

# girlscouts goto2040

Metropolitan Chicago is one of the world's great economic centers, but we cannot afford to take our quality of life for granted. GO TO 2040 is the comprehensive regional plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities plan together for sustainable prosperity through mid-century and beyond.

**Girl Scouts goto2040** provides a new community context to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. By helping her to understand her community, girls consider the impact of their Take Action Projects and Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Projects with an appreciation for the project's contribution to the region as a whole as well as impacting her own community.

Supported in part by The Searle Funds of The Chicago Community Trust, **Girl Scouts goto2040** has as its basis the *GOTO2040 Plan* presented by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning combined with the *Quality of Life Indicators for Northwest Indiana* to create a vision for Girl Scouts in the geography of Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

**Girl Scouts goto2040** is aligned with *The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* to suggest that the full series of petals creates the foundation for leadership and citizenship for Girl Scout Daisies ages 5-7 and is aligned with specific badges that Girl Scout Brownies to Ambassadors can earn within the context of the program.

The four sections of plan include livable communities, human capital, efficient governance and regional mobility, all of which inspire volunteers and girls alike to look at their communities and region in a new way, with a new lens on the future. Our 5-year old Girl Scout Daisy will be 30 years of age in the year 2040. Our 17 year-old Girl Scout Ambassador will be 47 in the year 2040. The world is theirs to build and to embrace for a lifetime.



## LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Though opinions differ on what makes a community appealing, livable communities tend to share some common traits. They are healthy, safe, and walkable. They offer choices for timely transportation to schools, jobs, services, and basic needs. They are more cost-effective for individuals and local governments. They make the region more economically competitive.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Achieve Greater Livability through Land Use and Housing
- Manage and Conserve Water and Energy Resources
- Expand and Improve Parks and Open Space
- Promote Sustainable Local Food



## **HUMAN CAPITAL**

The quality of our region's labor force is crucial for sustaining economic prosperity. Increasingly, job growth relies on the availability of well-educated, skilled workers for knowledge-based industries. We can gain a significant advantage by ensuring that businesses and residents here have the skills necessary to compete with other global economic centers. Providing equitable opportunities to gain those critical skills is among our region's most complicated challenges. Disparities in educational attainment, health, and other measures — often based on income levels, race, or ethnicity — put the entire region's economy at risk.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Improve Education and Workforce Development
- Support Economic Innovation



## **EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE**

Efficient and effective decision making by government is necessary to meet the goals of GO TO 2040. Now more than ever, taxpayers expect efficiency and transparency when governments invest their limited resources. To maximize the benefits that residents of our seven counties see from these public investments, government agencies across our region need to coordinate decisions and investments strategically. Better access to information will help us reach these goals by putting essential data at the fingertips of not only our local decision makers but also the residents they serve.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Reform State and Local Tax Policy
- Improve Access to Information
- Pursue Coordinated Investments



## **REGIONAL MOBILITY**

A modern transportation system is indispensable for our region's future prosperity. To sustain our economy and quality of life, residents must be able to travel quickly and easily around our region so they can choose from a wide variety of jobs and communities in which to live. Businesses must be able to count on the timely delivery of their goods. Historically, our region's transportation system has been a foundation of our success. But the system's infrastructure was built decades ago, with inadequate ongoing investment to keep it up to date. While transportation is still a significant strength of this region, we must modernize our system to compete with other U.S. and global economic centers.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Invest Strategically in Transportation
- Increase Commitment to Public Transit
- Create a More Efficient Freight System

Learn More at: [www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org](http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org)