

## Starting a Club

### Organizing

- What is your purpose? Know it and make it clear.
- Allow for some flexibility, but make sure the girls know what direction you are going. Not everyone will stick with a totally open-ended approach.
- Do pre-and post surveys to find out what the girls liked, and their attitudes about the issues your club is trying to address.
- Get names and addresses for follow-up.

### Recruiting

- Limit your numbers and stick to your limits. We are happy with no more than 15 but usually have many more.
- Get those quiet girls who sit in class and think but don't talk.
- Invite, invite, invite.
- Get pairs of girls to come.
- Think about how your groups are going to play out and make sure that girls know that friends may be separated for activities.
- Choose your publicity to avoid discrimination issues.

### Funding

- Do not be afraid to beg.
- Ask the PTA.
- Look for small grants.
- Consider charging dues.
- Ask local businesses for donations, or gifts-in-kind.

### Timing

- Consider an 8-10 week session.
- Keep them wanting more.
- Schedule around sports and access to computer labs.

### Maintaining Interest

- Let the girls take ownership quickly. Let them name the club, design a logo, etc.
- Get support from the school and parents. Keep them informed.
- Do a couple of high profile things each session--things that the girls say are cool.
- Use the newspapers shamelessly. Write up your own press releases and send them with pictures.

## Activities

Make things as non-school like as possible.  
Keep them moving. No one wants to come in after school and sit for another hour and a half.  
Add a little excitement-we explode things, we stink up the classroom, we grow gross things, we pretend we are violating safety rules.  
Add a little art or self-expression.  
Always have time to chat and eat.  
Develop a traditional activity, one that is talked about from year to year.  
(We make T-shirts.)

## Content

No one fails. We make that very clear in the beginning.  
Ignore SOLS!  
Raise the bar. I use things out of Mensa and Scientific American, and I tell the girls where I get them.  
Look ahead a couple of years. I use junior high and freshman year science activities.  
Activities are everywhere. You just have to start seeing them.

## Volunteers

People are eager to help. Just ask and be very clear about what is expected.  
**Every professional woman I have ever asked to speak has said yes.**

# HAVE FUN!

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