

Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center Educational Signage Talking Points, Innovation and Design

The Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center (GSLC) project is pursuing LEED Certification with the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). The USGBC is a national, non-profit entity, which developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System to rate new and existing commercial, institutional, and residential buildings according to their environmental attributes and sustainable features.

What is LEED? As the most widely recognized and widely used green building program across the globe, LEED is transforming **buildings**, **homes** and **communities** in all 50 states and more than 150 countries and territories worldwide.

The LEED Program is broken out into 7 Prerequisites, required criteria to attain Certification at any level and 34 Credits, which are potential pathways or a 'menu' of ways to achieve Points towards Certification as part of a Checklist.

The Checklist is and divided into six Categories; Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Material Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Innovation & Design Process.

Certification is offered at varying levels, including Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum, depending on the amount of points accumulated during a Design and Construction review. The Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center is pursuing Silver Certification, and as part of that is working towards achieving 1 point on the checklist under Innovation and Design. This is where you get to help. In order to achieve this Credit, the GSLC will need to install informational signage in the building. The signage needs to describe each of the features of the building below and to encourage others to follow this leadership.

Here are the features of the building we have decided to highlight.

Sustainable Sites: Bicycle storage was provided on the site to securely lock and store bicycles as well as changing facilities for employees and users to use. These combined features have been shown to reduce automobile use because when people can feel safe leaving their bike while working or visiting. Also when they know they are able to shower or even change clothes from those used for biking or running this promotes biking to and from work.

Water Efficiency: The building is estimated to reduce potable water use by over 30% above standard buildings of similar type. Water use reduction was achieved through low flow fixtures, that reduce the amount of water used to flush a toilet or that comes out of the faucet when turned on. The fixtures still work as effectively but reduce the burden on municipal water supply and wastewater systems.

Material and Resources: Goals for recycling in the building are encouraged throughout the space. There are areas allocated in and around for storage and collection of recyclables. Specific areas are found near typical uses such as paper recycling locations in offices and aluminum recycling in kitchen and meeting areas. Implementing recycling reduces the amount of materials that go directly into landfills or the ocean. Make sure to think about using materials that can be recycled or re-used when planning an event within the building.

Indoor Environmental Quality: According to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study, the average American spends 90% of their time indoors; therefore the quality of the indoor environment has a significant influence on our well being, productivity and quality of life. Because of the mild Southern California climate, this project utilizes operable windows to take advantage of the ocean breezes whenever possible instead of cooling or heating the air through a mechanical system. Besides providing daylight and views to the outdoors, the windows provide fresh air, which helps contribute towards the comfort and well being of the occupants. We encourage you to open the operable

windows, preferably on both sides of a room to get a cross-breeze, whenever possible and also plan ahead for temperature changes that come with natural ventilation. Layering clothing for weather changes and providing zoning for temperature control can help the occupant's comfort. Several techniques to improve ventilation manage air contaminants and provide daylight and views will be implemented with the goal that the new space will contribute to the comfort and well being of the occupants.

Energy and Atmosphere: The Girl Scouts of Orange County purchased Green Energy to offset the estimated energy use of the building by 70% over the first two years of operation. Although several energy saving features were designed and constructed as part of the building, we wanted to go above and beyond that. Green Energy is an affordable way to contribute significantly towards large-scale renewable energy development. By purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) we can assure that the amount of energy the building consumes is replaced on the electric grid by renewable sources. This results in a cleaner and more sustainable environment. Look for the Green-e® Energy logo to easily identify environmentally friendly superior renewable energy options.