

We all belong at the

FINISH LINE

Girls on the Run



Bring Girls on the Run to
your school, neighborhood
or community!

WHO WE ARE



Girls on the Run is an international nonprofit that offers programs to strengthen third- to eighth-grade girls' social, emotional, physical, and behavioral skills. **Girls on the Run is one of the only youth development programs with compelling evidence that proves participants learn life skills and then use them in other aspects of their lives.**

We take pride in our progress:

- Each year, more than **200,000 girls** ages 8 to 13 participate across the United States and Canada.*
- Since 1996, **over 2 million girls** have been transformed, inspired and empowered by the program.
- With more than 330 5K events taking place annually, **GOTR is the largest 5K series (by number of events) in the world.***
- Over **600,000 participants and spectators** attend GOTR 5Ks every year.*

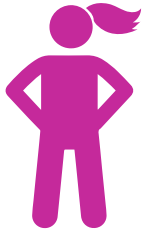


"The lessons reinforced through GOTR really helped strengthen my daughter Elyana's character. I am very proud to have watched Elyana flourish and learn to love and accept herself and even more importantly, become proud of what makes her unique."

-DIANE, PARENT

**Pre-pandemic statistics. We look forward to building back stronger.*

A CRITICAL NEED



Since the start of the COVID pandemic, 79% of girls feel lonelier and more depressed.



50% of girls ages 10 to 13 experience bullying.

Girls' self-confidence begins to drop by age nine.



Physical activity declines starting at age ten and continues to decrease as girls age.



The U.S. Surgeon General recently highlighted the urgent need to address the nation's youth mental health crisis, stating that "the future wellbeing of our country depends on how we support and invest in the next generation."

The Girls on the Run curriculum empowers girls to build confidence and successfully navigate life experiences. Over the course of the program, physical activity serves as a platform for teaching interpersonal skills and promoting holistic health outcomes.





WHY GIRLS ON THE RUN?

Evidence-based research from leading youth development experts has proven that Girls on the Run:

Prompts independent thought and intentional decision-making



Builds confidence



Strengthens self-respect

Enhances girls' ability to stand-up for self & others

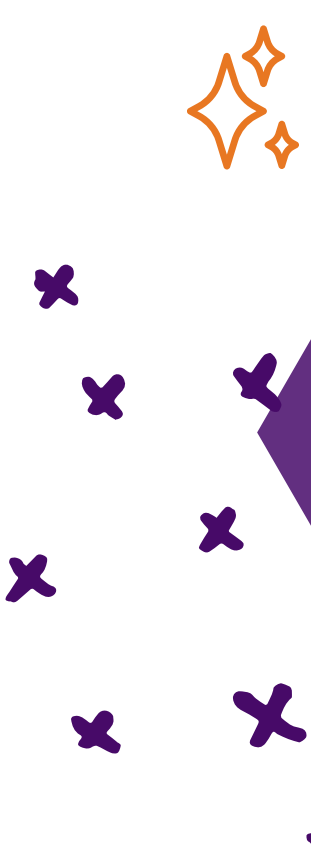
Fosters healthy relationships



Establishes a life-long appreciation for health and wellness



These clear outcomes to social-emotional learning goals are just one aspect of GOTR key differentiator to other afterschool programs.



WHAT SETS GIRLS ON THE RUN APART?



Intentional curriculum, expert coaches and an inclusive environment all lead to a long-term impact.

Girls on the Run programming is continuously evaluated, both internally and externally. Recent studies uncovered that:



97% of girls felt like they belonged at Girls on the Run.

85% of girls improved their confidence, caring, competence, character and connection to others.

GOTR participants scored higher in managing emotions, resolving conflict, helping others and making intentional decisions than participants in organized sports or physical education.

98% of girls would tell other girls to participate in Girls on the Run.

97% of girls learned critical life skills they can use at home, school and with friends.

94% of parents reported Girls on the Run was a valuable experience for their girl.



"This program is amazing. My daughter participated for three years and now volunteers and still does the 5K. Girls on the Run is a safe space for her to discuss the complicated issues preteens and teens dealing with. The faces on the girls when they cross the finish line are absolutely amazing. They know they've really accomplished something."

-ROBIN, PARENT

AN ONGOING COMMITMENT

TO INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESS (IDEA)



Advancing IDEA is foundational to our mission

A recent external program review study found participants, families and coaches felt that Girls on the Run was inclusive, promoted diversity, and was accessible and equitable.



- **97% of girls** felt like they belonged at Girls on the Run.
- **Nearly 100% of girls** agreed they felt safe at Girls on the Run and that their coaches cared about them.
- **97% of girls** agreed they could be themselves at Girls on the Run and felt included in all GOTR activities they wished to participate in.
- **100% of caregivers** who reported that their child required accommodations to fully participate agreed that their child could participate equally to their peers.
- **98% of caregivers** agreed that their child felt physically, emotionally and socially safe at Girls on the Run and included in all GOTR activities they wished to participate in.





TRANSFORMING LIVES

Three programs, one life-long impact.

