

Alumni Blog Post:

Malak Elzaalok

Meet Malak, a proud alumna of Girls Inc. of New York City, who shared how her time with Girls Inc. strengthened her leadership skills and confidence through mentorship, sisterhood, and programming.

When asked about how she was able to truly tap into her confidence, Malak shared her favorite Girls Inc. memory, when she attended a *Spring Soiree*. At this event, she met inspirational women leaders who reflected her background, and it helped her see what's possible in terms of career opportunities to explore. She had the chance to speak one-on-one with female professionals in business and finance, who offered her honest advice about rejection, taking chances, and staying focused.

She was also inspired by the girl speakers, especially her friend Malika whose speech touched on the value of Girls Inc.'s mentorship, education, and leadership skills for young women.

That night affirmed Malak's belief in the value of Girls Inc. and the ways its programs invest in girls every day. She left the event not only with practical career insights, but also with a stronger sense of self and a determination to carry confidence into every part of life.

As she transitioned to college and career, tapping into her boldness to move from New York to Indianapolis, Malak has sought Girls Inc. Alumnae Association to establish her Girls Inc. community in her new state. Malak said, "I had the pleasure of meeting Marisa Churchill, the Manager of the Girls Inc. Alumnae Association, who has taken me under her wing and has been introducing me to alumnae and other members of Girls Inc. in my area." She has been attending continued learning opportunities with the Association and credits them with equipping her with practical skills like resume writing.

Through all phases of her life, she noted how Girls Inc. reinforced the importance of values like honesty, integrity, and self-awareness.

This fall, Malak is attending Purdue University to study Professional Flight and Aerospace Engineering and feels ready to begin her studies thanks to her Girls Inc. Experience. She says, "Aviation, like many other industries lacks female representation. Becoming that voice for minority women is another incentive of mine to pursue this career."

Because of her time with Girls Inc., Malak now feels that she is equipped and ready to take on anything life may throw at her, especially with her Girls Inc. community at her side.

If Malak could give one piece of advice to the girls standing in her shoes today, she would say, “To embody being strong, smart, and bold, one must first believe in their own potential to be all of these things. Your sense of self is the foundation.” She implores young girls to activate their inner sense of self and be proud of their individuality. No matter how ‘cliché,’ it is absolutely crucial to trust and believe in yourself.”

Malak’s journey through the Girls Inc. program is a testament to the power of mentorship and sisterhood. Her experience shows us all what can be achieved when we tap into our confidence and our innate ability to be bold.