



April 2023

## Troop 6000 Expands to Serve Recent Immigrants, Bringing Girl Scouting to NYC Emergency Shelter

As New York City works to integrate the influx of migrant and asylum-seeking families into our community, Troop 6000 is expanding its supportive programming to address the social and emotional needs of newly arrived young people.

In January 2023, Girl Scouts of Greater New York **expanded its Troop 6000 program** to serve **100+ young arrivals living in New York City Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Center**. The organization is also actively responding to shifting demographics of Troop 6000 members with adaptations and enhancements across all partner sites.

### What is Troop 6000?

Launched in 2017, Troop 6000 is a first-of-its-kind Girl Scout program designed to provide a full Girl Scout experience to families in the New York City shelter system. Since the first days of serving just seven Girl Scouts in one family shelter in Queens, **Troop 6000 has expanded to serve more than 20 shelter sites and more than 2,500 Girl Scouts and adults over the past six years.**

The program is specifically designed to serve young people living in temporary housing by integrating trauma-informed care and mental and emotional health training into Girl Scouts' signature leadership development program. By delivering the traditional troop experience in shelters, Girl Scouts helps young people who live under the same roof build community at a time of instability in their lives.

Girl Scouts in Troop 6000 meet weekly for troop meetings, earn badges in subjects like STEM and Business & Entrepreneurship, explore New York City on field trips, and attend camp in upstate New York—**all at no expense to families**. Like all other Girl Scout programming, Troop 6000 focuses on leadership development, equipping members with the skills and confidence to chart their own courses for the future.

### Expanding to Serve a New Population of Families

With the influx of recent immigrant families into the New York City shelter system as a whole, Troop 6000 is also serving such families in many other partner shelters. As of April 2023, **more than 40% of Troop 6000 members speak Spanish as their primary language**, a marked increase.

Troop 6000 is run by a dedicated team at Girl Scouts of Greater New York, which includes a **social worker, transition specialist** to support Girl Scouts as they move out of shelter, and **bilingual team members** to expand and enhance our ability to serve Spanish-speaking families across all Troop 6000 sites. This expansion of Troop 6000 is being made possible by the **generous support of donors and funders**, in particular the **Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, New York Life Foundation, The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation, Trinity Church Wall Street Philanthropies, and The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, and the Lily Auchincloss Foundation.**