



136 Magazine Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 372-4403

Maria Claudia Echavarria
(857) 233-6051
media@scienceclubforgirls.org

Science Club For Girls Fact Sheet

Mission: *Building Self-Confidence, Sisterhood & Science Literacy*

The Science Club for Girls (SCFG) aims to increase the self-confidence and science literacy of K–12th grade girls belonging to groups that are underrepresented in the sciences.

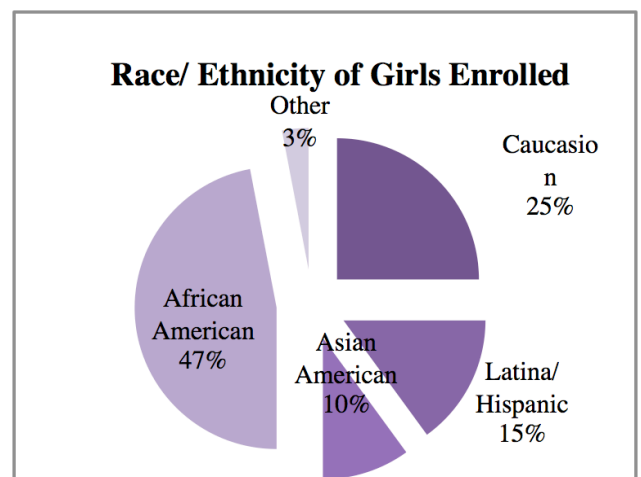
History: *Every Parent is a Science and Mathematics Advocate*

In 1994 a group of parents concerned with the issues of gender equity in math, science and technology formed a Gender Issues in Education Committee at the King Open School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The committee's expectations for the launch of their free after-school programs were humble until nearly 60% of all the girls in kindergarten through second grade wanted to join! The committee soon became a grassroots organization looking to challenge the gender discrepancies in education. The founding parents remain active members of the Science Club for Girls board.

Community: *Ensuring Diversity*

All girls in the participating communities are invited to participate in our activities. Nevertheless, we are committed to enhancing the participation of girls from underrepresented groups in science and technology.

- 75% of our participants are from ethnic or racial minority groups.
- 63-88% of the students at 3 of the schools that host our Science Clubs are eligible for the reduced price or free lunch program. 2 others are Title I schools.
- Survey results of our older girls suggest that 40% of their parents have not attended college.



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- From our single school, we have expanded to include the bilingual, multicultural Amigos and King Open Schools in Cambridge, and the largely Hispanic community in Lawrence.

Services: *Influencing the Lives of Hundreds*

Our organization offers free, after school programs that provide experiential learning, mentorship, and leadership opportunities. Mentor-scientists model and foster leadership, affirm college as an expectation, and promote careers in science and technology as goals and options for the girls.

- In the last year, more than 600 girls from five different cities in Massachusetts participated in our programs.
- Almost 100 volunteers from B.U., Harvard, Lesley, MCPHS, MIT, Northeastern, Simmons, Tufts, Wellesley, Amgen, Bose, Comcast, Draper, General Mills, Genzyme and Novartis etc serve as mentors each year.
- Since 2004, our enrollment has experienced an average growth rate of 30%.

Science Clubs

Two volunteer mentor-scientists and two adolescent Junior Assistants lead fun and interactive science explorations with groups of 8-10 young girls. Our curriculum meets girls' interests and spans an array of scientific and engineering fields.

- Science Clubs remain our largest program
 - In Fall 2008, almost 400 girls participated in 35 clubs

Junior Assistants

Junior assistants (JAs) are 7th to 12th grade girls working as mentors and guide the younger girls in science activities. They share experiences, knowledge and wisdom and enhance the self-confidence of the younger girls by encouraging them do their best. Workshops help them visualize and acquire the skills, path, and role of a leader, peer and community member.

- 60 girls participate as JAs each year
- 100% of graduates were accepted to 4-year colleges
 - Approximately 50% will major in the sciences or engineering
 - Approximately 60% are the first in their families to attend college
- SCFG staff helped prepare resumes and application letters, and performed mock interviews.

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- With the encouragement of a board member, a JA applied for and received a 4-year scholarship.
- Our corporate partnerships at Genzyme and Draper Labs provide STEM- related summer internships and campships.
- 4 of our JAs started their own Science Clubs
 - One founded a club in a rural town in Ghana that is ongoing

Media Team

Composed of students from 8th-12th graders. The group has photographed and filmed the clubs, worked on the oral history project, and even published books. The members gain valuable hands-on experience in technology and computer skills and receive supportive mentorship in web page development.

Rocket Team

A group of 9th-12th graders get together every other Saturday at MIT and prepare for the Team America Rocketry Challenge. Col. Peter Young, from MIT's Aeronautics and Astronautics Department started the group, which is currently directed by graduate students in the department.

- Our Rocket Team was the only all girls group in 2005.
- In the same year, the team created a rocket that flew 1,125 ft up in the air, making it to the alternate list in the finals.

Summer Program

We partner with local community centers, summer camps and other non-profit organizations to offer free science enrichment programs to the community.

- In summer 2008, our partnership with 6 different community centers and summer camps provided free science activities to 135 kids aged 5 to 12 led by 10 Junior Assistants
- Along with Boston's Children's Museum and mathematician Dr. Kenneth Fan, our JAs created the world's largest origami geodesic sphere in 2006, and the 1st origami quilt in 2007. JAs also led museum visitors in origami activities.
- In 2004, Science Club for Girls along with CCTV and PBS Producer Angelica Brisk produced our "Blast Off! News" documentary video on rockets.
- Career exploration field trips for our Junior Assistants include the Deer Island Water Treatment Plant, Biogen Idec, Mt Auburn Hospital, New England Culinary Institute etc.

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