

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA NOTES & PHOTO/B-ROLL OPPORTUNITY:

- *Media is invited to the Rock 'n' Roll Robotics Girl Scout Camp, Aug. 1–3, at the Montrose Program Center, 2732 Montrose Avenue, Montrose, CA 91020. [Click here](#) to view a schedule, with recommended times for photo/video and interviews highlighted. Please contact Melanie Larsen, 916-833-0579, to RSVP.*
- *Girl Scout STE[A]M (science, technology, engineering, art, math) programs are vital: According to a 2014 study, only 22 percent of CA students taking the AP exam in computer science are girls. Similarly, less STEM bachelor's degrees are awarded to CA women: engineering (18%), computer science (13%), technology (10%).*

GIRLS ENGINEER ROBOTS AT GIRL SCOUT CAMP AND BEYOND

Girl Scout Rock 'n' Roll Robotics helps teen peers become engineering champs at weekend camp, Aug. 1–3

LOS ANGELES, July 30, 2014 – While robots taking over the world is still reserved for science fiction films; girls running the world is not so far-fetched—at least according to some problem-solving Girl Scouts who design, build, and program robots.

At an upcoming Girl Scout camp, Aug. 1–3, Rock 'n' Roll Robotics, a Girl Scout *FIRST*[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge (FTC) team, will mentor eleven Girl Scouts, teaching them things like computer programming, basic mechanical engineering, and 3D printing for laser-cutting metal pieces.

The camp, held at Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles' (GSGLA) Montrose Program Center, will have girls in grades 8–12 design, program, and build robots to perform basic tasks such as moving rings to hooks and performing chin-ups. The weekend ends with a friendly competition of guiding their robots through task-oriented games.

“My daughter’s favorite part of FTC is dreaming up the mechanisms and trouble-shooting,” said Julie-ann Piña, who is helping to run the camp this weekend. “It’s about overcoming frustration and set-backs. She is learning teamwork.”

GSGLA currently supports three robotics programs through *FIRST*[®]: Junior *FIRST*[®] Lego League (JrFLL) for girls ages 6–9; *FIRST*[®] Lego League (FLL) for girls ages 9–14; and *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge (FTC) for girls ages 14–18.

Thanks to support from *FIRST*[®] and Rockwell Collins, in May 2014 GSGLA became an official affiliate partner for FLL’s greater Los Angeles region (Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties)—meaning Girl Scout volunteers and staff sign-up and recruit all teams, as well as host, organize, and schedule 16 tournaments from September through December. There are currently 300 teams in FLL, many are co-ed and many are all boys. Sixteen teams are Girl Scouts.

FLL robotics teams are given a real-world challenge, which they must solve and present to judges, on top of building and programming Lego-based robots through tasks that fit with the theme. With the national concerns over the education system, this season’s challenge asks FLL teams to find solutions to improve the way information is disseminated and retained. In FTC, teams like Rock 'n' Roll Robotics prep for a sports-like tournament where groups work to program metal robots to play various games, complete slightly more complex tasks than in FLL, and navigate an obstacle course.

With a new Girl Scout year—and robotics season—approaching in the fall, GSGLA is in need of volunteers: team mentors and coaches, tournament judges and referees, event volunteers, and more. Engineers are encouraged to volunteer and lend their expertise, but all are welcome, as training is provided. For more information on how to join or form a team, or how to volunteer or support Girl Scout robotics programs, visit girlscoutsla.org, or call 213-213-0123.

About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles serves more than 40,000 girls in partnership with more than 20,000 volunteers throughout the diverse communities of Los Angeles County and parts of Kern, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The council engages girls through programs in Leadership, Business and Financial Literacy, Outdoor Adventure, STE[A]M (science, technology, engineering, art, math), and Healthy Living. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or support, visit www.girlscoutsla.org or call 213-213-0123.