



NGCP Mini-Grant Project Ideas

Successful NGCP mini-grant projects incorporate **exemplary practices** for engaging girls in STEM and are **innovative**. Exemplary practices include strategies, curricula, and resources that have research and/or evaluation data to support their effectiveness.

An innovative project is original, is based on a new idea, or includes a new and interesting twist to an already existing program.

For example:

- You have been running a program for a few years that meets on Saturdays and exposes middle school girls to science through hands-on activities and explorations. Strengthen the program and include a new element by bringing in female scientists to lead the activities. These female scientists can also talk with the participants about what they really do in their job, what they enjoy about it, and answer the girls' questions about their work and their life outside of work. Use free resources developed by [Techbridge](#) to effectively incorporate these professionals into your program and cite [Encouraging Girls in Math and Science](#) or [Why So Few](#) as evidence that incorporating role models can be an effective strategy to engage girls in STEM.
- Collaborate with a new partner to connect STEM to girls' lives and interests in an innovative way. Find potential partners in your area in the NGCP Program Directory and check out these examples from NGCP partner organizations.

Northern Illinois University STEM Outreach: Environment and Sustainability Camp

Get ready to play at the farm, in the forest, and with green technologies. Participants will dig into today's efforts to address environmental challenges and improve sustainable practices. Campers will test water quality, experiment with alternative fuels, and visit a local sustainable farm, among other green activities.

Girlstart: World Tour

Grab your hard hat, high tops and passport! Explore unique engineering creations across the globe from high-tech fashion in Paris to the Sydney Bridge in Australia. Create a virtual ocean cruise liner, print the 3D model to take home and program a travel game to share with your friends.

Science Club for Girls: Supper Sisters

This is a new program for girls interested in exploring the science of health, hunger, and where food comes from! Girls will work with Mentors to design a project that can be shared with the larger community of Cambridge as well as cook a healthy meal each week.

- You work at an afterschool program at an elementary school. You have been trying to incorporate more science and technology activities into the program and have been successful with male students, but are finding it a challenge to recruit and retain girls in these activities. Consult the [SciGirls Seven](#) for effective strategies to engage girls and develop a mini-grant project to incorporate some of these strategies into your afterschool program.