

Juniors Toolkit

About Girls Get STEM: Unleash Your Inner Scientist

Girl Scouts of the USA has unleashed a new partnership with Discovery Education to spark girls' interest in STEM and help them unleash their G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ potential. Girls Get STEM: Unleash Your Inner Scientist provides educators and Girl Scouts troop leaders with standards-aligned curriculum that aims to address gender equity in STEM education across the country through a series of girl-led, girl-tested, and girl-approved resources for students in grades 2–5.

Quick Facts

- Program Name: Girls Get STEM: Unleash Your Inner Scientist
- URL: <https://www.girlsleadstem.com/educator-resources>
- Audience: Girl Scouts in grades 2–5

About the Girls Get STEM Activities

The Girls Get STEM activities below were created to bridge national science and engineering standards into the Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey. This can support you as a troop leader in recruiting girls and establishing relationships with educators. In addition to our national standards, non-cognitive skills are factors that predict success in school beyond content knowledge and academic skills. In education, we refer to some of the most popular learning strategies in today's workforce as the "4Cs" for 21st Century Learning. They include critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Each of the activities created in this partnership highlight and help develop these important skills.

The table below provides an overview of each Girls Get STEM activity, how to include this activity in your current Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey, and identifies the 21st Century Learning Skill featured.

Communication

Share Results Activity: Communication

Timing: Approximately 40 minutes, but tailor this activity to fit your troop's needs!

Focus Area: Achievement is defined as an important goal that's been reached as the result of hard work. It's always important to celebrate achievements and successes with those around us. Your troop has achieved a lot that should be celebrated, and this activity will help you showcase what your girls have accomplished!

Activity Overview: Girls will create a skit that recaps the stages of their Take Action project: from brainstorming to reflection. They will storyboard their experience into frames, which will include an overview of the scene as well as any spoken lines that the scene will include. The girls' skit will ultimately be filmed by the leader. The video will tell the story of how the girls worked together to create change and can be shared with the girls' families in a celebration of their achievements.

Where can this activity fit in?

- Take Action project: This activity can be completed at any point after the girls' Take Action project is complete. The final skit can be shown and shared at the end of Journey celebration in Think Like a Citizen Scientist Pt. 6.
- At other points of reflection: This activity can also be completed whenever the girls would benefit from a reflection or celebration (e.g. at the end of a year, after the completion of a service activity, etc.).

Materials:

- Take Action planning materials from Think Like a Citizen Scientists Pt. 4 & 5 (timeline, to-do list, etc.)
- Index cards, about 20
- Tape
- **Storyboard**, 30 copies
- Smartphone or another recording device
- **Optional:** Any photographs that were taken over the course of the Take Action project

Steps:

Juniors will create a skit that recaps the stages of their Take Action project: from brainstorming to reflection. They'll storyboard and script their experience into frames, before they're filmed by

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the leader. The video will tell the story of how the girls worked together to create change and can be shared with the girls' families in a celebration of their achievements.

Part 1: Reflect

Take out the materials that the girls created to plan for their Take Action project (timeline, to-do list, etc.). Ask girls to divide themselves back into the groups they were in for planning the Take Action project.

Give girls a few minutes to reflect on their planning materials.

SAY:

- Take a look at the plan you made for the Take Action project. What steps did you have to take? Did all of these steps actually happen?
- Did each of the steps go according to plan? Why or why not?
- When they didn't go according to plan, how did you handle that?

Pass out a few notecards and tape to each group. Have each group write the major steps they took to create their part of the Take Action project. If their plans are missing any key steps, ask the girls to write them on the notecards and add them now.

When the plans are complete, encourage the girls to reflect on the project by sharing their favorite and more difficult moments with their group.

For example, girls could complete one or more of these sentences:

- I was happy when....
- I was proud when...
- It was difficult when...
- I was unsure when...

Part 2: Create

Gather the girls together to explain the next part of the activity.

SAY:

- Next, you'll be working with your small group to create a skit about "your" portion of the Take Action project.
- Then, the skits will be put together to tell the story of your Take Action project...from the very beginning to the very end!

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Distribute 5 or 6 copies of the **Storyboard** handout to each group. Review the directions provided on the handout and answer questions as needed.

SAY:

- A storyboard is a technique that film, television and play makers use to plan their movie or show. A storyboard is a sequence of drawings, almost like a comic strip, that show each part of the story—including action and dialogue.
- Now, use your planning materials as a starting point for your storyboard but remember that every detail does not have to be included.
- If you want, feel free to include moments that were unplanned but memorable.
- It's up to your group to decide what details will help viewers best understand your portion of the Take Action project.

Optional: If you had a chance to take photographs of the girls throughout their project, distribute them now. The girls can decide whether they'd like to incorporate them into their skit or use them to help spur ideas.

Give girls about 15 minutes to storyboard before bringing the troop back together.

SAY:

- Next, I'll be filming you as you act out your skit!
- Each group will have about 10 minutes to decide how they will act out their storyboard.
- Each girl should have some part in the skit.

Note to Volunteers: Girls may want to put the storyboard by their feet or tape it to a nearby wall so they can easily refer to it as they act.

Part 3: Share

Ask each group to find a spot in the meeting room that will work for their skit.

SAY:

- I won't be pausing the video in between skits; I'll simply rotate around the room and film each skit right after one another.
- While I'm filming, remember it's important to:
 - Speak loudly and clearly.
 - Be quiet listeners when other groups are performing.
 - Pay attention to my (the Volunteer who is filming) silent signals so each group knows when to begin acting.

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If time allows, complete one practice round so everyone understands how the filming will take place. This will also help the girls get used to acting with the rest of the troop watching.

Once girls are ready, use your smart phone or another recording device to film. If they make a mistake, gesture for them to keep going. The goal of this skit is to tell a story...*not* to be perfect!

Once the filming is complete, explain that the girls will be able to watch it together, with their families, at their upcoming celebration!

Note to Volunteers: If a projector or laptop is available at the celebration (Think Like a Citizen Scientist Pt. 6), girls and their families can watch the final video as a group. If not, the video could be viewed on smartphones. Or, you could share the video via email with the girls' families just before the celebration.

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Storyboard handout

Directions: Work with your group to decide how you will tell the story of your portion of the Take Action Project. In the square, sketch a picture of each scene that your skit will include, and then write the script (what your group will say) on the lines. Be sure to number each square so you can easily put them in order! Try to tell your story in 10 squares or less.
