



Girl Scouts & Society of Women Engineers Collaboration Guide

Suggestions for collaboration
between Girl Scout Councils
& SWE Sections



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Girl Scouts and Society of Women Engineers: Collaboration Goals and Benefits

Given Girl Scouts' and the Society of Women Engineers' (SWE's) shared missions to build female leaders and to encourage girls to explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); build confidence; and pursue careers in STEM fields, both organizations are proud to continue to strengthen our partnership.

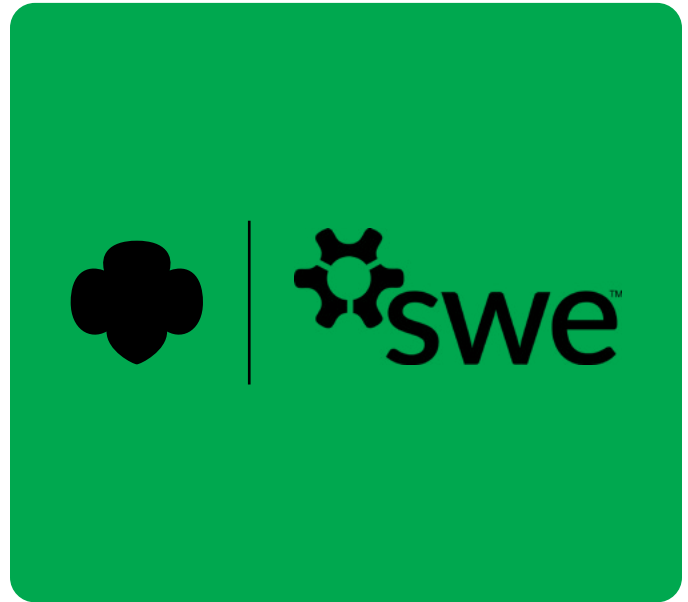
Through the national collaboration, we encourage Girl Scout councils and SWE Sections across the country to:

- Host joint events for girls to explore their interests and build skills in engineering, as well as to explore STEM careers
- Create additional opportunities for SWE members to [volunteer with Girl Scout councils](#), including speaking opportunities and activities with Girl Scout troops
- Introduce girls to engineering opportunities by offering them SWE Next membership

Our ultimate goals are to:

- Encourage more girls to explore their interests in STEM
- Provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to SWE members
- Strengthen girls' confidence in their STEM abilities through Girl Scout badges and Journeys, as well as through support and inspiration from SWE role models
- Create strong, lasting relationships between Girl Scout councils and SWE Sections

We hope this collaboration guide helps you connect with your local Girl Scout council or SWE Section to host successful programs and events!



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Background

Girl Scouts

At [Girl Scouts](#), we believe in the power of every [girl](#) to change the world.

We're the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs from coast to coast and across the [globe](#), Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success.

We introduce Girl Scouts of every age to STEM to help them see how they can actually improve the world—whether they're discovering how a car's engine runs, learning to manage finances, or caring for animals. Learn more about [Girl Scouts](#).

Society of Women Engineers

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE, founded in 1950, is the world's largest advocate and catalyst for change for women in engineering and technology. The not-for-profit educational and service organization is the driving force that establishes engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women. To ensure engineers and leaders reach their full potential, the Society offers unique opportunities to network, pursue professional development, and shapes public policy. SWE champions the value of diversity. We inspire young girls to become engineers and support them with scholarships in order to expand the engineering profession's ability to improve the quality of life for billions of people worldwide. Learn more about SWE's mission, vision, strategic goals, and programs in the [About SWE mobile course](#) or on [swe.org](#).

SWE has more than 40,000 members across the globe, more than [400 Collegiate and Professional Sections in the United States](#), and 40 global affiliates. SWE Sections and affiliates are a great way to connect with SWE members locally.

For additional information, feel free to contact us.

Girl Scouts of the USA

Imogene Winkleman
Manager, National Partnerships
iwinkleman@girlscouts.org

Society of Women Engineers

Valerie Bland
Director, Content and Programs
valerie.bland@swe.org

If you have questions about SWE Section Outreach events, contact SWE's Outreach Committee chair at outreach-chair@swe.org.

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Creating Collaborations

Identifying Girl Scout Council and SWE Section Contacts

To connect with one of Girl Scouts' 111 councils, use the [Girl Scout Council Finder](#).

If you're an SWE Section contacting your council for the first time (or the first time in a while) and you have not yet been provided a local contact, you can often find contact information on your local council's website.

Although staff structures at each council may vary, we recommend that you connect with a member from one of the following council teams:

- STEM staff (e.g., STEM strategist, program director, or manager)
- Program staff (often referred to as the Girl Experience team)
- Volunteer support staff
- Staff who support community partnerships

To connect with a local SWE Section, use the [list of SWE Section leadership](#), reference the [SWE Section map](#), or contact outreach@swe.org.

