

DECEMBER  
2025



National Girls  
Collaborative  
Project



Missouri Girls Collaborative Project Launch – Missouri is now home to a new initiative connecting girls across the state with mentors in STEM careers. The program will feature workshops, coding challenges, and innovation showcases, aiming to close gender gaps in tech and engineering fields.

## Quick Insights:

### Our Mission

To CONNECT, CREATE, and COLLABORATE to transform the STEM experience for all youth and advance gender equity in the field.

### Overview

The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) is a network of organizations committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Founded in 2002 and partially funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the NGCP uses a "NETWORK of NETWORKS" model to bring together thousands of organizations across the United States. The goal is to reduce duplication of effort, share resources and best practices, and maximize the impact of programs dedicated to girls in STEM. The NGCP facilitates collaboration among more than 42,500 organizations, which collectively reach over 20 million girls and 10 million boys.

### NGCP'S THREE PRIORITY GOALS

- 1 Build and sustain a network of advocates to provide equitable and inclusive STEM opportunities.
- 2 Catalyze equity in STEM from research to practice by providing actionable knowledge that transforms the STEM experience.
- 3 Increase our collective impact by strengthening organizational effectiveness and enhancing our fiscal sustainability.

### How to Get Involved?

Whether you're a student, parent, Professional educator, or STEM professional, there are plenty of ways to join the movement. Sign up for local workshops, mentor young innovators, nominate a STEM STL HERO, or share your story with our community. Together, we can expand opportunities, inspire future leaders, and build a stronger STEM network across Missouri.

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PROJECT

### STEM Beyond the Shelves:

#### Explore Your Library

##### MONorth

##### [St. Louis County Library - Creative Lab](#)

3-D printer, a recording studio, a green screen wall and a video game room. Other amenities include a Glowforge laser cutter, Cricut, Black Magic Cinema Camera, and 17 Mac computers loaded with the Adobe suite of software and a variety of other tools to bring your ideas to life.

##### MOwest

##### [Kansas City Library Events](#)

Lego Clubs, Game nights, and Makers classes



### Granny Clubs Making a Comeback

From crocheting and knitting to baking and DIY crafts, "Granny Club" hobbies are sparking a new wave of non-traditional STEM skills. These hands-on activities teach math, chemistry, engineering, and problem-solving in cozy, creative ways—proving that STEM isn't just in labs or coding screens.

### In Focus: Holiday Well-Being – "STEM Minds Need Rest Too!!!"

The holiday season is full of deadlines, projects, and goals—but even the brightest STEM minds need time to recharge. Whether you're a student exploring robotics or a mentor guiding the next generation, remember: STEM is a journey, not a deadline. Here are a few ways to care for your well-being this season:

- Balance screen time and creative time: Step away from the screen to sketch, tinker, or explore ideas offline.
- Celebrate progress, not perfection: Every step forward—big or small—is a success. Give yourself permission to rest, reflect, and enjoy the process. Your mind—and your STEM projects—will thank you!

### MO Girls STEM Snapshot of the Month

#### Cynthia Chapple

#### STEM Educator & Advocate

Founded [Black Girls Do STEM](#) to increase diversity in science.

Nominate a STEM HEROes  
at [Medusasrobotics@gmail.com](mailto:Medusasrobotics@gmail.com)



STEM Connect





## Girls in Tech - 10 Year Celebration!

KC STEM Alliance celebrated 10 years of Girls in Tech during National Computer Science Week. During the day, Commerce Bank, SS&C Technologies, Garmin, Oracle, and Federal Reserve Bank opened up their doors and welcomed over 300 middle-school students across 7 KC metro area districts and schools. Activities included networking with technology professionals, engaging panel discussions, binary bracelet activities, and Hour of AI. The week was then capped off by an **inaugural Girls in Tech Night**, where another 30 girls were hosted and inspired to explore tech careers while learning more about industry partners such as DeBruce Foundation's Agilities, FIRST and PLTW, Society of Women Engineers and Madam President Camp. The evening also included a full circle moment as one of the panelists, currently a CompSci undergrad at Mizzou, attended a Girls in Tech event as a middle school student.



