



GEMS 2010

Girls Exploring Math and Science
Saturday, February 20, 2010

Hosting a booth at GEMS 2010

General information and guidelines for Girl Scout groups

The Girls Exploring Math and Science event is organized by the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. Girls of all ages are invited to attend the event and learn more about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) by visiting booths hosted by Girl Scouts, Community sponsors, and other non-profit and professional organizations.

Booth hosts should be enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge with the Museum visitors during GEMS. Booths can involve something interactive, a demonstration or even a presentation of information explaining a concept. Hosting a booth at GEMS allows girls to share their interest in math and science with their peers and introduce them to the many opportunities in STEM related fields for young women today.

GEMS 2010 TIMELINE FOR BOOTH HOSTS

September 2009	Applications available online at www.hmns.org
November 20, 2009 <u>NOW: JANUARY 8TH</u>	Applications and deposits (\$25) due by 5pm DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 8, 2010
January 11, 2010	Applicants notified by email of booth committee decisions
January 13, 2010	GEMS booth host participant rosters due with remaining balance (\$100) of booth hosting fee by 5pm.
February 13, 2010 10am–11am	Booth hosts send a representative to the booth information session and packet pickup at the Museum**
February 19, 2010	GEMS booth hosts attend the set up event and Overnight**
February 20, 2010	GEMS event 9am-12pm, then booth host lunch 12:30-1:30pm**

*** Denotes a mandatory event for all selected booth hosts. Please be sure that your group will be able to fulfill these requirements before sending in your booth host application.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's included in the booth registration fee (\$125)?

- ◆ Registration for up to four (4) girls and one (1) adult chaperone as booth hosts
- ◆ Dinner provided by the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council prior to Set Up Overnight
- ◆ Registration for special GEMS 2009 Presenter Set Up Overnight at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (including a late night snack, and continental breakfast, sleeping among Museum exhibits, and a planetarium show) (apx value \$150 per booth)
- ◆ GEMS Presenter t-shirts and patches for each booth host who attends (apx value \$40 per booth)
- ◆ Lunch for participating booth hosts after the GEMS event on Saturday afternoon.
- ◆ A chance to meet other young women interested in STEM related topics and have a lot of fun!

How are booths chosen?

Booth applications are reviewed by representatives from both the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council for completion, adherence to guidelines, topic variety and originality.

I have more than 4 girls who want to participate as booth hosts, can they all help host one booth?

No. The maximum number of girls per booth is 4. We have determined that a group of up to four allows each girl responsibility in planning and creating the booth presentation but also provides enough girls to staff the booth and allows for breaks during the busy day of GEMS. If you have a larger troop we recommend that the troop split into groups to create several booths to present at GEMS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH BOOTH REQUIRES A SEPARATE APPLICATION.

How much information should be presented at each booth?

There are a lot of booths for GEMS participants to see in 3 hours so a good guideline is to be able to present your booth to a visitor in 5 minutes or less. This way everyone has an opportunity to visit every booth and you will share your information with as many people as possible!

Can anyone sign up to attend the GEMS Set Up Overnight?

No. The GEMS Overnight is a special event exclusively for registered girl scout booth hosts.

Are there guidelines for activities and materials that can be used at the booth?

Yes, materials guidelines are included in this information packet. Your application must include a complete list of materials you will need for your booth activities or demonstration. Last minute changes will not be allowed.

If my group is chosen to host a booth at GEMS how will I be notified?

Communication with groups participating in GEMS is done exclusively via email, please be sure that the email address you have provided on your application is valid and checked often. We will notify all applicants in early December.

BOOTH GUIDELINES

- ◆ Booths must be staffed by a minimum of one (1) girl and one (1) adult and a maximum of four (4) girls and one (1) adult. Someone must be at the booth at all times during the event.
- ◆ Booth hosting is open to Girl Scouts in 4th–12th grades.
- ◆ The museum provides each group with one 6-foot table and two chairs. Keep in mind when designing the look of your booth that, due to limited space and safety concerns for the large crowd during the GEMS event, all materials must be confined to the top and sides of your table. Table top easels will be allowed.
- ◆ Booths with interactive activities for visitors have been very positively received in the past. It is not required that visitors leave your booth with anything, so think about creating a game or activity with reusable materials. *You do not need to spend a lot of money to have a great booth!* If you do plan on bringing something to hand out be sure you have enough for the entire day (booths have seen 500+ visitors at past GEMS events.)
- ◆ Explore the various topics that fall under Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and find something that you will really enjoy learning about and will feel confident explaining to a wide range of age groups.
- ◆ Don't bring anything that could be considered food or liquid into the museum. These items are not allowed in the museum exhibit halls.
- ◆ Electrical outlets will not be available for booth use. If your booth requires the use of electronic equipment please be sure that all items are battery operated.
- ◆ Consider your table's appearance your advertising! Colorful table cloths and interesting signs can spark visitors' interest in your topic.
- ◆ Booth hosts are required to wear GEMS t-shirts and presenter badges for easy identification. Feel free to wear hats or use other props to make your group stand out.
- ◆ Girl Scout booth hosts are not allowed to wear nametags for their own safety.
- ◆ ***Be creative!*** Find something you are interested in knowing more about and find a fun way to share your knowledge—booths with enthusiastic hosts are always the most popular! If you can work a GSUSA or GSSJC award in to your booth activity that's great—but it is not required. The review committee will be looking for diverse and creative activities and topics.

Have fun!

Questions? Contact Allison Kellogg, Houston Museum of Natural Science GEMS Coordinator at akellogg@hmns.org