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Amgen Foundation Grant Funds Girl Scout STEM Programming for 325 Low-Income Girls in Ventura County

**Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast Receives \$10,000 Grant
from The Amgen Foundation**

Ventura, CA – The Amgen Foundation has awarded Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast (GSCCC) a \$10,000 grant to support the Girl Scout STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Program. This grant will help serve 325 low-income predominantly Latina girls ages 5 – 18 in Ventura County.

The goal of the program is to empower girls to expand their STEM skills, as they enjoy hands-on activities and experiments, explore STEM careers and expand their ability to care for the environment. With STEM being one of four primary program pillars for Girl Scouts across the nation, GSCCC's Girl Scout STEM Program integrates skill-building to help prepare girls for future STEM careers, and learn problem-solving techniques.

"We are very excited to receive this grant from the Amgen Foundation," said Jody Skenderian, CEO of Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast. "Amgen is helping Girl Scouts introduce girls to STEM pathways and careers to help them improve the world and have a career that is both engaging and rewarding, helping to prepare the next generation of female leaders."

The Girl Scout STEM program includes hands-on technology activities, including teaching girls how to code. To add to their reasoning skills, girls will explore how math and science activities are used in their daily lives. Girls will also explore engineering careers and participate in activities that require critical thinking. Conservation skills such as planting gardens and beach clean-up will teach girls to take care of the environment. Finally, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) curriculum will provide girls with appropriate learning objectives and

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activities that are girl-led, involve learning by doing, and include community service activities.

These activities will continue to provide academic support and enrichment opportunities for over three hundred local girls, with the objective of increasing their STEM skills and interests by the end of the year.

In 2017, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) launched new programming that includes 23 new STEM and Outdoor badges. Over the next two years, GSUSA will launch 18 [Cybersecurity badges](#) and a series of [Space Science badges](#). The new Girl Scout programming builds girls' skills and encourages their interest in STEM and environmental conservation from an early age—areas girls are not typically encouraged to explore outside Girl Scouting.

The Amgen Foundation

The Amgen Foundation seeks to advance excellence in science education to inspire the next generation of innovators, and invest in strengthening communities where Amgen staff members live and work. To date, the Foundation has donated more than \$200 million in grants to local, regional and international nonprofit organizations that impact society in inspiring and innovative ways. The Amgen Foundation brings the excitement of discovery to the scientists of tomorrow through several signature programs, including Amgen Scholars, Amgen Biotech Experience, and Amgen Teach. For more information, visit www.AmgenInspires.com and follow us www.twitter.com/amgenfoundation.

About GSCCC

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast serves over 16,000 members across six counties and is committed to making the Girl Scout Leadership Experience available to girls in ways that impact their lives both in the moment and into the future. Girls participate in troops, individual projects, council events, day camps and more. A variety of leadership, outdoor skills, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) based programs and events provide girls with opportunities to learn and explore in fun and informative ways. To join or volunteer in Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Ventura County, visit: <http://www.girlscoutscoc.org>.

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