



Museum Affiliates Program: Call for Applications

Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*) has received funding from the National Science Foundation to build on our commitment to encouraging girls in science through the development of a new TV show, *SciGirls*, and supplementary gender equity outreach initiatives. As part of this effort, we are collaborating with The Franklin Institute in launching a two-year Museum Affiliates Program that will offer 10 organizations research-based materials, strategies, and support to foster strong science program for girls. Applications are due **January 15, 2010**.

What is the *SciGirls* Museum Affiliates Program?

The *SciGirls* Museum Affiliates Program is designed to last two years. In Year One, *SciGirls* will help museum affiliates implement girl-focused STEM programs in their communities leveraging *SciGirls* gender-sensitive strategies and educational materials. In Year Two (pending renewed funding from the National Science Foundation), affiliates will be trained to offer *SciGirls* professional development programs, teaching others how to enhance STEM educational experiences by using *SciGirls* resources.

What are the benefits for Affiliates?

Affiliates will have the opportunity to help *tpt* test and hone *SciGirls* materials, with the goal of building capacity – both internally and in other organizations – to cultivate gender sensitive, girl-focused STEM programming based on *SciGirls* resources.

Affiliates will be given professional development training, multimedia educational resources, strategies and ongoing support to help them enhance their girl-focused programming. Each affiliate will receive:

- A *SciGirls* Gender Equity booklet outlining research-based best practices strategies for engaging girls in STEM
- *SciGirls* Activity Guides illustrating hands-on, inquiry-based investigations that incorporate the *SciGirls* strategies for a gender sensitive approach to STEM (the Guides include short activities that take less than 30 minutes as well as longer, more in-depth investigations that take one hour or more to complete)
- A DVD with all 12 *SciGirls* Season One episodes
- Assistance developing *SciGirls* experiences for girls and a \$200 materials stipend
- *SciGirls* promotional items
- Monthly support via conference calls with *SciGirls* staff and other affiliates
- \$1400 travel stipend to attend a day-long, kick-off workshop at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on March 17, 2010.

Pending renewed funding, in Year Two of the program *SciGirls* will train affiliates to provide STEM-focused gender equity training to colleagues, teachers, and community members.



What is expected of Affiliates?

The ultimate goal is for affiliates to serve as *SciGirls* champions, advisors, and nodes of dissemination, contributing to the development and expansion of *SciGirls* educational materials and outreach.

In the first year, affiliates will be expected to:

- Sign an agreement affirming commitment to the program by February 19, 2010.
- Send a minimum of two representatives to the day-long *SciGirls* kick-off workshop at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, PA on March 17, 2010. (A \$1400 travel stipend will be provided to each institution to cover airfare, hotel, *per diems*, and other expenses.)
- Incorporate *SciGirls* resources and best practices strategies into girl-focused programs.
- Send monthly progress reports to *tpt* OR update *SciGirls* staff during monthly conference calls.
- Submit a final report on the *SciGirls* experiences implemented, underscoring lessons learned and recommendations for future *SciGirls* programs.

Pending renewed funding of *SciGirls*, each affiliate would be expected to participate in Year Two of the program. Year Two would build on the lessons learned from Year One, advancing affiliates' capacity to offer gender equity training leveraging *SciGirls* resources. Affiliates would be expected to:

- Send a minimum of two representatives to a *SciGirls* "Train-the-Trainer" workshop, which would provide new resources and templates for implementing *SciGirls* gender equity workshops. A travel stipend will be provided. (Ideally we would like the same people to attend this 2011 workshop who attended the workshop in 2010.)
- Train organizations and/or educators in their community to cultivate gender-sensitive STEM learning experiences using *SciGirls* resources.
- Send monthly progress reports to *tpt* OR update *SciGirls* staff during monthly conference calls
- Submit a final report on the *SciGirls* experiences implemented, underscoring lessons learned and recommendations for future *SciGirls* programs.

