



## Building Equity for Aerospace Training: Inspirational Stories and Strategies to Engage Girls

Chat Transcript  
March 26, 2024

Karen Peterson: NGCP Website: <https://ngcproject.org/>

Karen Peterson: Upcoming NGCP webinars and events: <https://ngcproject.org/events-announcements>

Karen Peterson: Subscribe to NGCP monthly e-newsletter: <http://ow.ly/Zuds30qwpOK>

Amanda Sullivan: NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/>

Amanda Sullivan: NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate:  
<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/armd/>

Adrienne: April 2 is deadline to apply to be an astronaut!

Amanda Sullivan: Share your questions and ideas for the speakers in the chat! We will ask them later in this webinar.

April Lanotte (NASA): Be an astronaut! <https://www.nasa.gov/humans-in-space/astronauts/become-an-astronaut/>

Amanda Sullivan: Museum of Flight, Seattle: <https://www.museumofflight.org/>

Tara Cox (NGCP): Anthro major here too!

Amanda Sullivan: This webinar, including the links and resources in the chat, are being recorded and will be sent to you after the webinar!

Annie Stikeleather: <https://www.wai.org/workforce-development>

Adrienne: FYI, a great resource for women and aviation is the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum - storytimes, webinars, and much more online and in-person.  
<https://airandspace.si.edu>

Amanda Sullivan: Thanks for sharing, Adrienne!

April Lanotte (NASA): Here is a great NASA web page, "Women in STEM Careers,"  
<https://www.nasa.gov/careers/women-in-stem/>

Adrienne: National Aviation Hall of Fame has some resources for girls and women - including a variety of female inductees, <https://nationalaviation.org>

Adrienne: Speaking of Amelia Earhart, her book The Fun of It is still an inspiring read!

Amanda Sullivan: If any of you have questions for our speakers, let us know in the chat!

Erin Brown - Inspiring Girls USA: Love it Jema!

Adrienne: Does NASA have any aviation internships?

April Lanotte (NASA): NASA has aviation internships of all kinds, including aeronautics! NASA internships start at age 16!!

JessicaGradante: Is there a similar aerospace alliance for Texas?

April Lanotte (NASA): <https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/internship-programs/>

Adrienne: Pathways and flight plans are so important!

Jackie: NASA Kids Club pre-k through grade 4.

Beth White: Also local EAA chapters offer Young Eagle flights to youth 8-17 and you get free access to ground school through Sportys and EAA national reimburses the first lesson and the written exam fee.

Amanda Sullivan: Thanks for these questions!

April Lanotte (NASA): NASA's Flight Log experience allows students, educators, and the public to sign up to fly their names with us on NASA experimental and research flights. They start to build a virtual flight log, which also breaks down a barrier of the "mysterious" flight log for some: <https://www3.nasa.gov/flightlog/>

Amanda Sullivan: So cool! Thanks for sharing

Jackie: NASA SCI files has videos and educator guides to help promote hands-on science

Adrienne: Does the Girl Scouts organization have an aviation badge option?

April Lanotte (NASA): Adrienne, they do not nationally at this point.

Jackie: Its girl scout STEM badges

Jackie: daisy mechanical engineering badge

Jema Hayes: Hi Adrienne - we have a partnership with the Girl Scouts of Western Washington and offer both junior and cadette badge workshops for aviation and space related badges: <https://www.museumofflight.org/education/girl-scout-program>

JessicaGradante: We've done the Fling Flyer for GS

Adrienne: Are there many/any TV ( or other media) programs these days featuring women pilots as main characters?

Amanda Sullivan: Great question, Adrienne!

Adrienne: Hidden Figures is set at NASA's Langley - the first NASA center - and first focused on aviation!

Adrienne: And there's still aero research at Langley

Amanda Sullivan: Such a great point, April! There are so many important and impactful careers in the industry. Both STEM and non STEM

Erin Brown - Inspiring Girls USA: I just wanted to express my gratitude to all of you. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to learn from each of you. As the ED of a nonprofit organization called Inspiring Girls USA ([www.inspiringgirlsusa.org](http://www.inspiringgirlsusa.org)), our mission is to connect girls with women role models from diverse backgrounds. We aim to inspire them to dream big and explore careers they may not have otherwise considered.

Currently, I'm seeking more role models and resources for our community, particularly in STEM and aviation fields. I'm thrilled to be able to share the impactful work each of you is doing. At Inspiring Girls USA, we serve as the first step in exposing girls to a wide range of career options and diverse role models. As they become excited and curious, we're committed to providing them with the necessary links and resources to continue their journey.

Jackie: SWE Society of Women Engineers is a good place for support of women in the STEM field and help with mentoring and internship

Erin Brown - Inspiring Girls USA: Thank you all for your dedication. I'm excited about the possibilities ahead and also on a personal note - just moved to Seattle from CA - so am so excited about all these local resources ;-)

April Lanotte (NASA): First Woman Graphic Novel: <https://www.nasa.gov/stem-content/first-woman-graphic-novel/>

Amanda Sullivan: Thank you to everyone sharing resources and questions!

Annie Stikeleather: All of the Aviation for Girls programs can be found here: <https://www.wai.org/youth-education> As a reminder, All youth age 18 and younger receive a free Junior membership with Women in Aviation International. This provides access to our resources, mentorship, and scholarships.

Lane Slagle | Starfish Education: Thank you so much for mentioning The Electric Propulsion Innovation Challenge (EPIC)! <https://www.epicstemchallenge.com/home>. We are so excited to have PNAAs support in this project!

