

# About the Networks for Girls Program...



**Networks for Girls** is a diversionary program provided by the Center for Dispute Resolution (CDR) at Missouri State University. **Networks for Girls** serves adolescent girls who are having behavioral issues or facing other concerns or issues (including juvenile offending, status offenses, truancy, relationship issues, and others).

**Networks for Girls** provides Family Group Conferencing and a Girls Circle program to help address the girls' needs and provide support and education. These model programs have proven effective at addressing youths' issues and are being combined in a unique way to meet the needs of girls and young women.

The **Family Group Conferencing** program component brings a girl's entire family together to make a plan to address her behavior or difficulties and to manage any concerns that may come from the Juvenile Office, school, or family.

The **Girls Circle program** component offers a structured support-group setting where, over the course of 8 weeks, girls gather with a facilitator and are able to use authentic voices and comfortably absorb essential information relating to their social, emotional, and physical well-being.

*Helping Girls Connect, Communicate, and Change.*

## How it works...

**First**, girls participate in a Family Group Conference (FGC) to address the problematic behaviors or issues. The FGC's are facilitated by trained volunteers and bring together the girls, their families, and other relevant individuals to talk about the behavior and its impact and to formulate a plan of action to address any concerns and help ensure the girls' future success.

**Next**, girls take part in the Girls Circle program. This 8-week group provides a safe space where girls can learn and participate in activities that improve their social, emotional, and physical well-being as well as their family relationships. After graduating from the Girls Circle program, families meet again for a final FGC to discuss the girls' progress and make plans for the future.

Contact the CDR for more information on this program for girls and young women!

**The Center for  
Dispute Resolution**

Missouri State University

Department of Communication

Phone: (417) 836-8831

Email: [CDR@MissouriState.edu](mailto:CDR@MissouriState.edu)

Web: [www.MissouriState.edu/CDR](http://www.MissouriState.edu/CDR)

## Benefits of Family Group Conferences

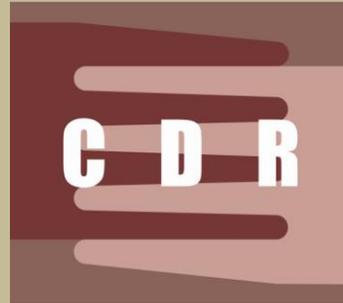
- ✓ Improves family communication
- ✓ Engages youth, family, and community partners
- ✓ Addresses both youth and family issues
- ✓ Focuses on youth and family strengths
- ✓ Develops plans that “live on” beyond the agencies involved

## Benefits of the Girls Circle program

- ✓ Allows girls to use authentic voices and stay true to themselves
- ✓ Enhances critical thinking skills for wise and healthy choices
- ✓ Improves self-esteem
- ✓ Promotes positive interpersonal and family relationships
- ✓ Decreases risky and destructive behaviors



For more information contact  
**The Center for  
Dispute Resolution**  
*Missouri State University,  
Department of Communication*



Phone: (417) 836-8831  
[CDR@MissouriState.edu](mailto:CDR@MissouriState.edu)  
[www.MissouriState.edu/CDR](http://www.MissouriState.edu/CDR)

*Funds are made available for this project through the Missouri Department of Public Safety and the Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group from funding provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.*

Missouri State University is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Institution.

NETWORKS for  
**GIRLS**



**Helping Girls  
Connect,  
Communicate,  
and Change.**



A Program of  
the Center for  
Dispute Resolution  
Missouri State  
University