is one of the most powerful things that you have.

What, if you tried your ideas, do you want to add to the Girls Inc. program? Like, what idea do you want to be able to have in the future? That might not be able to happen now.

Oh, that's a good question. Can we come back to that question?

Yes, definitely. All right. The next one is why do you feel like this job really pulled you in?

So I started here very young as a program facilitator, like Julianna and Elizabeth and the others. Yeah, and then I was really inspired by our mission again, right? Which is inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. And I feel like that is such an important mission that not a lot of girls get at all times. And I feel like this is the best and safest place for girls to explore that. And given the climate of where we're at right now in the world and the not so good things happening, I feel it's even more important that I stay here to support that.

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Okay. Um, if you could make any change about the way it worked, what would it be?

What do you mean?

As in like, like the format of it, like, if you walk into a Kohl's store and you're like, you know what? I don't like the way the store is mapped out. I don't like how the kids section is way in the back and how the sizing is so different.

Like it's just anything that I would like to change?

Yeah, or if you were like the boss of it, what would you do?

If I was like the boss boss boss?

Yeah.

My grand, like pie in the sky want is, as you know, this is an old Victorian home, right? Which is really cool. And all the outside rooms are a part of that historic home, but my pie in the sky is to completely take everything down and start brand new to make up to date buildings, current buildings for you all. AC, computer lab, like something much more modern than what we have now.

I feel like that would really improve the way that the girls learn.

Yep, exactly. Yeah, and it's like a cool space to come to and it's fun and it's different. I think it would just set a different tone. So that would be my want as to like a whole remodel of y'all's program spaces.

That sounds really nice.

Doesn't it?

What is like, what role do you play in the Girls Inc. business?

So I'm the director of programs. That's my official title, which means--

I like the title.

You like the title? It's pretty cool! Which means I oversee all of the programs that students come to. So that means your program, which is the after school elementary program. I oversee summer camps, which we offer, and then I also oversee our middle school and high school programs. So under me, there's amazing people like Caroline and Bettina and Gemma who are hands on with the students in you all. And I'm--

Like a supervisor, right?

Exactly. So I'm the one talking to different partners that we could partner up with or on the admin side, thinking about ways we can improve our programs. What do we need, supervising people, making connections in the community, alongside our CEO. So my job is in the back end of programming.

So this is another question about your job. What do you think aside from pulling you in, what is your favorite part of the day about your job? Like, maybe you get through half of your day or maybe you just get there and you're like, 'yes, I'm so happy about that.'

Yeah, that's a good question. Favorite part about it...

Favorite part of the job like, like the thing you wake up every morning, what do you look forward to, kind of like that?

So what's really cool about my job, and this is that it's something new everyday.

So it's not like a standard job like a cashier, right? You go in and you're going to do the business and that, right?

Like there's always a new challenge. There's always a new success. But my favorite part of the job is knowing that I'm coming in to make a difference in a bigger sense in the lives of the girls that come to our center, right? But I also look forward to when I'm having a rough day. I can go out there and have a laugh or like, just take a time out of my day to hang out with you all and get a fresh new sense when I come back inside.

Always remember to use your voice,
as your voice is one of the most
powerful things that you have.

So, it's like a different adventure each day and yet you kind of know what's coming.

Yep.

It's like if you go on a hike, you know that you're going to have to cross the river, but you don't know how big the river is. And then you go on a different hike, you know you're crossing the same river, right? It might be a different part of the river.

Right. But the everyday thing that I enjoy is when you all are here and hearing you all laugh, even cry, which sounds weird, but it makes it very lively. And it's always a constant reminder for me as to why I'm here.

And then, what is your insight on probably what you think if you were a girl here that went to Girls Inc., what would your insight be of like the skill that you would take on to your everyday life?

That they teach here?

It could be more than one.

I think if I were a girl here, what I would like what I would hope I could take on is knowing that it's okay to try my best and not be successful all the time because I think in life, that's big learning that you're not always going to be successful but you're still successful if that makes sense. So meaning like it's okay to make a mistake and you learn from it and you move on. It's not a bad thing. And I think the other piece that I would take if I were here is just the community of being around people like me, that I can be myself and I'm in a non-judgmental safe place.

