



**INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY (GIRL DAY)**

The University of Texas at Austin  
 Women in Engineering Program (WEP)  
 Saturday, February 23, 2008, 2 - 5 p.m.  
 Cockrell School of Engineering Complex on Campus

**DESCRIPTION**

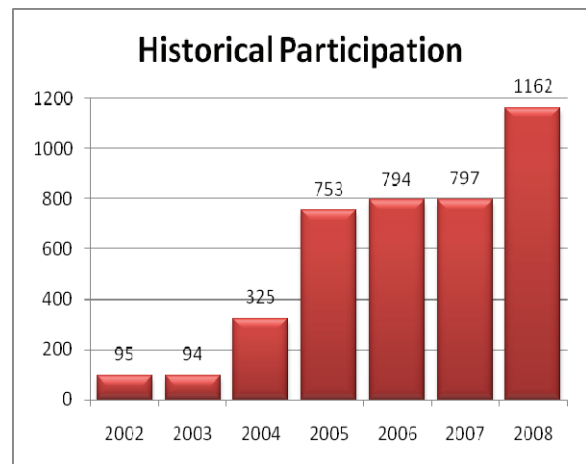
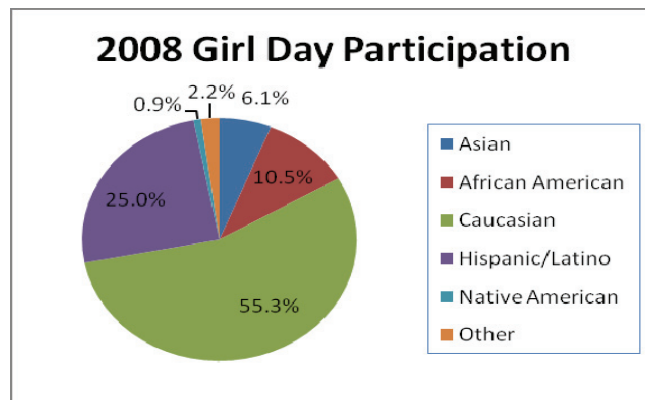
Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (Girl Day) is celebrated internationally during Engineers' Week each year. Families and educators were invited to join their students at UT for an afternoon of engineering fun. Girl Day gave 1,162 first through eighth grade students a chance to:

- have fun doing grade-specific, hands-on engineering activities
- interact with over nearly 400 students, professors and engineers from industry
- explore discovery booths hosted by student organizations, corporate partners and community organizations

Participating Girl Scouts received a Girl Day patch available through partnership with the Lone Star Girl Scout Council. Current engineering students were provided leadership and presentation skills development opportunities.

**SUMMARY of STATS**

Girl Day, WEP's premier outreach program, has grown from hosting 95 pre-college students in 2002 to 753 students in 2005 and 1,162 in 2008. In 2008, 96% of participants were female, 11% black, 25% Latina, 6% Asian, 1% Native American, and 55% white with 2% indicating "other" or "unknown" as their ethnicity. Participants came predominately from local areas with over 90% from central Texas with some coming as far as Dallas and Houston. Volunteers have grown from 51 in 2002 to 326 in 2008.



**PROGRAM SUPPORT**

Girl Day 2008 was made possible through generous grants or donations from 3M, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Design Squad Grant, Caterpillar, Chevron, Fluor Corporation, IBM, General Motors, Golden Corral, Jason's Deli, PB, the Texas Education Agency SENSR Fund and Western Industries Corporation. WEP event and initiative staff, materials and supplies, and administrative and overhead costs are supported through corporate, community and government grants and funds are not provided by the Cockrell School or University.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The Women in Engineering Program (WEP) partners with a variety of university, corporate and community organizations to ensure the success of Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.

**University:** WEP partnered in 2008 with UT engineering student organizations whose members volunteer as part of Engineers' Week. Fifteen organizations hosted activities along with three WEP First-year Interest Groups (FIGs). Texas State University's Society of Women Engineers hosted an Activity Room and both University of Texas at San Antonio and Austin Community College engineering students were invited to participate. In total, over 300 students volunteered for Girl Day along with a few faculty and staff.

**Corporate:** Through partnerships with companies sponsoring Girl Day and others interested in the mission, WEP has welcomed companies to host displays or Activity Rooms with hands-on activities, displays or demonstrations. Caterpillar provided its excavator simulator for participants to test their tractor driving skills. Roxor Games in coordination with SkillPoint Alliance provided a dance pad game to compliment an activity room where girls made their own dance pads complete with electrical circuits. IBM, Chevron and PB facilitated Activity Rooms with engineering students assisting. In 2008, 17 volunteers from Girl Day partner companies Caterpillar, Chevron, IBM and PB hosted activities. In total, 25 corporate volunteers assisted with Girl Day activities.

**Community:** Numerous community organizations have missions and/or goals in alignment with WEP and/or Girl Day. By partnering with the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, local-area Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in the program and are able to receive a specially designed Girl Day patch. In 2008, 518 (45% of participants) identified themselves as Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts hosted both a booth on the plaza as well as facilitated the Dance Pad Mania Activity Room. In total, 10 community organizations and over 20 community volunteers supported and volunteered for Girl Day efforts: Austin Children's Museum; Girl Scouts of Central Texas; Girlstart; IEEE – Women in Engineering; Science Expeditionary Force; Science Expeditionary Force; SkillPoint Alliance; Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME); Texas Board of Professional Engineers; and the Texas Girls Collaborative Project (TxGCP). WEP also partnered with both the local PBS station, KLRU, to promote Design Squad and PBS Channel Thirteen WNET New York to promote Cyberchase.

## **PUBLICITY & RECOGNITIONS**

Saturday, February 23, 2008 was proclaimed "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" by Mayor Will Wynn and the City of Austin. The University of Texas at Austin Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day was featured on the Fox 7 Morning Show on Wednesday, February 20, and on a number of blogs.

The University of Texas at Austin's Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, coordinated and hosted by the Women in Engineering Program, is the 2006 National Engineers Week Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Award recipient. The Women Engineering & Program Advocates Network (WEPAN) and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, a program of National Engineers Week, work together to recognize major contributions of WEPAN Institutional Members to the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day initiative. The award was presented at the WEPAN 2006 National Conference.

## **GIRL DAY 2008 & CONTACT INFORMATION**

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day 2008 is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009, 2 – 5 p.m. in the Cockrell School of Engineering Complex on The University of Texas at Austin campus.

Contact Didey Muniz (dideymuniz@mail.utexas.edu), WEP Pre-college Program Coordinator, for all participant information. Contact Tricia Berry (tsberry@mail.utexas.edu), WEP Director, for all partnership opportunities. Both may be reached at 512-471-5650.