girl scouts of the colonial coast

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

Girl Scouts is the world's premiere organization for girls and is the leading expert on, and advocate for, their healthy development. Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls in grades K-12 are encouraged to seek out new challenges and to broaden their horizons. Those horizons include learning about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)—fields still considered to be non-traditional for girls and women. With the help of community partnerships that provide adult role models and relevant hands-on activities, Girl Scouts are giving girls opportunities to explore these topics in safe and nurturing environments where they can have fun while learning!

STEM STATS!

- Fewer girls than boys take advanced placement (AP) exams in STEM-related subjects such as calculus, physics, computer science and chemistry.
- Girls who do take these tests earn lower scores than boys on average.
- Women working in STEM fields tend to have higher earnings than do other women in the workforce.
- Just over one-fifth of male freshmen planned to major in engineering, computer science, or the physical sciences, compared with only about 5 percent of female freshmen.
- Women represent 46% of the total workforce but only 25% of the technology workforce. Early interest in science, technology, engineering and math is critical to girls' success in these subjects.
- Girls push boundaries, test limits, and look at the world around them with inquisitive eyes.
- Girl Scouts introduces girls of every age to STEM experiences relevant to everyday life. Whether they're discovering how a car's engine runs, how to manage finances, or exploring careers in STEM fields, girls are fast-forwarding into the future.

STEM and the National Program

Every girl needs a chance to explore the fascinating world of STEM. Girl Scouting encourages girls of all ages by offering "fun with purpose" through its K–12 national program. The Girl Scout program includes two curriculum resources: National Leadership Journeys and National Proficiency Badges.

Leadership Journeys are core to Girl Scouting because they lead girls to discover what they care about and change the world. Girls explore a variety of interests along a Journey, everything from the arts to the outdoors and, of course, STEM!

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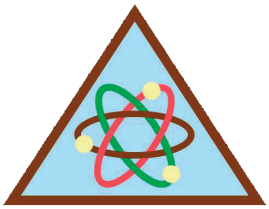
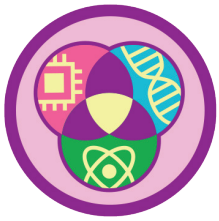
80% of Women Tech Leaders Were Girl Scouts!

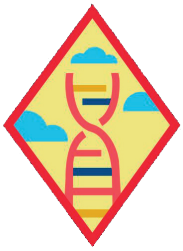
Daisy
What Robots Do
badge



Brownie
STEM Career
Exploration badge



Junior
STEM Career
Exploration badge



Cadette
STEM Career
Exploration badge

Senior
Space Science
Expert badge

Ambassador
Space Science
Master badge

The following is a list of recommendations for educators, parents and supportive adults who work with and have relationships with girls.

1. Encourage young girls to ask questions about the world, to problem solve and to use natural creativity through play, creativity and experimentation. This inquisitiveness can lead to innovative work in the future.
2. Foster girls' internal assets such as confidence, self-esteem, initiative and a work ethic. When girls feel capable and confident in their abilities, they will be more likely to challenge themselves and face obstacles along the way.
3. Expose girls to people who have careers in STEM, so they can observe firsthand what these careers are and what they have to offer.
4. Keep girls interested and engaged in STEM over time and beyond transition points. While past research shows that girls' interest in STEM drops in middle school, this study points out another transition point—that girls' interest in STEM may be challenged by competing opportunities and interests as girls move from high school to college years and beyond.
5. Use this research to create awareness and advocate for girls to be engaged in STEM opportunities. Become part of the conversation to get more girls involved and interested in STEM in order to improve their chances of engaging in a STEM career and to make STEM careers more accepting of women.

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