

Dear Parent,

On behalf of the Girls Inc. of NW Oregon Staff, I would like to thank you for supporting your daughter's involvement in our organization. _____ is a Girls Inc. girl—she is strong, smart, and bold, and willing to use her voice to stand up for herself and her peers. We would like to request that you encourage your daughter to expand her role by becoming a member of the Girls' Council.

The Girls Council is an advisory council composed entirely of middle school and high school aged girls. Girls are our organization's most valuable resources, providing Girls Inc. with the information we need to develop meaningful and relevant programming. Being a part of girls' council is an honor as well as an opportunity to put ideas into action. Girls learn more about the history of the organization and learn to develop leadership and advocacy skills by: visiting the legislature to have a voice in policy change on issues that are important to girls, representing the organization at events, and working together to develop an action plan for the school year. Later in the year, the Council will have the opportunity to talk to girls at different groups around the community and in other organizations to help raise community awareness around pertinent topics related to girls.

Members are expected to attend a monthly council meeting, the 4th Monday and at least one additional commitment each month. This may include a media appearance, an interview, or Girls Inc. event. **The first meeting is Monday January 26th from 5:30-7:30 at the Girls Inc. office at 1233 SE Stark Street. This meeting is mandatory.** If you cannot provide transportation for your daughter, please let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate.

Council girls are truly the best representatives of Girls Inc. The girls' first job on the council will be a role model at our Power of the Purse event, Girls Inc.'s largest fundraiser of the year. The event consists of a dinner and live auction where girls will model purses designed by local celebrities and ask their community to invest in their futures. The girls who model at Power of the Purse will be specifically recognized for their leadership as 2008-2009 Girls' Council members. Power of the Purse is **March 12th at the Nines Hotel from 5-9PM. Girls must arrive by 2PM. There are 3 rehearsals girls must attend to prepare for the event. The rehearsals will be from 1-3PM February 22nd, March 1st, and March 8th.**

Girls Inc. is an organization founded on the belief that girls can use their voices to empower themselves, their families, and their peers. The Girls' Council is an opportunity for girls to use those voices—to become their own best advocates. With these efforts, our community can become a place that fosters the development of healthy and happy young women. Please contact us at (503) 230-0054 to let us know if your girl is interested in serving on the Girls' Council, or if you have further questions regarding the Council please call Jill Silk, council representative at (503) 422- 0161. If you have internet access, please feel free to read more about the council at: <http://www.girlsincnworegon.org/GirlsCouncil.html>

If you have any troubles getting the application, please contact us and we will send it to you.

Best Wishes,
Girls Inc. Staff
Annette, Jill, Bonnie, Rebecca, Shawna, Kamesha, and Olivia

Essays due 12/12/08
Essay Questions:

- 1) Tell us about you! As a girl, what makes you STRONG, SMART, and BOLD? You may provide examples such as a time when you were an ally, overcame something difficult or challenging, or a personal quality you admire about yourself. This is a great opportunity to talk yourself up!
- 2) a. If you have been a Girls Inc. girl and attending groups regularly, please give an example of how Girls Inc. has helped you in the real world.

b. If you are a new Girls Inc. girl, please let us know what you are hoping to gain from your involvement in the program.
- 3) If you are selected to participate on the Girls' Council, how would you like to help girls?

Thank you for being so BOLD and telling us about yourself! The Girls Council will read your essay at the next council meeting and select participants based on **what** you wrote, not **how you write**.