Girls Shine Bright

Where girls create, lead, and bring ideas to life

> “This is my favorite place to be. I finally feel in charge of myself.”
> – **Girls Shine Bright participant, age 12**

Nicole and Girls Shine Bright participants holding the GSB Empowerment Card Deck

Girls Shine Bright creates meaningful opportunities for girls to build confidence, creativity, leadership, and real-world skills.

Why Girls Shine Bright Matters

Today's girls are growing up in a world that asks them to consume more than they create and perform more than they lead.

Our programs are designed to address three important challenges facing girls today:

Well-being & Self-Worth

- Girls face increasing anxiety, social pressure, and self-doubt during adolescence
- Building a positive sense of self is challenging in today’s digital world
- Many girls lack spaces where they feel seen, supported, and appreciated for who they are and what they have to share

Leadership & Representation

- Representation gaps shape what girls see as possible for themselves
- Girls of color face additional gaps in representation
- Early opportunities to practice leadership and be seen as leaders are limited

Real-World Skills

- AI and technology are reshaping the future faster than schools can adapt
- Experiential learning that builds future-ready skills is not widely available
- Girls need more opportunities to build real-world skills while contributing in meaningful ways

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OUR APPROACH: CONNECT, CREATE, LEAD

Girls Shine Bright creates spaces where girls don't just learn about leadership and creativity, they practice them in real time, on real projects, with real impact.

Through our programs, girls:

- **Grow** as leaders through facilitation, collaboration, and meaningful leadership roles
- **Strengthen confidence**, communication, and creative problem-solving skills
- **Create and share** books, publications, and other creative projects with real audiences
- **Experience** a supportive and encouraging community

OUR IMPACT

45	3	13k+	2
girls served	countries	raised to date	youth publications

VOICES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

"I felt like a business partner in this project. Being part of this showed me that **girls no matter their age can do real things too."**

– Girls Shine Bright participant, age 11

"My daughter has blossomed into a confident, thoughtful, and creative teen. **She gets to lead and showcase her ideas."**

– Girls Shine Bright parent

"I discovered that I have more creativity than I thought I had. **I felt more entitled to be able to stand up, speak and become someone who's actually being listened to."**

– Girls Shine Bright participant, age 12

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FUNDING REQUEST: $50,000

Girls Shine Bright is seeking $50,000 to support two initiatives:

Beginning with Belonging

A social impact creative publishing initiative where teen girls work together to create a four-book series and accompanying toolkit designed for K-2 classrooms and families to support self-understanding, belonging, empathy, and understanding of others through a neurodiversity-affirming lens.

Teen participants develop real-world creative and leadership skills while creating meaningful resources for younger children, families, and classrooms.

Learning Leadership

A creative leadership fellowship where teen girls build skills, bring ideas to life, and gain real-world leadership experience.

Girls receive leadership training, learn how to facilitate and lead GSB circles for younger participants, contribute to a collaborative Substack, help bring Girls Shine Bright projects into the community, and develop and share a creative project of their own.

Turning imagination into action and ideas into impact

Our first book publishing project: a 15-year-old Girls Shine Bright participant holding the book she illustrated.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER

Girls Shine Bright was founded by Nicole Connell, M.Ed., an educational therapist and mentor with over 20 years of experience working with children and adolescents. Nicole founded Girls Shine Bright to create the kind of space she wished she had growing up – where girls are seen, valued, and given real opportunities to create and lead.

When girls shine bright, we all shine brighter together. ✨

Girls Shine Bright is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. Contributions for the charitable purposes of Girls Shine Bright must be made payable to Fractured Atlas and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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