



## GRILL<sup>®</sup> Scout Introductory Patch

In 2016 the Air Force Research Lab's Gaming Research Integration for Learning Laboratory<sup>®</sup> (GRILL<sup>®</sup>) partnered with the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio to create a patch that would encourage girls to pursue a field of study in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). The goal of the patch is to get girls excited about what they can do with computers and give them the confidence and resources to continue their learning.

From 2008-2018 STEM jobs are projected to grow by 17% compared to 9.8% for non-STEM related fields<sup>1</sup>. Within this growing career field, about 80% of those jobs fall into engineering and computer occupations<sup>2</sup>. Women are the least represented in these occupations, making up 25.6% of those working at Computer and Math jobs and 13.7% of those in Architecture and Engineering jobs in 2012<sup>3</sup>. Overall, women made up 26% of STEM workers in 2011 even though they make up almost half of the workforce<sup>2</sup> and are just as capable of doing these jobs. So why are women so underrepresented in the largest growing career fields? According to the Department of Commerce<sup>1</sup>, "There are many possible factors contributing to the discrepancy of women and men in STEM jobs, including: a lack of female role models, gender stereotyping, and less family-friendly flexibility in the STEM fields. Regardless of the causes, the solution is clear: to encourage and support women in STEM."

Through this patch, girls will see that they can be the female role models for the next generation. The activities will vary by troop level, with older troops doing more complicated tasks. The program starts with Brownies and continues through Ambassadors with each level having their own set of instructions to complete. Some of the levels include an "unplugged" option for participants with little to no access to technology and utilize apps for those who rely on tablets and smartphones.

For more information on the GRILL<sup>®</sup> please visit:  
<http://gamingresearchintegrationforlearninglab.com/>

<sup>1</sup> <http://2010-2014.commerce.gov/blog/2012/02/06/state-our-union%E2%80%99s-21st-century-workforce>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/acs-24.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bls.gov/cps/wlf-databook-2013.pdf>