

**CONFIDENCE AND CURIOSITY: CREATING A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR GIRLS AT THE TELESCOPE** T. J. Summer<sup>1</sup> and V. White<sup>1</sup>, Pamela Harman<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>Astronomical Society of the Pacific  
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**Introduction:** “Confidence and Curiosity: Girls at the Telescope” was a workshop given by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific through the NASA Cooperative Agreement #NNX16AB90A, Reaching for the Stars: NASA Science for Girl Scouts. Five topics from this workshop were made into a series of short videos.

We know that space can be exciting for everyone, no matter the age or gender. We also know that amateur astronomy clubs are “graying” and that across the United States, more than 80% of club members are men. Amateur astronomers know this is a problem – they can look around and see the lack of girls, young people and women in their clubs.

Our team, led by the SETI Institute, created new space science badges for every level of Girl Scouts, from kindergarten through high school. Each badge had a step to connect them with the astronomy club in their region.

We knew that amateur astronomers would want to know the new badge requirements. We also wanted to prepare them to be more welcoming to girls. Our way to do accomplish both of these tasks led to the development of the Confidence and Curiosity workshop.

This workshop evolved over time based on feedback from the participants. We had simple questionnaires after every live session, asking only 2 questions “what was your biggest takeaway from the session?” And “Was there anything you would change about the session?” We then had a longer evaluation after the last session. Some of the things we learned was that these beginning exploring equity ideas were new to most amateur astronomers and were well received. They appreciated the time to work on their skills and look at their public engagement with a fresh perspective. They also enjoyed talking to other astronomers in different clubs across the country who were dealing with these same issues.

We also learned that these workshops were useful to more than only amateur astronomers. We had many Solar System Ambassadors, museum educators and other informal teachers signing up for the workshop. In

an effort to make these resources available even after the grant finished, we created five short videos to teach a few techniques to help clubs and other organizations be more welcoming to girls and women.

Each video corresponds with one of these inclusive concepts: Growth Mindset, Biases and Micro-messages, Representation Matters, Questioning Techniques and Dealing with Misconceptions. The videos are available via the Night Sky Network, both on the website and on YouTube. We hope these resources will be useful for anyone who is looking to make their public engagement more girl-friendly and inclusive.

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