

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STARGAZING & STORYTELLING: GIRL SCOUTS ZOOM IN ON ASTROPHYSICS

Girls take part in astronomy & astrophysics activities, chat with prominent rocket scientist on Aug. 17

WHAT: Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA) will build upon its strong history of developing pioneers in the fields of science and technology with an upcoming event called Stargazing & Storytelling. GSGLA has collaborated with *Astronomy Live!* from UCLA, Celestron, and Sidewalk Astronomers to encourage Girl Scouts in kindergarten through 12th grade to pursue interests in science—particularly math, astronomy, and astrophysics. Up to 250 Girl Scouts and their families and friends will listen to prominent rocket scientist Olympia LePoint, author of *Mathaphobia*, speak about overcoming fears of math to become STEM stars. Then, UCLA astrophysicists, Sidewalk Astronomers and Celestron reps will lead hands-on stargazing and astronomy activities with the girls. Guest speaker Olympia LePoint will also autograph copies of her book (generously donated by Allura Printing) and answer questions with the girls.

WHO:

- Between 60-200 enthusiastic Girl Scouts and their families and friends—all taking part in hands-on astrophysics/astronomy activities, including using Celestron telescopes and binoculars
- Guest speaker Olympia LePoint (prominent rocket scientist, author of *Mathaphobia*, motivational speaker)
- *Astronomy Live!* from UCLA
- Reps from Celestron, the world's #1 telescope maker
- Sidewalk Astronomers

WHEN: Saturday, August 17, 2013
6–10 p.m.

WHERE: Van Nuys Sherman Oaks War Memorial Park, 14201 Huston Street, Sherman Oaks, 91423

FACTS:

- According to a 2012 national study by the Girl Scout Research Institute, the majority of today's girls are interested in STEM subjects; yet, only 13 percent of those girls consider it their first choice as a career. Just 46 percent of girls said they know a woman in a STEM career; 57 percent of girls said they think they'd have to work harder than a man to be taken seriously in STEM jobs.
- GSGLA addresses these alarming statistics through its robust STEM programs and mentoring opportunities—GSGLA counts 15 all-Girl Scout robotics teams among its ranks, for instance.
- Guest speaker Olympia LePoint is an award-winning rocket scientist, science entertainer and university educator driving to help people overcome math and science fear. *Mathaphobia: How You Can Overcome Your Math Fears and Become a Rocket Scientist* is her debut self-help, educational book designed to empower adults and students to ace math without doing more math problems.

About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles serves more than 43,000 girls in partnership with more than 25,000 volunteers throughout the diverse communities of Los Angeles County and parts of Kern, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The council's programs engage girls in the areas of Leadership, Arts & Culture, Business Smarts, Environment & Outdoor Adventure, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), and Wellness & Healthy Living. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or support, visit www.girlscoutsla.org or call 1-888-GSGLA-4-U.