Local Collaborations

Getting Started

When creating an SWE and Girl Scout collaboration, we recommend first connecting in person or virtually to get to know one another and discuss possibilities for collaboration.

Here are a few recommendations to help you prepare:

- Begin initial conversations with examples of any past collaborations and a few concrete ideas for how to work together.
- Identify priorities, what your needs are, and current opportunities for collaboration and volunteering. (The SWE fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 31 of the following year. Section leadership often changes year to year to ensure that when the year ends, the right contacts are transitioned and introduced.)

Consider using the template on the following page to get started during your first meeting.

Creating Local Collaborations, Continued

Agenda Template

Date:

Time:

1. Get to know one another. Exchange names, contact information, and experience with everyone who should be included in and informed on this work as well as who can be contacted as a backup.

Name	Contact Information	Experience

2. Connect on joint missions and objectives. Discuss your hopes for the collaboration.

- What are the basic goals of each STEM program for girls?
- What local STEM initiatives are you currently focused on?
- How might each party benefit from this collaboration?
- What opportunities might exist for cross-promotion?
- How might Girl Scout members benefit from SWENext opportunities?

3. Choose the best type of engagement. Which types of engagement do both parties most need and are most interested in?

Girl Scout Council Talking Points

- How could SWE support our council's volunteer needs?
- Would your SWE Section be able to help host events or provide volunteer leadership for particular badges or Journeys (depending on council needs)?
- If our council has a STEM advisory board, what might this benefit from SWE involve?
- Can SWE provide a mentor for a highest award Girl Scout working on a relevant project?

SWE Talking Points

- Are there any Girl Scout troops that might benefit from also becoming a part of the [SWENext Clubs program](#)?

- Is your council interested in offering free [SWENext](#) membership to any Girl Scouts? This allows girls to become a part of the SWE engineering community as a student (through age 18).
- [SWENext High School Leadership Academy \(SHLA\)](#) offers year-round programming and mentors for five key tracks (college prep; STEM pathways; leadership; self-development; and diversity, equity, and inclusion). Do councils have any Girl Scouts who would be interested in participating? Are there any opportunities for our SWE Section to provide these opportunities to Girl Scouts?
- Would you be willing to encourage adult advocates and educators to sign up for [SWE's Adult Advocates newsletter](#)?

4. Work together. Discuss how you will work together and set expectations on both sides.

- What are your first steps to collaborate?
- How will you keep in touch?
- Are there any work practices that each team should know about? Share any basic information about how you work to avoid misunderstandings in the future. For example, is the council's office closed on Fridays? Does the SWE Section have a cadence for when people are typically available to check in?

5. Create a plan for continuing the collaboration.

- Are there any annual or preplanned events (e.g., SWE's Invent it. Build it. EXPO or the Girl Scout STEM Festival) that might be good opportunities to partner?
- How will you plan each future event?
 - When does each organization set its calendar?
 - How much planning time is needed before an event?
- How often will you check in with one another? How else might you communicate?
- Do you have basic information (e.g., newsletters) that each organization should receive?
- What potential collaboration opportunities exist that you might decide to explore later?
- How might you both help each organization expand its network in your community?

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Create STEM Events

Girl Scouts and STEM: Changing the World

We introduce Girl Scouts of every age to [STEM](#) to help them see how they can improve the world—whether they’re discovering how a car’s engine runs, coding an app, or caring for animals.

We’d like girls to explore different aspects of STEM every year, so we’ve developed a unique, “fun with purpose” K–12 curriculum to inspire them to embrace and celebrate scientific discovery in their lives.

By inspiring girls to discover more of what they really care about, they explore a wide variety of interests—everything from the arts to the outdoors to, of course, STEM—through [skill-building badges and leadership Journeys](#).



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Suggested Badges and Journeys for SWE and GSUSA Events

When collaborating on events, SWE and Girl Scouts recommend partnering to deliver badges and Journeys that focus on engineering, including the following.

1. Engineering: Think Like an Engineer Journey. Girls discover how to think like an engineer by participating in hands-on design challenges and completing a Take Action project. Available for all levels (grades K-12).

2. Automotive Engineering: Automotive Design, Automotive Engineering, and Automotive Manufacturing badges. Girls learn about designing, engineering, and manufacturing vehicles, as well as the future of mobility. They design their own vehicles, test prototypes, learn about design thinking, create their own assembly line manufacturing process, and more. Three total badges are available for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors (grades K-5).

3. Mechanical Engineering badges. Girls take on design challenges to explore the design thinking process. Daisies (grades K-1) design a model roller coaster, board game, or model car. Brownies (grades 2-3) design a “Leap Bot,” fling flyer, and race car. Juniors (grades 4-5) design a paddle boat, crane, and balloon car. Three total badges are available for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors (grades K-5).

