

WORKING WITH INFORMAL EDUCATION: A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA (GSUSA) ON A NATIONAL LEVEL. Rosalie Betrue, Solar System Exploration Education and Public Outreach Forum, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA 91109

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Working with informal education organizations presents us with unique high-leverage opportunities to share our scientific knowledge with them. One of these opportunities involves partnering with the Girl Scouts of the USA at the national level. We have the opportunity of reaching more than three million girls as well as their parents, leaders, and councils.

The SSE E/PO forum is acting as the OSS lead for the partnership with the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA).

Approach

Our approach for working with the GSUSA is to support them with a team structure that will effectively and efficiently work for NASA-OSS and the GSUSA, thus developing a prototype for working with other Youth Organizations.

GSUSA Criteria

The GSUSA has asked us to:

1. Provide information on careers in space science, and provide resources for girls to earn badges and special interest patches. To this end, we are:
 - Providing articles for the GSUSA "Leader Magazine (880,000 circulation)." These articles feature women working for NASA, they provide resources to meet the requirements for earning badges and special interest patches, and we provide articles & activities that make learning science a friendly experience.
2. Help develop a Space Science Kit for parent/child activities.
 - This kit was completed in early 2001. Its use was also expanded to events such as camp outs.
3. The GSUSA tells us that most leaders have a natural fear of science and technology; therefore, the science and

technology badges are the last badges the girls earn, if they earn them at all. GSUSA asked us to develop a training program, on a national level, that would lessen the fear of leaders, and make science fun.

- This training is scheduled for April, 2002. It will be given to 35 national Girl Scouts trainers at the GSUSA Macy Training Center. They will take it back to their councils; and those councils will share with neighboring councils.

Partners to Date

Deep Impact, JSC Outreach, Cassini, Galileo, JPL Advisory Council for Women, Association of Women Geoscientists, VLBI, SSA Ambassadors, JPL Technology Program, DSN

BIOGRAPHY

Rosalie Betrue was the Director of Operations for the environmental firm, Diagnostics Engineering Inc. She was also an asbestos consultant for the state of California. In this capacity, she managed the \$5,000,000 task of surveying for all asbestos at Fort Ord and the Presidio of Monterey. This survey was necessary for the closure of both facilities.

She is now an administrator for the Solar System Exploration Education and Public Outreach Forum. She is the lead for the OSS/GSUSA partnership.