

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA NOTES & PHOTO/B-ROLL OPPORTUNITY:

- *Media is invited to interview the girls of Rock n' Roll Robots at an upcoming Girl Scout troop meeting where they will be building and testing their robots for the world championships. The troop meets at Pasadena High School Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays, 6 to 8:30 p.m. 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%).*

Local Girl Scout Engineering Whizzes to Compete in World Robotics Championships **Girl Scout "Rock n' Roll Robots," will be one of few all-girl teams competing in the prestigious** **FIRST® Tech Challenge World Championships, held in St. Louis, April 22–25**

LOS ANGELES, April 8, 2015 – After putting in an average of 10 hours per week since September building and programming working robots, Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles' Rock n' Roll Robots team—16 girls from all over Los Angeles County ages 14–18—have qualified to compete at the *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge (FTC) World Championships in St. Louis, MO, April 22–25.

They qualified by being part of the Event Finals Alliance at the Super Regional FTC Robotics Tournament in Oakland in late March, which drew regional winners from thirteen western states. FTC teams design, build, and program robots with both autonomous and driver-controlled modes which perform tasks required by each year's specific challenge.

By participating in FTC, girls learn things like computer programming and basic mechanical engineering. With its strong history of supporting girls in STE[A]M (science, technology, engineering, art, math), Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles 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.

Robotics tournaments feature the same excitement and pressure experienced in traditional athletic competitions. And at the world championships, Rock n' Roll Robots will be the only all-girl team from California.

"Despite many changes, it seems to me that most girls entering high school are not considering careers in science and technology, largely because they have never personally experienced the requirements, challenges, and rewards of these careers," said Julie Townsend, who has mentored Rock n' Roll Robots since 2007. "For many of the girls on my team, robotics has been a life-changing experience that has fundamentally changed the way they think about their educational and professional futures."

The world championship tournament is the culminating event of the season's *FIRST*® programs which brings together the three separate competition disciplines. Rock n' Roll Robots will compete against 128 teams from all over the world in the FTC division. Also descending on St. Louis will be 60 Junior *FIRST*® Lego League teams, 100 *FIRST*® Lego League teams and 600 *FIRST*® Robotics Competition teams—a total of 17,000 kids.

"We are so proud of Rock n' Roll Robots," said Lise L. Luttgens, Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles CEO. "At Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, we believe girls can do anything—our STE[A]M programs help girls learn to overcome setbacks and gain team-building skills. These girls are our future leaders and innovators."

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.

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