Education, Outreach & Diversity Program Highlight:
Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma STEM Initiative

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Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma STEM Initiative

Goals of the Project

- STEM Coordinator added to Girl Scouts staff (sustained by GS post-RII)
- Develop environmental science curriculum & science kits-in-a-box
- Increase Scout Leaders’ STEM knowledge + train on kits/curriculum
- Bring grade-appropriate hands-on-science experiences to Scouts

Why Girl Scouts?

- Existing network in the state
- 12,000 Scouts & Troop Leaders in 39 counties
- Covers breadth of the K-12 pipeline
- Girl Scouts’ recent (national) commitment to STEM
Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma STEM Initiative

STEM Curriculum, Training & Mentorship: Year 1

- STEM Coordinator (licensed science educator) & STEM interns hired
- STEM oversight committee provides guidance
- Environmental science curriculum & STEM kits-in-a-box developed w/Oklahoma EPSCoR researchers
- Troop leaders, teachers and volunteers trained (in-person + online videos)
- EPSCoR summer research experience for Coordinator
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Environmental Science Curriculum & Kits-in-a-Box

- Supports the “It’s Your Planet-Love It!” Girl Scouts Journey
- Curriculum for Scouts at all grade levels
- Pilot testing of curriculum: “I can see myself working in STEM in the future.”
  Presurvey (47% agree); Postsurvey (83% agree)
- All necessary hands-on science materials are provided

A national audience issued,
“Unanimous praise for the kits’ simplicity & perceived ease of use.”
STEM Coordinator: Mentorship & Education

- Curriculum & EPSCoR research mission shared with National Girl Scout Convention audience

- Y1: 1,900 directly participated in STEM programming
Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma STEM Initiative
K-12 Students & Educators

STEM Curriculum, Training & Mentorship

Next Steps

• 12,000 Scouts & troop leaders in 39 counties
• 180 kits @ 6 grade levels distributed to 30 troops
• Scouts earn OK EPSCoR STEM badges
• Coordinator position sustained by Girl Scouts