Yeah, no men here to judge you.

Yep, exactly. So it's kind of our little space here.

Definitely. All right, so back to, um the other question, what future ideas do you have? Like if Girls Inc. had all the money in the world.

Yeah, so that kind of ties into like--

Demolishing the place.

laughter

Yes, and making it modern and better, right? More modern look and feel. I think adding like real cool science programming instead of just having to file the material, like having professionals come in and do things. I think more field trips that we can go on. And I think making sure families think, "where can I take my girl where she can learn certain things and be like an amazing girl?" Girls Inc. I want to be the place where the families choose us first.

Like if someone says, like, maybe you're talking to your friend and you're let's say you don't have this job, and you're talking to your friend and she says, I can't look after my kids after school and I want her to be a I want them to be a like successful woman when they grow up. Where should I take them? You want yourself to be able to say, you should take them to Girls Inc.

Exactly. Similar to Kumon, right? It's like, yeah, my kids need tutoring, where should I take them more often than not, it's Kumon, right? Yeah. So that's what I would want for this program that we're the first choice because that would be...for this to be the number one choice that comes to people's minds.

Like popcorn. You want it to be like a poppin' name?

I love that. Yes, the 'pop in' name for that.

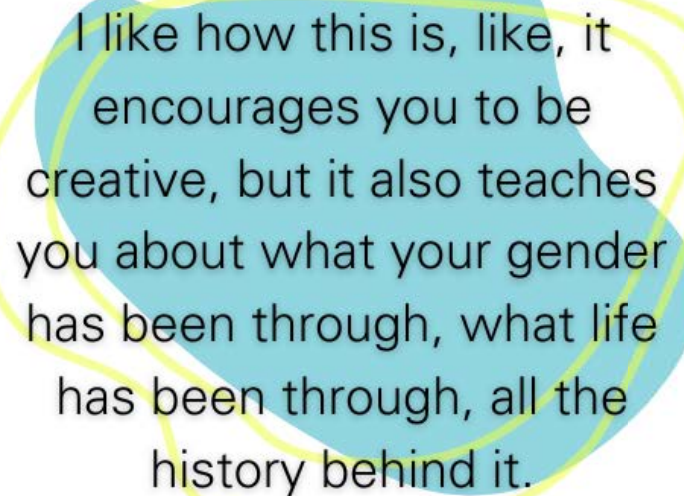
Can I ask you a question? How do you think we could improve programming here?

I think that this is actually probably one of the best afterschool programs I've ever been to and I've been to a lot.

What makes it pretty high on that list for you?

One, that it encourages women's rights. The second is that I like how it's split up into different grade categories. So it's easier for one grade to be focusing on one thing and the other is to be focusing and more advancing. And I think the number one best thing about Girls Inc. is that it not only is just the place to be creative, but it's a place that you can learn about, like, rights and voting, and like when one week, we did, um, taxes. To imagine that we were adults. We drew a job and they showed us the rent, how much it was, and then with our job.

Isn't that such a reality check? Yes, it is, I'm an adult and I get scared about it.



I like how this is, like, it encourages you to be creative, but it also teaches you about what your gender has been through, what life has been through, all the history behind it.

I like how it also teaches us, because one week we were learning about African American rights and we didn't realize how long it took for African American women to be able to vote. And I think personally, I didn't even know that. And I like how this is like, it encourages you to be creative, but it also teaches you about what your gender has been through, what life has been through, all the history behind it. I just think that's really cool that this aftercare does that, because other aftercares, they teach you language, tutor you, or let you play with Legos, but this one, it encourages creativity, free time, and it teaches you stuff that you might not even know about.

Yeah, awesome!

It's fun and interesting. Yeah, that's yeah, that's it. Well, thank you for letting me come in and interview you.

Of course. Thank you, anytime. I look forward to reading this in the newspaper!