## STEM in Scouts

Scouting America (formerly BSA) and Girl Scout Councils in Missouri offer incredible structured environments for Missouri youth to dive into the world of science and engineering.

Scouting America is hosting highly popular STEM University / Merit Badge events at **UMSL, SEMO, SIUC, MO State and MS&T** in January and February. Scouts can earn specialized STEM Nova awards and choose from dozens of Merit Badge workshops ranging from Nuclear Science to Robotics.

The Girl Scout Councils are equally active, hosting immersive engineering and STEM workshops that empower girls to solve real-world problems. January is particularly focused with various space-related programs. **Science City in KC** offers free admission for Girl Scouts Jan 10 & 11.

Please pass along these opportunities to any Scouts or Leaders in your network. Registrations can be found on the local council websites.

# 5 Directions, 1 Mission



## DiscoverE Resources

Join the Missouri National Girls Collaborative Project (MO NGCP) in celebrating **Engineers Week 2026** (February 22-28) and **Introduce a Girl to Engineering** (February 26, 2026)! This year's theme, "Transform Your Future," focuses on showing students how they can use engineering to create new opportunities. To help you plan, DiscoverE offers a robust suite of free resources, including the Engineers Week Educator Planning Guide, hands-on activity instructions, and downloadable promotional graphics. [DiscoverE Engineers Week Programming](#)

## Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day in KC!

The Kansas City Section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE-KC) hosted their 10<sup>th</sup> annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Jr on November 21, 2025. This event, meant to inspire and encourage girls to explore engineering, welcomed over 160 middle-school girls from across the metro area. Throughout the day, students engaged in activities such as building cars, which put their critical thinking skills to the test. They were also matched and interacted with over 77 professional engineering mentors who provided insights into the profession and its pathways. One student shared, 'I feel so empowered because they're good mentors. I want to be like them when I grow up, because they're so confident and they have fun a lot, so I want to be like them.' This student, who dreams of inventing machines like time travel devices, sought to further her interest in engineering.

Since its inception, **more than 1,000 students have attended IGED Jr**, with **another 2,200 students having attended IGED Sr** since its start in 2011. Today, former student participants are now serving as mentors, planning committee members, and co-chairs.

In preparation for IGED Sr on Friday February 20, 2026, registration is now open for high school students, mentors, and volunteers. For more information, check out IGED's website [here](#).

## January is National Mentoring Month

As January is National Mentoring Month, it is the perfect time to help bridge the "leaky pipeline" in STEM, girls often drop out due to a lack of visible role models and social belonging. You can make a difference by visiting the [National Girls Collaborative Project \(NGCP\) website](#) to access resources for becoming a mentor or connecting girls to mentors. Consider volunteering with the KC STEM Alliance or Columbia STEM Alliance.



# 5 Directions, 1 Mission

## 2026 Summer STEM Camp Guide: Missouri

As January kicks off National Mentoring Month, it's the perfect time to look ahead to summer STEM camps to provide the intensive, hands-on environments where girls can apply what they've learned from mentors and see themselves as future scientists, engineers, and tech leaders.

### University Highlight: Missouri S&T (Rolla)

Missouri S&T offers some of the nation's most specialized residential STEM camps for grades 5-12.

- **Key Programs:** Explosives Camp (the only one of its kind), Nuclear Engineering, Aerospace, BioMed IQ, and Robotics.
- **Important Dates:** General registration for all S&T summer camps opened December 15, 2025. Many high-demand programs (like Jackling Introduction to Engineering) fill within the first month.
- **Scholarships:** The university offers a robust scholarship program; apply early via the [S&T Summer Site](#).
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### Scouting America: STEM on CAMPus & Nova Adventures

Scouting America (formerly BSA) provides specialized technical training through Missouri's regional councils.

