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Non-profit AstraFemina Formed for STEM Outreach to Girls

“Inspiring Today’s Girls to be Tomorrow’s STEM Stars”

[HOUSTON, TEXAS September 14, 2020] A group of women astronauts founded the non-profit AstraFemina organization to provide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) outreach for girls and young women, encouraging them to pursue education and careers in STEM-related fields. Less than 25% of today’s STEM workforce in the United States is made up of women.

Board President and U.S. astronaut Sandy Magnus states, “At AstraFemina, we know how powerful women can be in STEM because we ARE those women. We are a collective of prominent leaders who have made a significant difference in the world because we chose the excitement, challenge, and opportunities available in the many fields of STEM. We are hoping to inspire today’s girls to be tomorrow’s STEM stars through our programs and outreach.”

Created in 2019, the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization now includes astronauts, academic professionals, industry innovators, and visionaries. Their initial goal is to reach 10,000 girls and young women by the end of 2020, sharing their enthusiasm and experiences with the next generation. While in-person events have been canceled for most of 2020 due to COVID-19, AstraFemina is currently focusing on virtual events to continue their critical mission.

To maximize effectiveness, the group teams with existing organizations that have strong existing STEM outreach programs. In 2019, they began working with Girl Scouts of the USA to provide speakers in STEM events across the United States, then established a formal partnership in 2020. AstraFemina also started a partnership with the GirlStart organization, a group that designs and implements innovative, high quality informal STEM education programs. To date, AstraFemina has reached a total of over 8,000 girls through these virtual and in-person events.

For more information and partnership applications for organizations, visit their website www.AstraFemina.org or e-mail queries@astrafemina.org. The website includes links to recordings of interactive virtual events organized by Girl Scouts of the USA in May that engaged students in age groups K-5 and 6-12.

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AstraFemina is a 501(c)(3) organization