

REIMAGINING  
WHO CAN BE AN

# Engineer Builder Inventor Leader

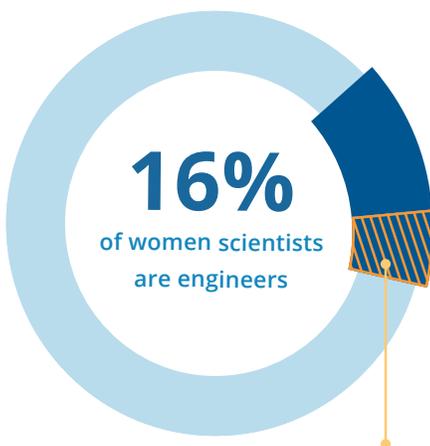


MILLION GIRLS MOONSHOT

*Gaining skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) can unlock pathways to socio-economic mobility and gender equity.*

These skills are critical for helping young people understand the world we live in and prepare for jobs in health care, information technology, renewable energy, and other fields vital for our economy.

Over the next decade, the U.S. will need one million more STEM professionals to meet the market demand. At the same time, deep disparities exist, leaving women, especially Black and Latina women, underrepresented in STEM education and careers.



*Even fewer for women of color — only 2% of women engineers are Latina and 2% are Black.*

**Afterschool is changing that.**

Afterschool programs nationwide are thrilled to join the Million Girls Moonshot, a movement that brings together resources and expertise from the afterschool and STEM fields. It is designed to close the science and engineering gender gap in the U.S. by engaging one million more school-age girls in STEM learning opportunities by 2025.

## About the Million Girls Moonshot

The Moonshot is designed to spur girls' interest, understanding, and confidence in STEM and equip them to become problem solvers with an **engineering mindset**. Led nationally by the STEM Next Opportunity Fund and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation in partnership with the Intel Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Million Girls Moonshot:

- leverages afterschool networks in all 50 states to help school-age girls access high-quality STEM education, support, and mentors.
- uses an equity and inclusion framework that is youth-centric and culturally responsive to increase gender, and racial and socio-economic diversity in STEM.
- provides resources, support, mentorship, and expert guidance to help educators deliver hands-on STEM experiences in afterschool, out-of-school time, and summer learning programs.

## What is an engineering mindset?

- 1 *applying math and science to problem solving*
- 2 *envisioning multiple solutions*
- 3 *evaluating and improving designs*
- 4 *collaborating and persisting through failure*



# Afterschool is Rising to the Moment

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened inequities in education. Where possible, afterschool programs have innovated to engage students in-person or virtually, distribute meals, connect families in need to resources, and expand services to support students during remote learning. Now, in the 2020 - 2021 school year, afterschool programs are expanding our STEM offerings through the Million Girls Moonshot.



## Unique Benefits of Afterschool STEM

Afterschool programs are skilled at providing the kind of immersive, hands-on learning experiences that are critical to help students gain fluency in STEM subjects. A study of afterschool STEM programs found that among participating students:

- 80% gained a deeper understanding of science careers
- 78% increased their interest in STEM
- 73% developed a “STEM identity,” a personal belief that she/he can do well and succeed at science
- 72% developed perseverance and critical thinking skills



## Did you know?

*Afterschool programs reach youth in under-resourced and under-represented communities.*

The wealthiest 20% of families spend almost seven times more on enrichment activities outside school for their children than do the families with the lowest income. Afterschool STEM helps to close this gap by offering engaging learning programs to a diverse range of students.

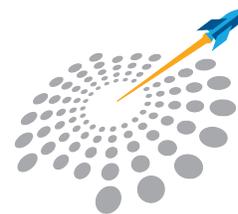
## The Power of Afterschool Partners

Before the pandemic, afterschool and out-of-school-time programs had the potential to [almost double](#) the time that some students have to question, tinker, learn, and explore STEM topics. This school year, the opportunity is even greater as students face many more hours outside of the traditional classroom.

The Million Girls Moonshot will support out-of-school-time programs as they pivot to meet students’ needs, helping at-promise youth across the U.S. access new STEM learning opportunities and supports that will help them realize their full potential.

## Join the Moonshot!

- **Enroll your out-of-school-time program.** Sign up with your state afterschool network for news and updates about STEM training and resources available through the Million Girls Moonshot.
- **Become a partner.** Help us reach more youth by providing financial or in-kind support. To truly thrive we will need partners across sectors and sizes.
- **Engage government programs and STEM councils** with the Million Girls Moonshot to build awareness for STEM learning.
- **Offer your expertise.** Serve as a mentor or sponsor internships to help girls gain hands-on skills and explore STEM careers.



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For more information visit

[milliongirlsmoonshot.org](http://milliongirlsmoonshot.org)