



GLOW SUMMER SCHOOL 2011



History of GLOW program

Peace Corps sponsors Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) in many countries, as part of their global Gender Awareness and Development initiative, with the hope that it can become sustainable through partnering with a local organization. Stepanavan Youth Center began partnering with Peace Corps volunteers in 2008 to implement GLOW. Over the years, while keeping some elements of the original model, including the name and the partnership with Peace Corps volunteers, SYC has taken on the primary responsibility for funding and direction of the project each year, emphasizing the leadership and empowerment aspects of the projects among Armenia's young women.

GLOW starts with a weeklong residential summer school and continues with a number of follow up activities. The summer school is a strong educational program which provides knowledge and skills in certain topics to its 13-16 year old participants. The topics include self-discovery, team work, leadership, gender roles, human rights, health, career, environment, etc. During the last 3 years, 139 girls from over 45 communities in Armenia took part in the program. This year we expect 44 new girls to join the network. The follow up efforts after summer school are intended to build the knowledge, skills, network and commitment created during the summer school. Girls are encouraged to organize peer education activities, develop and implement small community projects, contribute to the GLOW newspaper, and take part in seminars and activities organized for them in regions of Armenia. Every year over 400 other girls participate and benefit from these follow-up activities.

We are dedicated to empowering girls in regions of Armenia to believe in themselves and passionately contribute to the transfer of knowledge to their peers and strengthening of their communities.

Educational Approach

"Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten" B. F. Skinner

GLOW project is based on nonformal and informal educational approaches which together with formal education are viewed as complementary and mutually reinforcing aspects to the lifelong learning process.

Our focus is the educational process of developing knowledge, skills, values and attitudes. The activities promote co-operation, participation and learning through experience. We aim to encourage young people to think, feel and act; to engage their heads, hearts and hands. We create an encouraging atmosphere and appropriate environment for them to effectively learn while promoting certain values and attitudes.



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PRESS RELEASE

July 6-12th, the Stepanavan Youth Center NGO in cooperation with Peace Corps Volunteers organized GLOW (Girls Leading Our World Leadership) Summer School for young Armenian girls. Stepanavan Youth Center was established in 2001 and has been conducting youth programs on local, national and international levels.

44 girls and 4 junior counselors (selected from GLOW 2010 and 2009 alumnae) from grades 8 through 11 were selected out of over 350 applications received, representing 9 Marzes and Yerevan. The summer school took place in Stepanavan at Lori Rest House with the curriculum consisting of 7 days of interactive training on leadership, health, career planning, gender, human rights, environment and personal discovery.

The main goals of the summer school included:

- Educate girls about positive options for their future in order to provide them with a well-rounded view of different women's roles in society
- Enable camp participants to build their leadership skills and self-esteem through group activities
- Discuss key women's health issues that are not typically covered in the Armenian school systems and providing a safe environment to ask health related questions
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- Introduce engaging learning methods to encourage creative thinking and expression
- Create a network between the camp participants, counselors, and guest speakers

Sessions are taught by 4 Armenian counselors and 5 American Peace Corps Volunteers. The whole camp is run in "home groups", giving the camp participants a chance to develop close relationships within their group, learn vital skills in teambuilding, and create a support network that will hopefully extend beyond the camp into the rest of their lives.

Sponsors include American Councils through FLEX Alumni grant, Caritas Salzburg, OSCE and individual donations through US Peace Corps through Partnership Program and Global Giving.

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PARTICIPANTS





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Daily Program

Day 1 6 July	Day 2 7th July	Day 3 8 July	Day 4 9 July	Day 5 10 July	Day 6 11 July	Day 7 12 July
	Self Discovery	Human rights and Gender	Leadership	Career and environment	Health	Wrap up
	Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up
	Intro and Exercise	Exercise	Exercise	Exercise	Exercise	Exercise
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
	Plenary	Plenary	Plenary	Plenary	Plenary	Binging GLOW home
	Expectations and rules	Human Rights	Outdoor Leadership Block, wrap up	Problem Solving	Hygiene	Letter to Self and Reflectio
	Team Building				Nutrition	
	Values Assessment			Public speaking		Anorexia/Bulemia
	Character Building					
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
Lunch	Lunch	Gender Roles	Leadership Block Wrap Up	Enviromental education, hiking, cleaning	HIV Aids	
Break	Self Esteem		Peer education		Sexual Education	
Opening Plenary	Cultural identity, diversity and tolerance		Volunteerism			
Icebreakers	Journal making		Break		Break	Sex-Ed Q&A
Team Identity	Feedback	Women's Trafficking	FLEX Ugrad	Feedback	Jamboree Committees	
Feedback	Jamboree Committees	Domestic Violence	Feedback	Jamboree Committees	Jamboree Committees	
Break	Jamboree Committees	Feedback	Jamboree Committees	Feedback	Break	
Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
Opening Campfire	Break	Break	Scavenger Hunt	Break	Jamboree	
	Arts and crafts/games night	GLOW Disco		Talent Show		