At the heart of our programs are:

Evidence-based curriculum

Nationally trained coaches

Intentional evaluation

IDEA-focused approach

Physical activity accessible for all ability levels

Social-emotional skill development

Community service involvement



Girls on the Run: Grades 3-5

The research-based curriculum includes:

- Understanding ourselves
- Valuing relationships and teamwork
- Recognizing how we can shape the world at large

The program unleashes confidence through:

- Setting and achieving goals (like the 5K)
- Making new friendships
- Participating in community service work
- Empowering girls to appreciate the value of healthy habits



Heart & Sole: Grades 6-8

- Focuses on five key parts: body, brain, heart, spirit, and connection with others
- Incorporates movement-based activities and lessons that instill critical life skills such as:
 - Developing a strong support system
 - Fostering healthy relationships
 - Offering help to those in need



Camp GOTR: Grades 3-5

- Is a week-long program
- Centers on building friendships, exploring creativity and playing fun games that keep girls happy, healthy and moving
- Ensures girls remain active and empowered in between seasons





GIRLS ON THE RUN COACHES

LEADERS. VOLUNTEERS. MENTORS.



Girls on the Run and Heart & Sole Coaches:

- Complete National Coach Training
- Receive season-long support, resources and tools from GOTR
- Create positive, trauma-sensitive and inclusive environments
- Lead teams through curriculum with co-coaches
- Do not have to be runners or athletes
- Are committed to seeing girls in their community grow, have fun and become leaders of tomorrow.



"From the girls I coach, I have learned a little bit more about myself and a whole lot about the power we have as adults to encourage and motivate the next generation."

- CASSIE, COACH

COST AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Program Cost

Our current program fee is \$130 per participant, which includes:

- 10 weeks/20 lessons led by trained coaches
- Curriculum materials
- Program t-shirt
- 5K event registration

Financial Assistance

EVERY GIRL DESERVES TO CROSS THE FINISH LINE

Financial assistance is available to families who cannot pay the full registration fee. Girls on the Run West Michigan is proud to have provided \$161,000 in financial assistance during the Spring 2024 season due to the generosity of donors, grant funding and community partners. We are committed to being accessible to any girl who wants to participate and are dedicated to ensuring that program cost is never a barrier to participation.

Financial Assistance is provided to any family that requests it during the online registration process. The assistance is given immediately during the registration process and is based on self reported household size and income.



RESOURCES

PROVIDED BY GIRLS ON THE RUN



**Before the first practice to the 5K finish line,
Girls on the Run is there.**



Program sites can count on:

- Marketing and registration materials
- Parent/guardian communication
- National Coach Training (led by trained facilitators)
- Curriculum materials and coach supplies
- Program t-shirt and 5K participation
- Ongoing support to site liaisons, coaches and families



"Girls on the Run is an excellent program that allows girls to become physically fit while learning to have confidence and learn about character development.

- PENNI, PRINCIPAL



HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Join us in making a difference as a site and/or site liaison.



Providing an environment for girls to learn meaningful skills, form new friendships and become their most authentic selves lays the groundwork for a better, more inclusive world for all.



Site Requirements

- Offer a safe and accessible outdoor place (and restroom).
- Provide a designated accessible indoor space in case of inclement weather.
- Accommodate a regular practice schedule, twice a week over the course of the 10 week season
- Assist in identifying a site liaison.

Site Liaison Requirements

Site liaison responsibilities include:

- Acting as the main site contact for families/participants and Girls on the Run council staff.
- Aiding in recruitment efforts by distributing marketing materials (provided by GOTR).
- Offering support to families who need registration assistance.
- Identifying 2-3 coaches from your site and/or community*

*If you cannot secure coaches, have no fear! Girls on the Run will work with you to identify coaches from our volunteer pool.





NEXT STEPS

Are you ready to join the GOTR community?

Invest in tomorrow's leaders! Kick off this new and exciting chapter by completing the following steps:

- Submit site application by following this link:
<https://www.pinwheel.us/siteapplication/signup/Spring-2025-Site-App>
- Identify Site Liaison
- Confirm your site's practice schedule
- Use GOTR marketing materials to help register girls



Mark these important dates on your calendar!

- Site application due date: November 1
- Spring 2025 program start date: Muskegon County: Week of February 17
Kent County: Week of February 24
Ottawa County: Week of March 10
- Celebratory 5K event date: Muskegon County: May 10
Kent County: May 17
Ottawa County: May 31



We look forward to collaborating with you on this incredible journey. Your role in this program is pivotal to so many girls' futures. Because of your investment, many more girls will have the confidence to follow their dreams, defy societal norms and create healthy habits that last a lifetime.

Questions?

We are here for you!

Please contact:

Heidi Roberts at heidi.roberts@girlsontherun.org



"The experience my daughter, Lana, gained from Girls on the Run helped her realize that she could participate in any activity with fellow peers and work toward independence by building strength, a strong sense of self and more confidence in who she was and who she always desired to be."

- **SABRINA, PARENT**

