

NPO SPOTLIGHT

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Girls Quest

Founded: 1935

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Mission:

To nurture and help girls from low-income families achieve their full potential and become active, responsible members of their communities.

About the Organization:

Girls Quest was established in 1935 as the Girls' Vacation Fund by Ruth Kauth, a social worker at the [Henry Street Settlement House](#). The organization's name was changed to Girls Quest in 2005 to reflect its expanded programming, which encompasses outdoor experiential education, literacy development, adult mentoring, leadership training, and peer-to-peer learning and role modeling. Every year, Girls Quest funds out-of-school enrichment programs for more than three hundred disadvantaged girls between the ages of 8 and 17, most of whom live in one of New York City's five boroughs.

Current Programs:

Girls Quest programs teach girls life skills while also helping them build self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of purpose. Youngsters start out by participating in the [Summer Experiential Education and Development Program](#), which operates out of a camp in the Catskill Mountains and combines a traditional summer camp experience with an educational program. SEED activities include swimming, boating, basketball, music, art, drama, dance, yoga, nutrition, cooking, environmental education, hiking, and non-competitive games. Through the year-round [Mentor Program](#), professional women meet regularly with participating girls to provide them with positive role models and shared experiences. And the [Teen Leadership Program](#), which also operates year-round, trains teenage girls to be peer counselors while helping them cope with the changes and challenges of adolescence.

Web Site:

The Girls Quest site provides an [FAQ](#) related to the SEED Program as well as information about [SEED summer camp positions](#), [volunteering](#), and [sponsorship opportunities](#). The site also features an [alumna spotlight](#) and links to brochures, newsletters, and [photo albums](#).

Funding:

Girls Quest is supported primarily by foundations and corporations.

