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In 2005, Twin Cities PBS (TPT) created *SciGirls*, a multiplatform science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education program that is changing how millions of girls think about, engage in, and pursue STEM studies and career paths. This innovative program integrates television, online media and hands-on activities to drive STEM curiosity and learning.

**TELEVISION**

At the heart of *SciGirls* is a national PBS television series targeting girls between the ages of 8 and 13. Each half-hour episode follows a different group of real girls mentored by dynamic female STEM professionals.

**WEB**

The *SciGirls* website is the first safe social network for children on PBS and includes videos, games and opportunities for users to post their own science projects and share their science interests.

**OUTREACH**

Starting in 2010, the *SciGirls* CONNECT educational outreach network now includes 119 partner organizations in 36 states, and has trained more than 2,000 educators. These educators have used *SciGirls* methods in their work with nearly 40,000 young people of multiple ethnicities and cultures in urban and rural areas nationwide.

**SCIGIRLS SEVEN**

Our approach is grounded in research-based strategies for supporting motivation and engagement in STEM, including collaboration, creativity, the development of intellectual tenacity, role modeling and more. This quarter-century of research is integrated into all *SciGirls* media content and activities.
SciGirls CONNECT is an outreach initiative that seeks to build a vibrant network of empowered professionals dedicated to inspiring more girls to pursue STEM study and careers.

All partners have full access to SciGirls resources, including videos, activity guides, webinars, and ongoing program support.

Girl-serving organizations nationwide apply to become a SciGirls partner organization.

Partners receive a $200 stipend to support staff and programming at their site.

A certified SciGirls Trainer provides a face-to-face training in STEM education and role modeling strategies at the partner site. Partner organizations invite internal staff as well as other educators in their communities to participate in the training.

Trained staff and educators develop and implement SciGirls programs to inspire the next generation of STEM innovators.

All partners have full access to SciGirls resources, including videos, activity guides, webinars, and ongoing program support.

Train-the-Trainer

All trained educators are eligible to apply to the SciGirls Train-the-Trainer program, where they become certified to empower other educators with gender equitable strategies.

Trainers lead SciGirls workshops for educators in their region. This model creates a robust and growing network of SciGirls practitioners. The impact is exponential.
The SciGirls CONNECT Network includes 119 partner organizations and 57 SciGirls Trainers across 36 states. SciGirls CONNECT partners meet youth where they are — through community-based programs like YMCA and Girls, Inc., museums and science centers, organizations that serve primarily Spanish-speaking youth, universities, schools and more. The network is a robust community of practice which supports collaboration and sharing of best practices within diverse informal STEM learning environments.
Facts & Figures

Each year, SciGirls partners complete a Partner Yearly Report (PYR) reflecting on all SciGirls programs implemented throughout the year. Individual educators complete an Educator Program Report & Reflection (EPRR) after each SciGirls program. This report presents findings from 43 PYRs and 24 EPRRs completed by partner organizations and formal and informal educators who ran a SciGirls program from September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015.

SciGirls programs serve girls in diverse geographic settings, including urban, suburban and rural communities. The majority of SciGirls programs served youth from urban communities (39%), while 37% served youth from suburban communities and 23% served youth in rural settings.

SciGirls partners reported 18% of youth participants qualify for free or reduced lunch. While SciGirls accepts organizations independent of their participants’ socioeconomic status, several partner organizations work with youth from low-income backgrounds. All SciGirls resources are available online at no cost to ensure equitable access to all materials.

SciGirls program participants identify with a range of cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds. As such, cultural responsiveness is a cornerstone of SciGirls’ vision. By recruiting diverse girls, role models and consultants, SciGirls aims to make STEM an engaging and relevant space for all girls, especially girls of color.
SciGirls is primarily focused on eliminating the barriers that prevent girls from pursuing STEM study and careers. However, SciGirls content and activities are accessible to all youth independent of gender and have proven engaging for girls and boys alike. In 2013-14, 9,015 girls and 4,582 boys participated in a SciGirls program.

SciGirls programming is designed for girls in grades 3 through 8, consistent with the PYR and EPRR results. SciGirls content resonates best with middle school students, a critical stage for STEM identity development. With support from SciGirls staff, educators and leaders customize their programs to serve their students of all ages, from kindergarten through high school.

SciGirls programs take place in a variety of settings. All educators are encouraged to weave SciGirls content into current program models to best leverage their existing assets. Across partner and individual programs, the majority took place afterschool, with significant programming during summer months. Organizations offered a range of program formats, including weekend, overnight and evening programs.
## Scigirls by the Numbers

### In 2014-2015

- **25 organizations** spanning **13 states** became a Scigirls CONNECT partner.
- **16 Scigirls trainers** provided **30 trainings** in **18 states**.
- **600 educators** attended a Scigirls training.
- **350 partners & educators** created **Scigirls programs**.
- **12,000 youth** participated in a Scigirls program.

