

GIRLSTART

Core Elements of Program Model

Girlstart's mission is to increase girls' interest and engagement in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through innovative, nationally-recognized informal STEM education programs.

Girlstart aspires to be the national leader in designing and implementing innovative, high-quality informal STEM education programs that inspire girls to transform our world.

Founded in Austin in 1997, Girlstart provides the nation's most robust year-round STEM programming geared specifically to empowering girls. This document outlines the four core features of the Girlstart model that contribute to the organization's effectiveness. It is provided to inform potential partners about the Girlstart model and will also be used by Girlstart staff to ensure fidelity to the Girlstart model as the organization expands its reach throughout and beyond Texas.

Girlstart Core Elements

1. 'For Every Girl'
2. Research and Standards-Based Informal STEM Education
3. Creative, Resourceful, Empowered Women
4. Connection to STEM Careers



GIRLSTART

Detailed Core Elements

1. Programming Designed 'For Every Girl'

Girlstart programming is girl-centered and incorporates research-backed methods to engage and empower all girls, no matter their prior interest or ability in STEM.

- All girl environment
- Collaboration, not competition
- Highly engaging, fun, and interactive
- Confidence building and socio-emotional development
- Breadth of content and activities
- Engaging the underrepresented

2. Research and Standards-Based Informal STEM Education

Girlstart's curriculum and pedagogy is effective and relevant, reflecting the latest research and best practices in STEM education.

- 5E instructional model
- STEM state and national standards
- Continuously refreshed curriculum
- Informal STEM education
- Inquiry-based learning

3. Creative, Resourceful, Empowered Women

Girlstart's program delivery model leverages college-aged women interns called STEM CREW, who are highly trained both to effectively teach STEM and to serve as role models.

- STEM CREW (Creative, Resourceful, Empowered Women)
- Near-peer role modeling
- Training & coaching

4. Continuous Connection to STEM Careers

Girlstart infuses real-world connections to STEM careers throughout its programming and inspires girls to include STEM in their own education and career goals.

- Career-centered themes
- Women in STEM
- Education and career goal setting