Lynda Kennedy Intrepid Museum: We've just refocused our summer girls program from general STEM to aerospace and partnered with NYC to pay participants as part of Summer Youth Employment.

Adrienne: Do any of the panelists belong to the 99's - that group was started by Amelia Earhart and others and has many chapters focused on women and aviation. <https://www.ninety-nines.org>

Beth White: I am! Love this group!

April Lanotte (NASA): NASA has a video series in our "Women at NASA" site: <https://www.nasa.gov/women-at-nasa/>

April Lanotte (NASA): NASA's Leveled Readers series includes stories of some of our NASA experts, including two great females, Maria Caballero and Danielle Koch: <https://www.nasa.gov/stem-content/aeronautics-leveled-readers/>

JessicaGradante: I work for the Education Dept at an aviation and space museum in Texas. We are trying to build our internship and youth volunteer program. Any suggestions, thoughts, resources, etc. would be great! We want to help our students on their path into aerospace! I've already looked at all the resources you all have mentioned/posted so far! Thank you!!!

April Lanotte (NASA): NASA has a new portal called "NASA ENGAGES" where you can request a speaker or someone else here at NASA who can support you: <https://my.nasa.gov/engages/s/>

Adrienne: What about the roles of women in aviation connected with sustainable energy?

Amanda Sullivan: Thanks for that question! Keep the questions coming!

Kata Lucas (she/her): Such a great point, April! I love to hear this conversation about sustainable aviation and having a purpose.

Copiague Memorial Library Children: I am a children's public librarian. What can I do to support what you all do?

Beth White: If anyone wants to see our Women Build Planes team, we're a group of women and girls in northern Vermont building a Rans S-21 airplane and it's so wonderful and magical at Habitat for Aviation <https://www.habitatforaviation.org/build>

JessicaGradante: Is there an age requirement to join?

Anne Areta: I would like to hear your thoughts on the current state of affairs, with DEI programs being cut/defunded across multiple states. My summer aerospace program at USC was sued for title IX violations being an all girls program, and the pivot to be expansive for all genders has come at a cost to lower numbers in girls applying to my program. I would like to know your thoughts and how you have navigated your programs that have been geared for girls in STEM/aerospace

Erin Brown - I'm curious on this as well. I have not been able to stay up on the debate.

Karen Peterson: This is an important conversation. It's a problem in a number of states. I'll ask this question next.

Beth White: Here's a short video for PBS News Hour on our Habitat for Aviarion build [https://youtu.be/GsCDL\\_WjPcE](https://youtu.be/GsCDL_WjPcE)

Adrienne: Not sure about age requirement. check the website for details and local chapter - you may be able to participate in open events

JessicaGradante: Are there any other groups like this? This is great!

April Lanotte (NASA): NASA Aeronautics Sustainable Aviation STEM Toolkit: <https://www.nasa.gov/sustainable-aviation-stem-toolkit/>

Amanda Sullivan: Thanks for the important questions coming in! We'll ask and address as many as we can today.

April Lanotte (NASA): NASA's work with Wildland Fire mitigation using UAVs: <https://www.nasa.gov/centers-and-facilities/ames/advanced-capabilities-for-emergency-response-operations-acero/>

Anushka Gole: I work for Project Scientist, a STEM education nonprofit that is empowering girls from underserved and marginalized communities to pursue their STEM dreams. We frequently bring in women in STEM to come inspire our girls. How can we connect with the women in aviation groups represented on this panel for potential collaborations?

Adrienne: So many great resources and programs! Thank you everyone!

Amanda Sullivan: Agree, thank you to the panelists for sharing so many wonderful resources, examples, and strategies.

Amanda Sullivan: Thanks to all of you attending for bringing these important questions to the conversation and for sharing your own resources!

Adrienne: Are there any/many women-owned aviation companies? small businesses? How hard is it to get capital investment?

Erin Brown - Inspiring Girls USA: Thank you April! I think what you presented help me think about a better way to start these conversations!

April Lanotte (NASA): If good overall work policies and supportive practices are just what you do, no matter what others say about their own thoughts about equality programs, good practices are just good practices.

Amanda Sullivan: If you are enjoying this webinar, support the work of the National Girls Collaborative: <https://ngcproject.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donation>

Amanda Sullivan: Please take the post webinar survey that pops up when this event closes! We appreciate your feedback. I will also include the link here: Please take our post-webinar survey: <https://go.edc.org/aviation>

Amanda Sullivan: We hope to see some of you at our upcoming NGCP webinars and online events: <https://ngcproject.org/events-announcements>

Anne Areta: Thank you all for sharing your thoughts on this important topic. It has helped me greatly to move forward with my program and being more intentional about the language we use so we can still support our young girls in STEM without future lawsuits 😊

April Lanotte (NASA): While they are not on this call, I would also point people towards the "Women and Drones" organization: <https://womenanddrones.com/>

Amanda Sullivan: NGCP Resources: [https://ngcproject.org/resources?field\\_resource\\_type\\_target\\_id=All&field\\_topics\\_of\\_interest\\_target\\_id=19&combine=](https://ngcproject.org/resources?field_resource_type_target_id=All&field_topics_of_interest_target_id=19&combine=)

Amanda Sullivan: THANK YOU ALL

Adrienne: Thanks again everyone!

April Lanotte (NASA): Feel free to reach out: [april.a.lanotte@nasa.gov](mailto:april.a.lanotte@nasa.gov)

Erin Brown - Inspiring Girls USA: Thank you! This was really inspiring and full of great information! You are all wonderful! Loved every single one of you!