Our goal is for the affiliates to use and thoroughly "test" the *SciGirls* resources and strategies in Year One, so that in Year Two the affiliates can train others on how to use them to cultivate gender sensitive STEM learning experiences in a variety of settings.

What is the application process?

Organizations interested in the Museum Affiliate Program must submit by **January 15, 2010**:

- 1) a completed application form; and
- 2) a letter of support from the Executive Director (or equivalent) of your institution.

The application and letter should be sent to: Margaret Duden, *SciGirls*, Twin Cities Public Television, 172 East 4th Street, St. Paul MN 55101; fax: 651-229-1282; email: mduden@tpt.org.



What are the criteria for selection?

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria by a panel consisting of *SciGirls* staff members, representatives from the Franklin Institute, and other gender equity experts:

COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUITY: We want to select affiliates who have abundant opportunities to “test” *SciGirls* resources with girls. Therefore, our panel will be looking for organizations who already provide high-quality, girl-focused programming. The panel will prioritize organizations that have a history and reputation for advancing gender equity. Panelists will ask: How robust is their current girl-focused or gender equity programming? Would the organization be an effective, reputable, committed champion of *SciGirls*?

PLANS FOR USING SCIGIRLS MATERIALS AND STRATEGIES:

We want to select affiliates who will thoroughly test the *SciGirls* resources and contribute valuable, constructive feedback regarding their use. Our panel will prioritize organizations that would use the resources repeatedly, either in the same context (i.e. once a week in an afterschool program) or in a variety of settings (i.e. one camp-in, two family programs, and a summer camp). Panelists will ask: How robust are the organization’s plans for integrating *SciGirls* resources and strategies into their programming? Would the resources and strategies be thoroughly tested, either in a variety of contexts or repeatedly in a single context? Are the applicant’s plans for using the *SciGirls* materials detailed, realistic, and well thought-out?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISSEMINATION:

We want to select affiliates that are well situated to disseminate *SciGirls* resources and train educators, afterschool groups, or partner organizations in their community how to use them. Panelists will prioritize organizations that would be effective nodes of dissemination for *SciGirls*, either by reaching large audiences or by targeting a specific, unique audience. Panelists will ask: How useful would the organization be as a node of dissemination for *SciGirls* resources? Would the organization offer *SciGirls* training programs either: a) to large audiences, or b) to niche audiences that our other affiliates cannot serve?

UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS:

We want the final 10 organizations to form a well-rounded group, comprised of both small and large museums dispersed across the country. Our panelists will be evaluating each applicant based on the unique expertise, experience, or connections they could bring to the *SciGirls* Museum Affiliates Program. Panelists will ask: Does the organization have different characteristics than the other selected affiliates? Does it serve a unique audience or geographic area?



TIMELINE

January 15, 2010:	Deadline for submitting <i>SciGirls</i> Affiliate Program applications
February 1, 2010:	Decisions announced; agreements sent to selected affiliates
February 19, 2010:	Deadline for submitting signed agreement
March 17, 2010:	<i>SciGirls</i> Affiliate Program workshop in Philadelphia, PA
May 2010:	<i>SciGirls</i> resources sent to Affiliates
May 2011:	Affiliates submit final report to <i>tpt</i> .
<i>Pending funding</i>	
March 2012:	Affiliates participate in a train-the-trainer workshop
May 2012:	Affiliates receive new <i>SciGirls</i> educational materials
May 2013:	Affiliates submit final report to <i>tpt</i> .

How can I learn more?

Contact Margaret Duden at 651-229-1303 or mduden@tpt.org. Or, attend our informational webinar, hosted by the National Girls Collaborative Project on Thursday, December 17:

***“Spice up STEM with SciGirls:
Become a SciGirls Museum Affiliate!”***

Thursday, December 17, 2009
1 pm Central Standard Time (11 am Pacific)

Register at: <http://ngcproject.org/events/events.cfm?eventid=159>.

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