

**GIRL SCOUTS AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS: MAKING CONNECTIONS.** P.K. Harman<sup>1</sup>, Wendy Chin<sup>2</sup>, Cole Grissom<sup>2</sup>, Wendy Friedman<sup>3</sup>, Don McCarthy<sup>4</sup>, Larry Lebofsky<sup>4</sup>, Louis Mayo<sup>5</sup>, Jean Fahy<sup>6</sup>, Jessica Henricks<sup>6</sup>, Vivian White<sup>7</sup>, and Theresa Summer<sup>7</sup>. <sup>1</sup>SETI Institute, 189 Bernardo Ave #200, Mountain View, CA 94043, [pharman@seti.org](mailto:pharman@seti.org), <sup>2</sup>Girl Scouts USA, New York, NY, <sup>3</sup>Girl Scouts Research Institute, New York, NY, <sup>4</sup>University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, <sup>5</sup>ARIES Scientific, Silver Spring, MD, <sup>6</sup>Girl Scouts of Northern California, Alameda, CA, and <sup>7</sup>Astronomical Society of the Pacific, San Francisco, CA.

**Introduction:** Reaching for the Stars: NASA Science for Girl Scouts engages Girl Scouts in NASA planetary and astrophysics science and programs through badges and summer camps, disseminates STEM education-related resources, and fosters interaction between Girl Scouts and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Space science badges have been released for all levels of Girl Scouts: Daisies, Grades K-1; Brownies, Grades 2-3; and Juniors, Grades 4-5; Cadettes, Grades 6-8; Seniors, Grades 9-10; and Ambassadors, Grades 11-12. The badges consist of science activities, finding role models (SMEs), and opportunities for girls to share their findings and excitement with others. Reaching for the Stars also offers three unique training and camp experiences that support the facilitation of space science exploration at the council and troop levels: The University of Arizona holds Girl Scout volunteer and staff astronomy training; Astronomy Adventure Destination Camp, for individual girls ages 13 and older, is held at Pine Mountain Observatory, OR; and the Girl Scout Astronomy Club training at NASA Goddard where Girl Scout councils send two girls, a council volunteer, and an amateur astronomer—the girls will lead the clubs, aided by the council and amateur astronomer. This session will highlight how SMEs can connect with their local Girl Scout council, troops, astronomy club and astronomy events.

**Making Connections:** Lunar and planetary science concepts and practices are presented in the badge steps and in girl and adult training. At this time, thirty-one Girl Scout Astronomy Clubs are distributed across the nation, with additional clubs forming each year. SMEs may serve as episodic volunteers, in several ways, such as visit a troop meeting in person or via remote connection, act as subject matter expert for Girl Scout Astronomy Club, share your expertise and passion during adult training, family STEM event, Star Party or International Observe the Moon Night (IOMN). SMEs may also invite council representatives to your facility for a tour and orientation.

In Girl Scouting, girls discover their skills, talents and what they care about; connect with others in their community; and take action to change the world. This is called the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE). With girl-led, hands on activities where girls can team up and work together—they successfully

achieve the five leadership outcomes: strong sense of self, positive values, challenge seeking, healthy relationships, and community problem solving. When girls exhibit these attitudes and skills, they become responsible, productive, caring, and engaged citizens. The badges' activities and training opportunities are aligned with these principles.



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