

Barbara Hacker, October 2011



Dr. Barbara Hacker's favorite memories from her 11 years as a Girl Scout in Dunedin, Florida, are the "Wider Opportunities" which exposed her to completely new environments. The first time she traveled on a plane without her family was to go to the Rochester Institute of Technology where she studied graphic arts, experienced dorm life on campus for the first time, and learned valuable life skills such as how to apply for and interview for a job. The following summer, she spent two weeks backpacking in the Big Horn Mountains, Wyoming, at the Girl Scout National Center West.

Barbara earned her B.S. at the University of Florida and her Ph.D. at Princeton University. She worked for DuPont for eight years and served as leader of an inner city Girl Scout troop in Wilmington, Delaware. For the past 19 years, she has been Professor of Chemical Engineering at Cal Poly, Pomona, where she has also held senior administrative roles including Associate Dean of Engineering and Science and Associate VP of Faculty Affairs.

We are honored that Barbara continues to give her talent and time to our Girl Scout STEM programs. Barbara will host NASA astronaut, Barbara Morgan, when she visits LA to speak at Girltopia in October and she is working with our program staff and the Society of Women Engineers to organize a science and engineering event for high school girls in underserved communities in early 2012.

Barbara's daughter became the third generation Girl Scout in the Hacker family and is now an Ambassador. For nine years, Barbara has led her daughter's troop in Claremont and enjoys watching the girls experience the friendships and adventures that Girl Scouting offers. She highly recommends that parents become troop leaders because it helps them connect to their local community, create positive experiences for girls, and get to know their daughters' friends. Her advice for troop leaders is to accept more girls, including international exchange students, because the more girls you have, the more parents are available to help create more experiences. Barbara encourages girls to continue to accept new challenges and have confidence in the fact that they can accomplish great things!