



Make the Connection:

A Mentoring Partnership with the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital For Teen Girls

Wilson Center Education Conference
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What is Make the Connection?

- ▶ A mentoring partnership between Booz Allen Hamilton and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital for teenage girls.
- ▶ Conceived as a result of a total leadership/work life balance class piloted by the Wharton School of Business with Booz Allen, MTC is a way to show the connections between business, the community, students, and individuals in the workplace.
- ▶ Small group mentoring based on the experiences of Booz Allen staff and the aspirations of girls.
- ▶ Event one is structured with activities that introduce girls to corporate life.
- ▶ Event two is free form discussion focusing on life balance featuring sessions on School – Surviving and Thriving; Friends – Peer Pressure; and, Parents - Expectations
- ▶ Event three is a team and individual challenge day in a camp setting.
- ▶ Event four is an elegant celebration dinner with an inspirational guest speaker..

Why the partnership between Booz Allen and the Girl Scouts?

- ▶ **Girl Scout Mission Statement:** Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.
- ▶ GSCNC had a combined girl and adult membership of 79,398 in 2006 - 2007 scout year. That membership consisted of 55,392 girls and 24,006 adults. We served girls through wide-ranging activities in 4,587 troops with the help of dedicated volunteers-women and men who gave of their time, talent and energy to Girl Scouts. Our Girl Scouts are from the entire Greater Washington metropolitan area, including Washington, DC; the Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's and Saint Mary's; the Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William; and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church.
- ▶ Booz Allen Hamilton believes that good business and corporate philanthropy go hand in hand. As global citizens, we have to reach beyond ourselves to create social change in the communities where we live and work. Our firm has a core commitment to global corporate philanthropy through volunteer service, grants, and pro bono work. Our employees are a community of people who are getting involved and making an impact. Create social change and you can help change our world for the better. This philosophy is incorporated in everything we do at Booz Allen and we see that spirit of service making an impact in our communities around the world.

How is Make the Connection organized?

- ▶ Make the Connection – GSCNC’s innovative career exploration/corporate mentorship program for girls offered in partnership with Booz Allen Hamilton – is enjoying another successful year with 183 girls and 62 Booz Allen Hamilton employees participating. Since the program’s inception two and a half years ago, more than 180 Booz Allen employees have mentored 555 local girls, leading them through a variety of fun and interactive activities to introduce them to the corporate world and develop their leadership and teamwork skills. We estimate that at least 30% of the program participants are from low-income families and that 40% represent racial or ethnic minority groups.
- ▶ GSCNC recruits the girls, beginning in August, using their web site, flyers distributed through troops, TTG Magazine for teen girls, CAPITALK newsletter.
- ▶ Booz Allen recruits and trains mentors and puts on the first two events in Booz Allen offices in McLean and Herndon, VA.
- ▶ GSCNC contracts with an outdoor outfitter to put on the third event at Camp Crowell in Oakton, VA
- ▶ Booz Allen identifies and engages the guest speaker for the fourth event, a celebration dinner held at a major DC hotel, which GSCNC contracts with.

Who can participate in Make the Connection?

- ▶ Any Girl Scout in grades 7 through 12
- ▶ MTC is a “bring a friend” activity, which means it is used to introduce other girls to Scouts
- ▶ Girls are grouped by ages into groups with a preferred ratio of 2 girls to each mentor
- ▶ Mentors can be any Booz Allen employee who is willing to make the commitment to the events. (Yes, we do have men mentors!)
- ▶ Mentors come from all organizations in Booz Allen and may be entry level to highly experienced.

When is Make the Connection offered?

- ▶ Four separate events throughout the school year. Girls must attend two of the first three events in order to attend the fourth.
- ▶ Oct/Nov: Welcome to the Corporate World!, Corporate HQ, McLean, VA
 - Two sessions, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, 1 – 4 p.m. each day, girls choose one]
 - Girls meet mentors and make new friends. They complete a career interest inventory, see a fashion show, question senior executives and get a peek at the world's newest high-tech inventions while touring the Technology Petting Zoo
- ▶ January: Trusting Yourself – Depending on Others, One Dulles Campus, Herndon, VA
 - Two sessions, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, 1 – 4 p.m. each day, girls choose one
 - A free form discussion focusing on life balance featuring sessions on School – Surviving and Thriving; Friends – Peer Pressure; and, Parents - Expectations
- ▶ April: Individuals and Teams, Camp Crowell, Oakton, VA
 - One session, all girls and mentors together. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Girls and mentors go to Girl Scout camp to conquer a challenge course with fellow teammates.
- ▶ June: Celebrating Success – Moving Forward, Washington, DC Major Hotel
 - One session, all girls and mentors, 4 – 7 p.m.
 - A fabulous reception in an elegant setting with an inspirational speaker and a chance to reflect with mentors on the new skills they have gained.

Contact Information

- ▶ Rebecca Patton, Booz Allen Hamilton, 703-377-6934, patton_rebecca@bah.com
- ▶ Lee Ann Timreck, Booz Allen Hamilton, 703-984-0096, timreck_lee_ann@bah.com
- ▶ Carolyn Smith, GSCNC, 202-237-1670 ext. 238 csmith@gscnc.org
- ▶ Sharon Gleason, GSCNC, 202-237-1670 ext 230 sgleason@gscnc.org



<http://www.gscnc.org/girls/teen/programs/maketheconnection.php>