



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

GIRL SCOUTS OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH TECHBRIDGE TO INSPIRE GIRLS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

TAMPA (Aug. 31, 2009) – Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (GSWCF) announces the launch of a partnership with Techbridge, a program of Chabot Space & Science Center based in Oakland, Calif. that inspires girls in science, technology and engineering. The partnership, called “Girls Go Techbridge,” will enable Girl Scouts of West Central Florida to adopt Techbridge’s hands-on projects and career exploration activities to help excite every girl about technology, science and engineering, and about discovering her own potential. In addition, resources for parents and role models are offered with practical advice for supporting girls’ participation in these fields.

Three specially-designed programs will be made available to Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes (grades 5 through 8) through Girls Go Techbridge: Make it Green – girls will build a green dollhouse using green design and developing their science and engineering skills; Power it Up! – girls will learn about electronics and circuitry while creating an LED butterfly and robot; and Design Time – girls will learn about the engineering design process as they make different toys, including catapults, bags and a bubble wand solution.

An in-depth training program is currently available to GSWCF adult volunteers to implement the programs to the Girl Scouts.

More than 2,000 girls have participated in Techbridge’s after-school and summer programs since the program’s launch in 2000 in Oakland. The program offers hands-on technology and science projects, as well as career exploration activities that include field trips to companies and classroom visits by role models. Techbridge also provides trainings to teachers, role models, leaders and partners to enhance the network of support for girls. Techbridge’s success has been evidenced by consistent evaluation results that demonstrate girls’ increase in technical skills, confidence and interest in a career in science, technology, or engineering.

“We are very excited to work with the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida on this project which holds promise for expanding the career options of middle school girls,” said Linda Kekelis, Director of Techbridge. “This is a wonderful opportunity for Techbridge to expand

its outreach and bring Techbridge's research-based resources in science, technology and engineering to this part of the country.”

“Our partnership with Techbridge gives us a unique opportunity to offer girls innovative programs that focus on science and engineering,” said Amy Foster, director of girl and adult leadership services, GSWCF. “We’re delighted to partner with Techbridge as we continue to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who will go on to make the world a better place.”

As part of Girls Go Techbridge, Techbridge is partnering with Girl Scouts of Northern California, Girl Scouts of Central Texas, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland and Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, reaching thousands of girls across the U.S. Funding for the project is provided by the Noyce Foundation and the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation.

About Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of West Central Florida serves nearly 30,000 girls in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sumter counties. Did you know that more than 53% of all women business owners are Girl Scout alumnae? For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, visit www.gswcf.org or call 800-881-4475.

About Techbridge

Techbridge, a program of Chabot Space & Science Center, inspires girls in technology, science and engineering through hands-on activities, career exploration, academic and career guidance and family resources. Based in Oakland, Calif., Techbridge offers after-school and summer programs for girls, primarily serving underrepresented minorities in socio-economically disadvantaged communities. Since its founding in 2000, Techbridge has served over 2,000 girls, and provided trainings and resources to thousands of teachers, role models, and partner organizations to help expand girls' options and promote careers in science, technology and engineering. For more information, visit www.techbridgegirls.org.

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