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MakerGirl Launches First-ever Nationwide STEM Education Mobile 3D printing Tour
#MakerGirlGoesMobile inspires young girls' lives and create the next generation of change

CHICAGO [MakerGirl](#), an organization dedicated to inspiring young girls to pursue STEM careers, launched the nationwide MakerGirl Mobile Tour on June 1, reaching hundreds of 7-10 year old girls in more than 50 cities. Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies have become increasingly important, particularly for minority and low income girls who fall behind in mathematics and science compared to their male peers (NSF).

MakerGirl was created in October of 2014 in a social entrepreneurship class at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign to combat the problem of gender inequality in STEM fields. Since inception, MakerGirl has held more than 70 sessions and has taught more than 500 girls in Chicago, Champaign, and Southern Illinois. Now, MakerGirl ChangeMakers are taking their interactive, educational sessions on the road from coast to coast.

"I am inspired by what our students have accomplished. They have collaborated across campus, leveraging the skills taught by business, media, engineering and other colleges to create an innovative idea that gives back to the community," said Dr. Jeffrey Brown, Dean, College of Business at the University of Illinois. "MakerGirl has already had an impact on the Champaign-Urbana community and now they will take their impact across the country."

Through a [Kickstarter](#) campaign, MakerGirl raised more than \$30K to self-fund its journey to encourage girls across the country by teaching them about 3D printing and project based STEM learning programs. The funding will go toward fully equipping the vehicle with Ultimaker 3D printers, laptops, and delivering these educational sessions. In addition, the MakerGirl 3D printing sessions teach girls about different STEM related topics, encourage girls to build anything they envision, and provide girls with strong, technical female role models and mentors.

The National Center for Educational Statistics states that the percentage of 18-24 year old enrolled in a four year college or university was 31.3% for rural locales. This number climbs to 46.4% for city locales. "By travelling across the country, MakerGirl will widen its continuously-growing influence among girls in areas that may not have as much access to unique, inspiring learning opportunities that take them to four year universities and beyond," said Julia Haried, Co-Founder of MakerGirl.

In just 90 minutes, MakerGirls are introduced to the exciting world of STEM and shown what they can accomplish in these fields. Each MakerGirl leaves the session with a sense of purpose and confidence as well as a 3D-printed object that she conceptualized and designed using CAD software.

"MakerGirl strives to reduce the gender gap in STEM fields and create a world in which girls live and dream as unstoppable forces that say 'yes' to the challenges of the future," said Lizzy Engele, Co-Founder.

To help drive change girls in STEM and increase diversity and innovation for the United States economy, contribute to MakerGirl's Public Good account at publicgood.com/org/makergirl.

For more information about the Tour and to find when we will be in your location, visit makergirl.us/trip.