



Debunking the “but Girls!” Myths and Misconceptions in STEM (science, technology engineering and math) A Fact Sheet For Sharing

...but Girls are less interested in science and math than Boys, right?

Wrong! In 2008, a survey of roughly 2000 Girls showed that math and science were the highest rated – or favorite – classes for Girls in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade!

...but Girls are late bloomers in math and score more poorly in math and science, right?

Wrong! According to the American Association of University Women, high school Girls and Boys perform equally well in math and science. In fact, the trend starts early: 7th and 8th grade Girls enroll in Algebra I (considered “early”) at higher rates than Boys, and pass at higher rates as well.



...but Girls don’t take enough advanced math and science classes to prepare for college, right?

Wrong! Girls tend to outpace enrollment and scores in early math and science classes, and continue to keep pace with Boys in rigorous math and science classes (calculus, chemistry, biology) through high school.ⁱ



...but African American and Hispanic Girls are generally less interested in STEM, right?

Wrong! According to a recent survey of more than 800 Girls, African American and Hispanic Girls say they have just as much interest in STEM as Caucasian Girls. In fact, African American and Hispanic Girls tend to be more motivated by issues of economic empowerment in career choices, which match well with the economic benefits of STEM careers.ⁱⁱ

...but, Girls are just not interested in the things that STEM is about, right?

Wrong, again! According to a recent study of over 800 Girls, aged 14-17, by Girl Scouts of America, a majority of Girls rating themselves as *not interested in STEM* still self-reported interest in understanding how things work, liking puzzles and problem-solving, understanding how the natural world works, and interest in creating an iPhone app or designing computer games. (Each option rated 56% or higher for this group.)ⁱⁱⁱ Each of those ‘likes’ is a key characteristic of STEM learning and STEM career fields!

No more myths? Then it’s official: STEM is for G.I.R.L.S.!

Come to Cincinnati Museum Center and join the challenge:

Get more science, engineering, technology and math into the lives of girls... and your life, too!

<http://www.cincymuseum.org/programs/girls>

ⁱ Civil Rights Data Collection and Census Bureau, Gender Equity in Education Snapshot, June 2012

ⁱⁱ Generation STEM: What Girls Say about STEM. Modi; Schoenberg; Salmond. New York, N.Y.: Girl Scouts of the USA, 2012

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