

ABOUT

Maker Girls offers fun and purposeful enrichment classes for today's little girls in an effort to expose them to STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math).

OUR MISSION & VALUES

We believe in...

- rolling up our sleeves
- discovering all this world has to offer
- making it better through innovation

We know that this begins with every one of us.

We know the strength that female collaboration can bring to the world.

OUR GOALS

Our goals are simple:

- Give little girls early exposure to STEM fields in a fun and purposeful way.
- Be the bridge for little girls to build relationships with one another in these fields.
- Teach little girls the skills that they will use throughout their lives in any career they choose.
- Show girls that women work in these fields and that they can too some day.
- Share the power that comes with learning science, technology, engineering, and math.

WHO ARE THE MAKER GIRLS?

The Maker Girls are a set of super heroes who have super powers in science, technology, math, and engineering. For now, they are Rocket Girl, Math Girl, Code Girl, and Chemistry Girl.



The real Maker Girls are your daughters, nieces, granddaughters, neighbors, and friends. We know the powers that they have within them. It's our job to bring those to the surface. We hope that our super heroes will help them discover how powerful knowledge can be.

HOW WE DO IT

It's all about the girls.

We start with a question: what are the powers that our girls possess and how can we help them each discover these capabilities? And, from that we build a curriculum based around a set of skills that we want them to learn... a set of powers that we want them to achieve.

It's all about the teachers.

The teachers are face to face with our Maker Girls and they are our priority. We want our teachers to be successful and we give them the tools to succeed in teaching. The first thing we look for in our teachers is energy and enthusiasm. (This needs to be fun!) And, then we provide teachers with the curriculum, materials, and training to be successful.

WHY GIRLS?

There is a need for girls to have greater exposure to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subject materials.

In elementary school, 74% of girls say they are interested in math and science classes. But women only make up about 26% of STEM workers. 33% of women who work in STEM fields earn on average 33% more than their female counterparts in other fields.¹

There are more and more extracurricular programs being offered specifically for girls and women these days. (HURRAH!) The limitation is that they often begin at the middle and high school levels. THIS IS TOO LATE. Girls need to have exposure to science and technology from early childhood.

Learning the skills offered in Maker Girls classes, girls will have a foundation that will be beneficial to them in any career they choose. Girls will gain:

- the ability to problem solve
- critical thinking skills
- confidence
- empowerment
- creativity
- self-starting skills
- innovation and imagination

Girls need a foundation in 'maker' fields: science, technology, design, math, engineering, architecture, and so on.

And... it will be fun! We promise lots of giggles along the way!

¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/women>

THE PEOPLE BEHIND MAKER GIRLS

Michelle Loretta, Founder

Michelle Loretta is the daughter of an engineer. Growing up in Southern California, there wasn't a day that didn't have an experiment measuring a tree, a physics discussion at the dinner table, or a viewing of the television show NOVA (definitely dad's favorite show). The family garage was a treasure trove of inventions, and never housed a car.

As the mother of a very inquisitive 7-year-old, Michelle realizes now how special and sacred her upbringing was. What an incredible exposure to how the world works and operates! She wants the same for her daughter, Lili, and girls all over the world. Every girl should be so lucky.

Michelle, lives in Miami, Florida with her husband and her daughter Lili, 7, and her son Lucas, 2. She is an entrepreneur and spends her time consulting other small business owners.

Christina Williamson, Curriculum Developer

Christina Williamson holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and a Masters of Education. As a teacher she has led students to learn and explore such topics as: Dimensional Analysis, Atomic Theory, The Periodic Table of the Elements, Chemical Equations, Bonding, Polarity, Nuclear Chemistry, Acid/Base Theory, Organic Chemistry, Oxidation-Reduction Reactions, and Chemical Kinetics. Christina brings a fresh approach to Maker Girls and, as one of the only females in her college science classes, a personal passion for seeing girls interested in STEM fields. Christina was the Rochester News 8 Golden Apple Award winner in 2010 for excellence as a 7th grade science teacher.

Christina lives in Rochester, New York, and is pursuing a doctorate from Rochester University.

Cherie Rodriguez, Miami Instructor – Winter 2015

Cherie is a senior at Florida International University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. She has worked as a high school math tutor and as an executive intern at the Miami Dade Mayor's Office. Cherie is an active participant in environmental competitions, engineering expos, and Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society.

Cherie lives in Miami, Florida.

Sharon Walker, Advisor

Associate Dean, Graduate Division - University of California Riverside

John Babbage Chair in Environmental Engineering

Professor of Chemical and Environmental Engineering

Sharon Walker is a professor of chemical and environmental engineering at UC Riverside's Bourns College of Engineering. Her research focuses on water quality, particularly the fate and transport of bacteria and nanoparticles in water. Walker, who received her Ph.D. in environmental engineering from Yale University, is a faculty advisor to the UC Riverside Society of Women Engineers. The group leads a variety of outreach events to children (primarily girls) including tours of UCR and laboratories, tutoring, and volunteering in local schools

She has been actively involved with the San Geronio Girl Scouts over the past ten years on a variety of programs, notably the annual Bourns Engineering Day and the Minds for Design Program (summer camp for girls to learn about engineering). In 2008, Sharon was honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Scouts in recognition of her ongoing efforts teaching girls about STEM.

Sharon lives in Riverside, California, with her husband and her four-year-old daughter and two-year-old son.

Debbie Reber, Advisor

Author of Doable: The Girl's Guide to Accomplishing Just About Anything, Chill: Stress Reducing Technique for a More Balanced, Peaceful You, and In Their Shoes: Extraordinary Women Describe Their Amazing Careers

A bestselling author, sought-after speaker, and life coach, Debbie Reber is passionate about giving girls practical tools to help them rock their lives. Debbie spent the first years of her career as a TV and video producer with CARE, UNICEF, and Nickelodeon, where she created PSAs, documentaries, and programming that educated children and young people around the world. As a young adult authority, Debbie is frequently interviewed about teen issues and speaks about things like career planning, goal setting, media literacy, self-esteem, and empowerment. She is the founding editor-in-chief for Heart of Gold, an online destination for teen girls passionate about entrepreneurship, social activism, and volunteerism, and consults for clients such as the Girl Scouts of America, the Disney Channel, McGraw Hill, Brain Quest, Razorfish, Kaplan, and Speakaboos.

Debbie lives in Amsterdam with her husband Derin, homeschools her nine-year-old son Asher, and serves as lap-of-choice for her mischievous cat Alex.

CONTACT

Contact Michelle Loretta to request Maker Girls at your school or recreation center.

Michelle Loretta

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