

# STEM Program: Giving Girls the Power to Invent Their Own Future



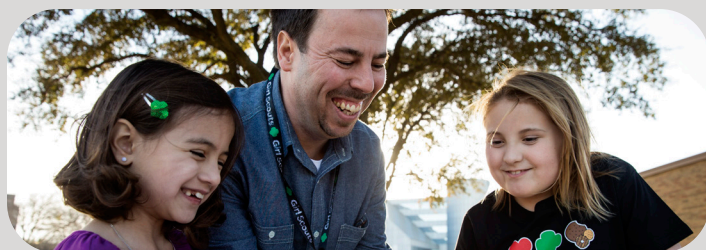
## Building a Girl-Led Future:

Since 1913, when Girl Scouts debuted the Electrician badge, we've encouraged girls' interests and confidence in STEM subjects, which are the foundation for the country's fastest-growing occupations. Especially as we move forward from recent public health, technological, social, and economic challenges, a STEM background gives girls a much-needed edge in a rapidly changing workforce—and propels them into the future.

To be competitive in the global market, in the next decade, the United States will need 1 million more STEM professionals than we're on track to have. A large gender gap worsens this problem; even though women comprise half the workforce, they hold less than a third of STEM jobs.

This discrepancy begins at a young age. Girls are interested and excel in STEM subjects. Yet as they get older, they're more likely to be influenced by gendered stereotypes, limiting their interest in STEM subjects.

When girls participate in STEM activities through Girl Scouts, they benefit in four important ways: STEM interest, STEM Confidence, STEM Competence, and STEM Value.



### **STEM Interest**

Girls are excited about STEM subjects and want to learn more about them.

### **STEM Confidence**

Girls have confidence in their STEM skills and abilities.

### **STEM Competence**

Girls think scientifically to solve problems.

### **STEM Value**

Girls learn the importance and relevance of STEM to people and society.

## **Why These Four STEM Outcomes Matter:**

STEM pervades every part of our lives:

- Scientists conduct research and make discoveries that help us learn more about the world.
- Technology, like computers and smartphones, connects people and makes our lives easier.
- Engineers design and create so much of our environment, from buildings to roads to electronics.
- Math helps us make sense of information, understand how things work, and solve problems in the world.

In the last few years, we've launched a historic number of STEM initiatives that unleash girls' power to create the careers of the future. These include badge experiences in cybersecurity, environmental advocacy, mechanical engineering, robotics, computer science, and space exploration. From kindergarten through high school, our STEM programming sparks girls' interests and passions with fun, challenging activities they can do in troop meetings and at camp, like building robots, designing apps and video games, and so much more. Here are the facts:

- By 2025, Girl Scouts pledges to add 2.5 million girls to the STEM pipeline.
- Today, Girl Scouts' robust STEM content includes cybersecurity, mechanical engineering, computer programming, health, and many more relevant topics.
- Research shows that multiple touch points are critical to sustained interest in STEM, so our goal is for girls to engage in one STEM experience each year over the course of two or more years.
- In 2019, 6 out of every 10 Girl Scouts participated in a STEM experience. As of today, 15,396 girls have participated in STEM activities through GSGATL.

## Funding Opportunities:

Funded STEM Programs- \$30,000/Program- These programs allow girls to explore the many career opportunities available in STEM fields. Girls can join a year-long “Earn STEM Lab Coat” program where they get hands-on and behind-the-scenes opportunities to see how science happens, they can form First Lego League teams to learn about robotics, earn Robotics badges, and compete in the annual FIRST Robotics challenges. They can attend virtual and in-person STEM Career Panels and hear from leading STEM experts or participate in four to ten session badge and journey workshops.

Troop and Badge Kit Trainings. \$20,000- We know our Troop Leaders sometimes have some hesitancy around completing STEM badges with their troops. To help support our Troop Leaders we are implementing a series of “badge in a box” kits and trainings.

STEM Expo- \$2500-\$25,000 sponsorship opportunities. This annual event creates fun, energetic STEM opportunities for Girl Scouts! In 2021 we anticipate a hybrid virtual/in-person event.

*“I made STEM kits with four experiments in each box for little kids, that have videos to go along with them, these kits are for kids ages 4 to 8. This project is sustainable, because the kids will be able to reuse the materials, and I created a document explaining how to do what I did, that anybody can use. I learned about new experiments and received very good feedback from the parents of the kids.”*

- Sarah R., Girl Scout Cadette



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