



## **GIRLS BUILD GREEN DOLLHOUSES IN TECHBRIDGE SUMMER ACADEMY**

15 June 2006 -- (Oakland, CA) Designed to show girls how to make the world a better place using science and engineering as tools, Techbridge's Green Dollhouse Project at Chabot Space & Science Center, scheduled from **June 19-June 30**, will culminate in a presentation of green dollhouses created and designed by 16 Bay Area girls. Girls will learn about green construction as they design, build, and wire dollhouses that use solar panels and recycled materials. Along the way, they will meet role models and take field trips to see green construction at the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation and the SF Federal Building. They will also take a roof-top tour of Chabot to view solar panels and learn about landscaping with native plants, worm composting, and see presentations of recycled and green materials.

"In a survey, girls let us know that they are concerned about the environment and are very interested in learning about how to work with materials that do no harm to the planet," shares Techbridge Project Director, Linda Kekelis. "So we came up with this academy that addresses just these needs. We have planned a series of activities that we hope will impact them for the rest of their lives."

Girls will meet role models in green construction, structural engineering and water treatment and learn about recycling, the use of recycled materials and energy conservation. The academy will conclude with presentations made to their families, on the morning of Saturday, July 1st.

The goal of Techbridge is to encourage girls in engineering—a field where women are underrepresented. Afterschool workshops, summer academies, role models and career information can increase girls' interest in engineering, reinforce the relevance of schoolwork, and provide guidance to begin planning next steps for their career goals.

**Techbridge** is an after-school and summer program that engages teachers, families, role models, and corporate partners in encouraging girls in technology, science and engineering. Launched in 2000, Techbridge has reached over 1,250 students in grades 5-12 through a combination of hands-on technology projects, career exploration activities, academic counseling, and leadership development. Techbridge is made possible by the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation, S.D. Bechtel, Jr., S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, The Fitzpatrick Foundation, Juniper Networks, Adobe Foundation Fund and Google. Visit [www.techbridgegirls.org](http://www.techbridgegirls.org) for more information.

**Chabot Space and Science Center**, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a 501c3 nonprofit interactive science center focusing on astronomy and the inter-relationships of all the sciences. Its observatory, planetarium, exhibits, and natural park setting are a place where a diverse population of students, teachers, and the public can imagine, understand, and learn to shape their future through science. The Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. Visit [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org) for more information.