

How do I join?

If you are a teenage girl who would like to join GirlZpace, or if you are a parent, guardian or educator who would like to refer a girl to GirlZpace, contact the Girl's Advocate at the Walnut Avenue Women's Center:

Natalie Orozco

(831) 426-3062 ext. 217

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Who sponsors GirlZpace?

GirlZpace is a program of the Youth Development Services at Walnut Avenue Women's Center. It is funded by the county of Santa Cruz Juvenile Probation.

GirlZpace is also a project of the Girls' Task Force, a team of passionate volunteers and advocates. GTF is dedicated to improving gender specific services to better support all girls in the community.



*Youth Development Services
of the
Walnut Avenue Women's Center
303 Walnut Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-426-3062*

*Our mission is to provide support
and services so women, children
and families have the opportunities
and skills to thrive.*

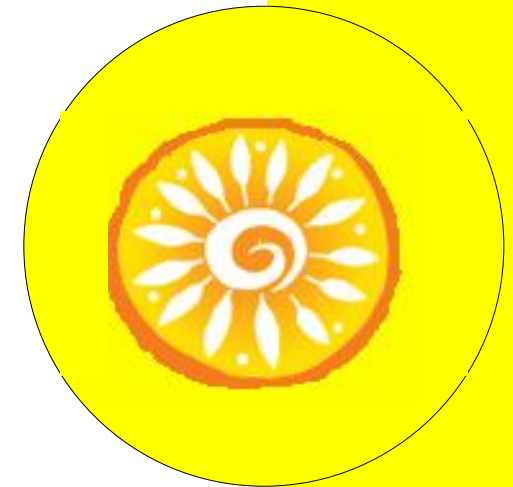
We Celebrate Diversity



Funded By:

Probation Department of Santa Cruz County

GirlZpace



Three sites throughout the county where teen girls can access counseling, participate in fun activities, and develop leadership skills.

Youth Development
Services of the
Walnut Avenue
Women's Center

What is GirlZpace?

GirlZpace is a place for teenage girls to get together with other girls and advocates to receive gender-specific services. Each week, we eat nutritious food, cook together and listen to each other. We talk about what it is like to be a teenage girl and we participate in activities that build self-esteem, leadership, and responsibility.

Our projects, whether art, cooking or fitness grows from the intent to foster positive development. GirlZpace is a supportive environment and all girls are accepted for who they are.

When is GirlZpace?

There are three sites throughout the county that continue year around:

- Mondays, 5:30pm-7:30pm @ 303 Walnut Avenue, in downtown Santa Cruz.
- Tuesdays, 5:30pm-7:30pm @ 6134 Highway 9 in the San Lorenzo Valley.
- Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm @ 215 East Beach St.. in Watsonville.



What have girls said about the program?

- *"I like the allies. I can tell them anything. I can tell them more stuff than I can tell my own family."*
- *"They are adults, but I don't feel like they are adults really because we have so much fun."*
- *"It is our space, I like that we have our own room."*
- *"I like that you can talk about anything and that the people there are suppose to respect what you are talking about and it is confidential."*
- *"I like that different people from all over get together."*

Why is it successful?

- Using the Girl's Circle curriculum, GirlZpace provides a supportive environment where teenage girls can build self-esteem and social skills.
- Research has shown that girls benefit from focused education that allows them to develop leadership skills.
- Girls who have experienced trauma benefit from gender-specific counseling to foster healing and to take the first necessary steps towards empowerment.
- GirlZpace aspires to be a safe haven for high need girls to explore all aspects of themselves while they channel their emotional power into pro-social activities.
- GirlZpace is facilitated by female youth advocates who are role models, reliable adults, trained to support girls in making healthy life decisions for themselves.