Current Events

Curated by the Editor

Lost Women of Science

Lost Women of Science is an amazing podcast that helps bring to light the amazing women in STEM fields who have been lost to time and historical attitudes towards women. They use historical archeology to uncover the contributions of women throughout modern history and Girls Inc. has the opportunity to speak with the podcasters and ask them questions in a special Q&A session with Katie Hafner, Host & Co-Executer of the Lost Women of Science podcast!

Join us on **Wednesday, May 14th @ 3:00 PM** to meet and ask your questions!



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN 



Lost Women of Science

Check out the newest episodes here!



**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

Earth Day Walking Field Trip

The girls did an amazing job cleaning up the beach! It's a small gesture but it's one area that's safe and clean for other kids and animals to be in.

Nice Job Girls Program!



Would You Rather...



Would you rather have to eat 300 donuts or one plate of your least favorite food?

Donuts 50%
Least Favorite Food 50%

Would you rather live with one human-size puppy or one mouse-size gorilla?

Puppy 40%
Gorilla 30%

Would you rather hang out with two friends with nothing to do or go to a party of strangers doing all your favorite things?

Two Friends 50%
Party 20%

Would you rather be able to talk to animals or read minds?

Animals 50%
Read Minds 10%

Would you rather be able to breathe underwater or fly in the sky?

Breathe Underwater 20%
Fly 40%

Would you rather be able to travel to the past or the future?

Past 50%
Future 50%

Would you rather have a million followers who barely know you or one best friend?

1 Million Followers 10%
One Best Friend 60%

Would you rather be super strong or super fast?

Strong 50%
Fast 50%



Play this game with friends and see how they answer. You might learn something new!

Mara and the Moon

by Jocelyn

Once upon a time,

there was a girl about 17 years old and her name was Mara. Now, today is a very special day for Mara because it's her birthday and something unexpected is going to happen, but she doesn't know that. So everyone kept saying birthday to her and complimenting her on her clothes, even though there were just the normal average clothes she wears, but normally people are extra nice to you on your birthday, even if you're having a bad day. So, everything was fairly normal and after school, she got home and started relaxing because it had been a long day.

When it was dinnertime, her dad told her a very, very special secret. First he said, "Happy birthday, sweetie." Then he said, "You know how your mom died in a car accident? Well, she never really died."

Mara said, "She's alive?"

"Yes, she's also the goddess of the moon. Her name isn't Bridget. It's Lunis."

And then Mara fainted. And she hadn't even gotten the chance to eat her food.

So when she woke up the next morning, she was awakened by the licks of her little dog cheese puff. She woke up very, very hungry. So she went downstairs to get a little food. and remembered.

"My mom...is Lunis, goddess of the moon."

She called her best friends, Chloe and Zoe, told them the news, then they started packing all of their stuff so they could try to find Lunis. Even though they knew that even if you were a demigod, if you ever saw a real god, you died. They knew this, but they didn't care.

They started packing. They packed clothes, sleeping bags, and pillows. They put their pets in little pet carriers with food, water, and some toys. They packed their allergy stuff, because Mara is definitely allergic to peanuts. Chloe is definitely allergic to poison ivy, and then Zoe doesn't have any allergies.

First, they found a boot camp to get them ready for their big journey ahead. While they were there, something terrible happened. It was 1:00 AM, and the moon was still out because Lunis was watching her daughter.

It was the final day of boot camp, and there was a big battle between one side of the camp and another side of the camp. Mara got very, very hurt. She was bleeding everywhere, even on her tongue. She laid down in the moonlight.

Her mom was really worried about her. Mara was, um, really grateful, but also she didn't know what happened. She didn't know that her mom healed her. She just thought she had some magical healing powers from her mom.

Finally, boot camp was over and the next day Mara, Chloe, and Zoe, went on their way to the next magical god rest stop.

Find out what happens in the next issue of G.I.R.L.S. News!



Please let us know what you think! Feedback and support is always appreciated!

girlsnews@girlsincislandcity.org



GIRLSINC.ISLANDCITY

Artist of the Month
Reign

