

2014 GIRLS' LEADERSHIP COUNCILSM RECOMMENDATION INFORMATION



The **Girls' Leadership Council (GLC)** is a prestigious program that inspires girls to be future leaders and philanthropists. Through this program girls will engage in a challenging, hands-on program that allows each girl to discover the power to assist their communities. GLC is a program of The Women's Foundation of Colorado coordinated in partnership with Girls Inc. of Metro Denver.

Through a competitive application and interview process, 20 high school sophomore girls are identified to participate in The Foundation's Girls' Leadership Council. Each summer, girls participate in a one-week intensive, on-site program on the beautiful University of Denver campus.

The program is designed to provide an overview of the status of women and girls in Colorado, understanding and focusing on the issues that impact them the most. Tentative training components include: Foundation-led research on the status of women and girls in our state, the history of women, the economic self-sufficiency of women and girls; the education of women and girls with focus on the girls' high school drop-out rate; public policy & advocacy including the Foundation's work on the Cliff Effect and poverty; women in the work force, with emphasis on the status of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.), women in leadership and civic engagement, women in media, women in philanthropy, grantmaking, diversity and inclusiveness, and personal leadership including extensive team building and intrapersonal development activities.

This program is meritorious and provided **free of charge** to participants.

The recommendations are a critical element in each application. Strong recommendations are those that include evidence of a significant understanding of the girl's skills and leadership as well as personal examples of the applicant's strengths.

Recommendation Forms Must Be E-mailed or Mailed – The form may be sent electronically to GLC@wfco.org or by postal mail to Girls' Leadership Council, c/o The Women's Foundation of Colorado, 1901 East Asbury Avenue, Denver, CO 80208.

If emailing the recommendation form, **please attach your recommendation as a PDF or Word document.** E-mails with text copied and pasted in the body of the e-mail will not be accepted. Please put “GLC Recommendation” in the subject line.

Please adhere to the following:

- ✓ Be sure to put the name of the applicant at the top of the recommendation, even if the name of the applicant is cited elsewhere in your letter.
- ✓ Remember to briefly explain your relationship to the applicant and length of time you have known the applicant.
- ✓ Please include your preferred contact information at the end of the letter should we need to contact you.
- ✓ Recommendations should not exceed two pages; the ideal length is one to one and one-half pages.
- ✓ Explain why you are recommending this candidate for the Girls’ Leadership Council. Share some **inspirational and personal stories** about the applicant and **generate excitement and enthusiasm** about the applicant’s personality, values, and ethic.

The recommendation **must be received** by The Women’s Foundation of Colorado **by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2014.** Late recommendations, even if postmarked on March 3, may not be reviewed and potentially disqualify the candidate’s application.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A STRONG RECOMMENDATION

It is essential your letter of recommendation includes SPECIFIC EXAMPLES; general statements do little to help our volunteers distinguish between qualified applicants. Please bring the student to life by citing situations in which you have observed the applicant. The following example questions are designed to help guide your letter so that it will best characterize the applicant. You are not required to address all the examples and may choose to discuss one or a few of them in your letter.

- ✓ CRITICAL THINKING: How would you rate this student's scholastic ability relative to other young adults with whom you have worked? Critically evaluate the applicant's intellectual capacity in various situations.
- ✓ LEADERSHIP: Do you consider this applicant a leader? Describe specific instances in which you have observed the applicant displaying leadership. Based on your observations, how would you characterize this student's leadership ability and potential?
- ✓ SERVICE ETHIC: Have you known this young woman to make unselfish contributions of time and energy to the welfare of others or to a particular organization? If so, describe the particular situation(s).
- ✓ CHARACTER: Have you known the young adult to show integrity or a lack thereof? If so, describe the particular situation. Do you like this person, and why? Does the applicant work well with others? Would you want to work closely with the applicant?
- ✓ ABILITY TO HANDLE ADVERSITY: Has this applicant faced hardship? Have you observed the applicant in a situation of stress, and if so, how did the applicant react in this situation?
- ✓ TALENT: Does this young woman have special skills of which you are aware, particularly those that are unlikely to appear on a résumé? Describe this student's most impressive accomplishment in your school, community, etc.