



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1042

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Revitalize Camp Wesumkee after damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017, transforming it into a resilient, sustainable educational hub for Girl Scouts and marine conservation.
 Key Components:
 - Structural Rebuild: Demolition of unsafe structures and reconstruction using innovative RENCO building blocks for durability and environmental sustainability.
 - Facility Upgrades: Permanent reconstruction of the Mess Hall, Wheel House, bathhouses, and outdoor activity spaces.
 - New Facilities: Pier, improved landscape, site lighting, fire pit areas, amphitheater, stargazing areas, Keeper's house, parking areas, internal road circulation, trash collection spaces (dumpsters), a water treatment area, and other maintenance-related areas. These enhancements aim to create a more functional, aesthetically pleasing, and engaging environment for campers and staff

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,135,306
Total State Funds Requested	2,135,306

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,135,306	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,135,306	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**



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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/01/2027

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Funding operations and maintenance will be allocated on a yearly basis from the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida budget.

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida will receive, manage and oversee the funding. Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida holds a 99 year lease from Monroe County, signed in 1956, having been stewards of this property for over 60 years, and will continue to steward and care for the property.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	Key Construction Tasks to include: demolition, rebuilding, and facility upgrades to include bath house, educational buildings and storage. Building 1: Education & Entertainment: 1,500 SF building with: classroom equipped as a high school, science room, restroom, office for CRF interns, and storage Building 2: Learning Exchange & Scholar Programs: 2,300 SF Pavilion with: an above ground pool, 6 dorms (campers & staff) including bathrooms, dive locker and mess hall with kitchen Building 3	2,135,306
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,135,306

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

When operational, Camp Wesumkee offered unique experiences for Girl Scouts across Florida to engage in hands-on learning about marine and coastal ecosystems through tidal pool observations, swimming, camping, and additional science activities. Restoring this property will allow Girl Scouts across Florida to participate in weekend outdoor experiences, summer camps, and events as well as bring attention to the Florida Keys.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida will offer year-round outdoor experiences to the nearly 40,000 Girl Scouts throughout Florida.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The camp will mostly be used by Girl Scouts within Florida although citizens can rent out the camp during weekdays or select weekends when it is not in use by girls.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Camp Wesumkee restoration will primarily serve the 3,000+ Girl Scouts in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties as well as nearly 40,000 Girl Scouts throughout the State of Florida. Once restored, the camp will also be open to millions of Girl Scouts across the US as a destination camping experience, supporting the Florida economy.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Based on the results from the State of the Florida Girl Report (2024), girls are full of potential but living in crisis. It is critical to prioritize girls, address their gender specific needs, and making critical investments to ensure all Florida girls can live to their fullest potential. We know that the more time girls spend outdoors, the better they do over the course of their lives. Restoring Camp Wesumkee will allow girls to learn about Florida's fragile ecosystem while participating in gender specific activities. This is a double investment opportunity – in the future of girls and the future of our environment.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida is confident in our ability to meet the deliverables required for this contract. In the case that any deliverables were not met, GSTF would work with local authorities for address any delays and shortcomings.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? Yes

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)



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Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

Hurricane Irma

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Chelsea **Last Name** Wilkerson

b. Organization Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida

c. E-mail Address cwilkerson@girlscoutsfl.org

d. Phone Number (305)253-4841 **Ext.**

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida

b. Municipality and County Monroe

c. Organization Type

For Profit Entity



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- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.