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Chabot Space & Science Center Awarded Grant from Noyce Foundation

Oakland, CA (April 3, 2008,) – Chabot Space & Science Center announces it has been awarded a two-year \$449,925 grant from the Noyce Foundation. The grant will support a partnership between Chabot’s successful program Techbridge, which encourages girls in science, technology and engineering careers, and the Girl Scouts. The funds will be used to develop a curriculum for select Girl Scout councils, called “Girls Go Techbridge,” based on the flourishing Techbridge model.

Over 2,000 girls have participated in Techbridge’s after-school and summer programs since the program’s launch in 2000. The program offers hands-on technology and science projects as well as career exploration activities that include field trips to companies and classroom visits by role models. Techbridge also provides trainings to teachers, role models and partners.

“The funding from the Noyce Foundation will allow Techbridge to expand its outreach and bring Techbridge’s research-based resources in science, technology, and engineering to Girl Scouts,” said Linda Kekelis, Director of Techbridge. “We are looking forward to working with Girl Scouts on this project which holds promise for expanding the career options of middle school girls.”

The curriculum to be developed through the partnership will enable Girl Scout councils to adopt Techbridge’s hands-on projects and career exploration activities that inspire girls in science, technology, and engineering. In addition, the funding will also support the development of parent resources with practical advice for supporting girls’ participation in these fields. In the first year, Techbridge will work with the Girl Scouts of Northern California and the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, with two more councils added to the partnership in the second year.

The Noyce Foundation is named after Dr. Robert Noyce, inventor of the integrated circuit, which fueled the personal computer and gave Silicon Valley its name. The Foundation’s work is focused on supporting robust professional development for teachers of math, science, and literacy, while supporting development of school leadership.

"Influencing youth to pursue professions in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics requires engagement in and outside of K-12 settings," said Noyce Foundation Executive Director, Ron Ottinger. "By increasing the science and technology knowledge of young people, we help them become more thoughtful participants in an increasingly complex democratic process and global economic system, and more responsible consumers and stewards of resources."

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Chabot Space & Science Center, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit interactive science center whose mission is to inspire and educate students of all ages about Planet Earth and the Universe. Founded in 1883 and currently celebrating its 125th anniversary, the Center is

located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. just off Highway 13 in the Oakland hills. For more information, visit www.chabotspace.org.

Girl Scouts Northern California...

Girl Scouts of Central Texas serves nearly 20,000 girls, ages 5-17 years, and more than 12,000 adult volunteers in 46 Central Texas counties. Headquartered in Austin, Girl Scouts of Central Texas also maintains program centers in Brownwood, Bryan, Killeen, San Angelo and Waco. As the largest organization with a commitment to girls, Girl Scouting offers an array of fun, educational programs focusing on art, science, technology, engineering, math, the environment and life skills. We build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. For more information about the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, visit www.gsctx.org.