- **STEM on CAMPus:** Residential experiences at UMSL (June 3-6, 2026) and SEMO (May 31-June 3, 2026) where Scouts earn up to 6 Merit Badges while living in college dorms.
- **STEM Week at Beaumont (St. Louis):** Running July 19-25, 2026, featuring drone racing, 3D printing, and high-tech fabrication.
- **Great Rivers Council (Northern/Central MO):** Offers the Innovators Adventure STEM Camp starting June 29, 2026, for youth interested in coding and mechanics.

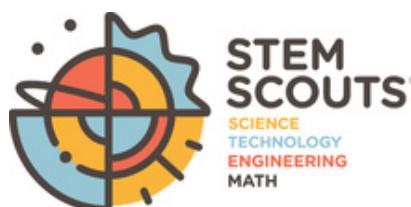
### Girl Scouts: Engineering & Innovation

The Girl Scouts of Missouri provide inclusive, confidence-building STEM tracks for girls of all ages.

- **Overnight & Day Camps:** Registration for camps opened December 3, 2025. Look for the "AdvanceHER" leadership tracks.
- **Program Highlights:** Machine Shop Chic (Metal fabrication), FIRST Robotics intensives, and Cybersecurity "Journeys."
- **Specialty:** Their camps focus heavily on the "Design Thinking" process, making them excellent for younger girls (K-5).

### Regional & Specialty Highlights

Program & Location	Focus Area	Dates & Details
Mosaic emPowerU (St. Joseph)	Camp Invention: Spark	July 6-10, 2026. Mystery-solving and forensic science for grades K-6
Truman State (Kirksville)	Healthcare Academy	June 14-19, 2026. Residential medical science for grades 9-11



Please Check Back for More Highlights



# 5 Directions, 1 Mission

MONorth, MOsouth, MOeast, MOwest, MOcentral

January	
All Month	National Mentoring Month
6th	National Technology Day
9th	Southeast Regional Science Educators Collaboration - SEMO
10th	Scouting America - STEM University - SEMO
17th	Community STEM Showcase - St. Louis Science Center
28th	Data Privacy Day
29th	National Puzzle Day
31st	Scouting America - STEM University - SIUE
February	<b>National Black History Month</b>
7th	National Periodic Table Day
7th	Scouting America - Missouri S&T Merit Badge University
11th	National Inventors Day
22nd-28th	ENGINEERS WEEK
26th	Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day
28th	Scouting America - STEM University - SIUC

## Did You Know?



Courtesy of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group Karlie Kloss and 'Spaghetti Code', co-written by Vicki Fang and illustrated by Remi Jose

### Karlie Kloss Unveils Debut STEM Book: Spaghetti Code

Missouri's supermodel and **Kode with Klossy** founder Karlie Kloss is expanding her mission to diversify STEM with her debut children's book, **"Spaghetti Code: A Story About Problem-Solving, Pasta, and the Power of Big Ideas"**. Co-written with Vicki Fang and illustrated by Remi Jose, the story follows a young coder named Kelly Kent and her sidekick, Gadget, as they help their neighbor, Chef Amato, build a pasta-making machine.

When the Chef's "feature creep" leads to a tangled mess of inefficient "spaghetti code," Kelly must use her technical skills and logical thinking to unravel the bugs. Aimed at inspiring future engineers—particularly young girls—the book emphasizes that coding is a creative tool for community-driven problem-solving. Book release July, 2026



Young Minds Inspired is the nation's leading provider of free educational outreach programs for learners of all ages.



### K-3rd Grade

**The Most Magnificent Thing (Ashley Spires)** – perseverance

### 4th-6th Grade

**The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl (Stacy McAnulty)** – math & identity  
Middle School

**Stargazing (Jen Wang)** – friendship + identity

### Teens (High School)

**The Weight of Stars (K. Ancrum)** – space & friendship

### Adults

**The Giver of Stars (Jojo Moyes)** – women librarians bringing knowledge to communities