### Since 2011

- The Scigirls CONNECT network has **119 organizations** across **36 states**.
- **45 Scigirls trainers** have completed **169 trainings**.
- **2,500 educators** trained in Scigirls’ gender equitable strategies.
- **800+ Scigirls programs** created.
- **Scigirls has reached a total of 37,000 youth**.
The *SciGirls Seven* states that **girls benefit from relationships with role models and mentors**. *SciGirls* provides role modeling opportunities—in-person and virtually—to reach girls through as many avenues as possible. In 2014-2015, *SciGirls* partners recruited **293** female STEM professionals to serve as role models for their participants.

If she can **see** it, she can **be** it.

- Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media

**ROLE MODEL VIDEOS**

Combining the power of media and the impact of role models, *SciGirls* is producing a new series of 24 role model videos. These short-form videos will feature female professionals from diverse cultural and STEM professional backgrounds sharing their STEM stories. Role models delve into both the challenges and triumphs of “a day in the life” in the STEM workforce. The new series will highlight 12 Latina professionals filmed in Spanish and English across the U.S.

**NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE**

*SciGirls* is excited to continue our partnership with the National Girls Collaborative (NGC). Last year, nine NGC trainers participated in *SciGirls’* Train-the-Trainer program, and disseminated thousands of *SciGirls* resources to girl-serving STEM programs across the U.S.

A cornerstone of NGC’s girl-centric model is role modeling. As such, NGC developed FabFems, a national role model database that connects female STEM professional role models with girl-serving organizations. This open access database allows programs to easily find role models in their geographic and content area. FabFems has been a critical resource for *SciGirls’* partners as we encourage all role models from our outreach and media to register and continue inspiring young women to pursue STEM study and careers.
SciGirls CONNECT will continue to grow in 2016 with several new and exciting initiatives. New partnerships with NASA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America combined with initiatives in coding, earth science and Spanish-language episodes, SciGirls will tap even more girls' STEM potential across the country.

**SciGirls CONNECT: Twin Cities**

With support from the Cargill Foundation and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, SciGirls will expand its outreach model locally by piloting SciGirls programming in Boys & Girls Clubs and Beacons’ middle schools sites in the Twin Cities. TPT will train program staff to design and implement fun engaging STEM activities. Hosted by TPT, Family STEM Nights will get the whole family involved in hands-on STEM learning. This partnership has potential for scale-up both locally and regionally to develop a new generation of STEM superstars.

**SciGirls Code**

SciGirls Code is a two-year pilot program funded by the National Science Foundation that will use the principles of connected learning with 16 STEM outreach partners to provide 160 girls and their 32 leaders with coding and computational thinking skills. Combining a curriculum centering on e-textiles and wearable tech, robotics, and mobile geospatial technologies; role model training for female technology professionals; and professional development for STEM educators, SciGirls Code will empower girls to be tech savvy innovators.

**Latina SciGirls**

TPT will produce six new Spanish-language episodes of the popular PBS series SciGirls, filmed in diverse Hispanic communities throughout the U.S. The TPT team will also produce a series of online videos portraying the everyday life of inspirational Latina STEM professionals, and will provide girls and their families with opportunities to connect in-person with relatable Latina role models. Finally, the SciGirls team will provide fun Spanish language STEM programming to diverse Hispanic communities nationwide.

**SciGirls: Blast Off!**

In partnership with NASA, TPT is planning four new episodes of SciGirls. These half-hour shows will feature smart, curious middle school girls working with a female NASA STEM role model to explore topics related to the Earth Science Mission Directorate. The SciGirls team will create complementary activity guides that will go hand-in-hand with each new episode. These resources, combined with SciGirls NASA S’COOL episode in Season 3, will help educators across the country show that girls ROCK!
The girls enjoyed the “insulation station” activity the most by far, creating and investigating which materials would work the best. In fact, they were so enthused about the process that when it ended, they started shouting questions like, “What if we did it longer? What if we added x, y, z?” They loved it!

Challenger Learning Center at Heartland College

The girls really seem to enjoy the activities and I think it makes them feel “special” to participate. We use Baylor undergrad female students mentors who are in the sciences to run the programming and I think interacting with those students is a lot of fun for the girls in the group.

Baylor University Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research

The resources and support provided by SciGirls is invaluable and is the backbone of the program’s success. Without people making this happen, it would not. Thank you for continuing to share your enthusiasm and love for STEM.

WSKG Public Media

STAY CONNECTED

Kids
pbskids.org/SciGirls

Parents
pbs.org/parents/SciGirls

Sponsors
aboutSciGirls.org

Educators
SciGirlsconnect.org

pbslearningmedia.org/collection/SciGirls

CREDITS

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SciGirls

Changing the way millions of girls think about STEM!