

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)



Google's Made with Code Initiative is inspiring millions of girls ages 12 to 18 to learn to code and to help them see coding as a means to pursue their dream careers. Girls Inc., a lead contributor to the Initiative, is committed to helping girls discover how science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and its many applications offer exciting opportunities today and for the future.



So what can a girl do with code? Literally anything - she might go on to be a programmer, doctor, anthropologist, designer, president, pastry chef or anything in between. Computing skills can build the foundational problem solving, creativity and communication skills that will help her succeed and stay competitive in whatever she chooses to do. There really is nothing she can't do with coding as a tool in her belt.

With funding from the Girls Inc. national organization, Girls Inc. of Columbus has formed a Made with Code Chapter. The Chapter meets at least once a month to learn by doing and to explore STEM as part of their lives and potential career options. The Chapter also hosts Made with Code parties to introduce other girls to coding. The parties provide a basic coding experience in an interactive and hands-on environment that girls find fun and exciting.



Tomorrow's innovators practice imaginative thinking and teamwork. Guided by adult Coaches, *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) teams research a real-world problem such as food safety, recycling, energy, etc., and are challenged to develop a solution. They also must design, build, program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technology, then compete on a table-top playing field.

Girls Inc. of Columbus partners with Chattahoochee Valley Libraries to deliver a First Lego League Jr. program for first and second graders. The team learns basic STEM concepts by working and creating together as they explore science and technology. Participation in the junior league prepares girls for the Girls Inc. of Columbus "Smart Girls" Robotics Team.

The Smart Girls Robotics Team, made up of eight middle school girls, participates in local, regional and super-regional FLL competitions. Each year, the girls develop and refine their critical thinking and team-building skills, basic STEM applications, and even presentation skills, as they must present their solutions with a dash of creativity to judges at FLL competitions. They also practice the Program's signature Core Values, including Gracious Professionalism®.

Not only does the Smart Girls Robotics Team compete – and win – each year, they also work with students from other robotics teams in Columbus. This year, the Columbus High School FRC robotics team helped girls build a bat house as part of their project for the 2017 FLL competition challenge, "Animal Allies."

Economic Literacy



Project Cookie Jar brings economic literacy to local teen girls using an unexpected hook. How does a cookie jar relate to economic literacy?

TSYS has partnered with Girls Inc. of Columbus to engage girls in learning the fundamentals of personal finance, using a cookie jar as a metaphor for planning ahead. And while the average teenager might not be interested in a course on personal finance, a program that involves cookies generally gets their attention.

The cookie jar concept originated with Gail Burgos, (title). Some of Gail's earliest memories are of her grandmother pulling extra money from her cookie jar to provide funds for ice cream and other treats for her grandchildren. This "magical cookie jar" made a powerful impression on young Gail and became the central idea around which she built the Project Cookie Jar program.

Now in its second year in Columbus, Project Cookie Jar has been adopted by Girls Inc. of Atlanta. Each month during the school year, women volunteers from TSYS share their knowledge and experience with dozens of girls. The program – which targets middle school teens – aligns with the Girls Inc. Economic Literacy curriculum. From buying personal items to preparing for college and learning about taxes, TSYS volunteers use Project Cookie Jar to equip girls with the knowledge, practical guidance and confidence they need to make wise choices with their money.

College Preparation & Career Exploration



BOLD MOVES

Bold Moves is an annual summer program for high school girls envisioned by Teresa White, President of Aflac U.S. — the first woman and African American to hold this position at Aflac.

It's no coincidence that Teresa's core values align closely with the mission of Girls Inc.: to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold. Growing up in a challenging neighborhood of Dallas, Teresa had key mentors, including her mother and grandmother, who helped her blossom into an independent, vibrant, and successful woman who makes smart choices. Teresa shares this gift with other girls who face some of the same challenges that she encountered. Her goal is to make an impact that creates change for the better.

The eight-week Bold Moves program focuses on skills-building workshops ranging from leadership skills, roadmap to college, and finances, to resume writing, business etiquette, and table manners. Workshops feature facilitated panel discussions comprised of professional women who provide keen insights into their career journeys. Bold Moves members serve as the emcees for each panel to help boost their confidence and strengthen their speaking skills.

Lunch is provided at each workshop and the program concludes with a recognition ceremony to honor the members' accomplishments. Not only do friends and colleagues volunteer their time to help, but organizations and businesses from across Columbus partner together for the success of Bold Moves. Local organizations make substantial donations, from hosting the awards ceremony to providing floral arrangements and musicians for the celebratory event.