4. Robotics badges. Daisies learn what robots do, how they move, and how to design one. Girls in grades 2 and higher learn about programming and designing robots as well as how to showcase them at competitions and science fairs. Three badges are available for each level (grades K-12).

5. STEM Career Exploration badge. Girls discover new career interests and connect to in-demand jobs as they learn about six different STEM fields: computer science, nature/environment, engineering, design, health, and agriculture. The girls explore related opportunities and see how pursuing a career in these areas can make the world a better place. Available for Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes (grades 2-8).

To see all Girl Scout STEM badges, Journeys, and awards, check out the Girl Scout STEM Award and Badge Log.

For more information on Girl Scout programming, visit:

- [The Award and Badge Explorer](#) for a full list of all badges and Journeys available to girls
- [Girl Scouts at Home](#), our online site of badge and Journey activities for girls to participate in from home
- Our [breakdown of new badges](#) released in summer 2020.

For more information on Girl Scouts and STEM outcomes, check out our 2016 report from the Girl Scout Research Institute: [How Girl Scout STEM Programs Benefit Girls](#).

For more information on Girl Scouts and girls' leadership, see all the [research published by the Girl Scout Research Institute](#).

Planning Girl Scout and SWE Events

Once SWE Sections and Girl Scout councils have met to discuss goals and reviewed the recommended badges and Journeys to deliver together, we hope that you'll partner on events and experiences for girls. The following is a suggested timeline for co-planning events.

(Girl Scout councils and SWE Sections may vary in how far out they need to schedule events.)

Four to Eight Weeks Before the Event

- Determine the event date and details.
- Determine the badge or Journey for the event, the target age group, and the event format.
- Determine which Girl Scout council staff and/or volunteers will be present.
- Secure SWE volunteers and/or panelists (SWE volunteers may be asked to complete volunteer registration, training, and/or background checks for Girl Scout councils).
- Determine registration processes and create the sign-up form (likely the council's responsibility).
- Determine event registration costs and budget.
- Create advertising flyers with a registration link; discuss co-branding and design responsibilities.
- If the event is virtual, determine which online system you'll use, who will run the technology, etc.
- [SWE Section can apply for professional development grants, if applicable.](#)

Three or More Weeks Before the Event

- The Girl Scout council shares detailed badge or Journey content with SWE volunteers.
- Start recruiting additional volunteers from the SWE Section, if needed.
- If the council chooses, invite specific troops.
- Advertise on Girl Scouts' website and social media, as well as through SWE's Promote Your Event newsletter.

One to Two Weeks Before the Event

- Send a reminder email to all attendees with online event information.
- Send a reminder email to all volunteers.
- Organize all materials for the event (e.g., coordinate drop-off or pickup of any physical materials that girls may use at home).
- If virtual, consider holding a run-through of the event.

The Day of the Event

- Give feedback survey to students and parents (if present).
- Provide an event summary and additional resources to participants via email.
- Provide information to participants on SWENext opportunities.
- Provide information to participants on upcoming Girl Scouts events and opportunities.

After the Event

- SWE Sections should report the event to SWE using the [Outreach Metric Tool](#).

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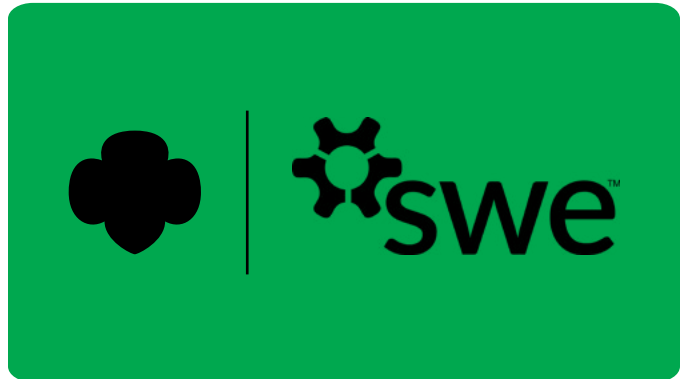
Additional Opportunities

One-time Opportunities to Volunteer with Girl Scouts

- One-time volunteers can serve as experts for council and troop events, assist in facilitating Girl Scout badge and Journey activities, and provide pivotal support to troops by lending expertise in a variety of program areas. [Visit us online](#) for a list of short-term volunteer opportunities.

SWE Volunteers Who Are Also Girl Scout Alums

- If you were a Girl Scout at any point in your life, consider signing up for the [Girl Scout Network](#), a powerful community of adults—both Girl Scout alums and supporters from across the country—who believe in preparing girls to be our future leaders.



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