

# Local Girl Scouts break ground on nation's first STEM camp

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Published: Mon, January 21, 2019 5:00 AM



Officials break ground on the new Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma STEM camp scheduled to open in 2020. [PHOTO BY SARAH PHIPPS, THE OKLAHOMAN]

Officials broke ground Saturday on the nation's first Girl Scout camp built specifically to teach science, technology engineering and math, marking a new direction for the century-old organization.

The new camp, to be called Camp Trivera, is set to open in 2020 just east of the Oklahoma City Zoo.

About 200 patrons including scouts, troop leaders and supporters, braved the 20-degree temperatures to attend the event.

The camp's name and logo were unveiled during the groundbreaking ceremony that included remarks from U.S. Rep. Kendra Horn, D-Oklahoma City, Ward 7 City Councilwoman Nikki Nice and Tony Doye, chief operating officer for Girl Scouts USA.

"The Girl Scouts have pledged to get 2.5 million girls into the STEM pipeline by 2025," Doye said. "We are building the STEM workforce through the lens of leadership for girls. The workforce is demanding it, but more importantly, it's what modern Girl Scouts want. We applaud Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma for leading the way in this initiative. The bar has been set high."

Horn unveiled the name of the camp, which was chosen by a vote from area Girl Scouts.

"GSUSA has given me and hundreds of thousands of girls like me, the opportunity to learn, to grow and to lead because of the experience that Girl Scouts provides," said Horn, who is a Gold Award Girl Scout. "This project is a gamechanger for our state and our girls. With access to life science programming at the zoo, to unique program elements littered throughout the site, this camp will inspire girls to learn about science, technology, engineering and math. They will forge new friendships and they will become leaders that change the world."

Locally, Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma has raised \$9.4 million of the \$12.2 million needed to complete the project.

The camp will be on 20 acres. In addition to traditional, primitive campsites, Camp Trivera's facilities will include meeting space, tree houses and bunk rooms that can be used for groups. When not in use by the Girl Scouts, Trivera will be available for public use. Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma is seeking partners for programming and funding. For more information, call 528-4475 or go online to [www.campthecity.org](http://www.campthecity.org).