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## Got science skills? Share 'em!

By [Dawn Witlin](#)/ Chronicle Staff  
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**D**r. Connie Chow, newly appointed executive director of Science Club for Girls, hopes to plant seeds of scientific knowledge in Cambridge girls that will last a lifetime.

"For our K-through-seven kids in particular, we want them to learn about the process of science," said Chow, former assistant professor of biology at Simmons College. She's joining the district-wide program in its 13th year. "It's about asking questions, it's about doing and it's about increasing their ability to observe as well as be able to formulate hypothesis."

Chow said SCFG seeks to both close the achievement gap and open future career paths to young women by providing learning opportunities in science and leadership for less fortunate girls from kindergarten through high school.

"We target girls who are minorities, girls who are going to be the first in their families to go to college, as well as girls who maybe live in poverty," said Chow.

The club offers free programs such as after-school science clubs, a junior assistant program, a media team, an all-girl rocket team, a summer peer mentoring program and community outreach opportunities. The programs are taught by volunteers with careers in numerous local scientific agencies.

Chow said older SCFG participants are encouraged to learn the role of science teachers themselves.

"Our grades eight through 12 girls are basically co-teachers in the club," said Chow. "In that case, we are trying to increase their confidence and their ability to talk about science, and they would see themselves as role models for these younger girls and be mentors and to see themselves as playing roles as potential scientists."

More than 440 students are now supported by the program in six public schools, three community centers, three summer camps in Cambridge and a church in Newton.

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Science Club for Girls welcomes volunteers to lead hands-on science clubs for children in Cambridge.

For more information on how to volunteer for either after-school programs, junior assistant leadership programs, in-school science club or to become a speaker or demonstrator, visit [scienceclubforgirls.org](http://scienceclubforgirls.org)

If you are not able to volunteer at this time but would like to be contacted in the future, send an e-mail to [scfg@scienceclubforgirls.org](mailto:scfg@scienceclubforgirls.org).

If you would like to contribute to Science Club for Girls, contact Dr. Connie Chow, 617-372-4403, P.O. Box 390544 Cambridge, MA 02139.

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