



## News Release

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Contact: Chris Duffy  
612-599-7982  
[duffy@goffpublic.com](mailto:duffy@goffpublic.com)

### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Girls & Science Event Fosters Enthusiasm in STEM fields**

**Flint Hills Resources and the Science Museum of Minnesota partner  
to enhance girls' scientific exploration**

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – Thousands of girls from across Minnesota investigated real-life science phenomena, conducted hands-on experiments, and learned from professional women who work in science, technology and engineering fields during the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Girls & Science event at the Science Museum of Minnesota on Saturday, October 13.

Sponsored by Flint Hills Resources, the goal of the event is to simply foster girls' enthusiasm for science, technology and engineering fields. More than 10,000 people attended this year's event.

"It's very important for girls to have role models helping them at every stage of their scientific life, from conducting experiments with them at a young age to supporting them as they transition through school and into their careers. Girls & Science is an amazing way for us to inspire the next generation of female scientists," said Jennifer Chiang, outreach director for the Society of Women Engineers at the University of Minnesota. Jennifer was one of more than 20 University of Minnesota students who volunteered at Saturday's event.

Nationally, women represent about one-half of the workforce, but only 24% of the workers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields are women. There are also fewer women than men seeking undergraduate STEM degrees. Women make up just 21% of the students enrolled in the college of science and engineering at the University of Minnesota. Science, technology and engineering are some of the fastest growing segments of the job market.

“Flint Hills is always looking for skilled engineers and other technical experts who have a background in science. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to find qualified individuals and harder yet to find qualified female applicants for many areas,” said Annie Forsberg, reliability engineer at the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery. “Girls aren’t naturally uninterested in science; many just aren’t exposed to it enough. We need to spark their interest in science, technology and engineering and give them the confidence they need to succeed in these subjects.”

As part of its partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota, Flint Hills sponsors several educational outreach programs each year that enhance students’ scientific exploration. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year Flint Hills has sponsored the Girls & Science event, which has reached thousands of middle school-aged children from across the state.

### **About the Science Museum of Minnesota**

The Science Museum of Minnesota serves more than one million visitors each year with its hands-on exhibits, breathtaking giant screen films, special events, and unparalleled education programs. It is located at 120 West Kellogg Boulevard in downtown Saint Paul. For specific directions, parking information, hours, show times, and ticket information, call 651-221-9444 or visit [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org).

### **About Flint Hills Resources**

Flint Hills Resources, LLC, through its subsidiaries, is a leading refining and chemicals company. Its subsidiaries market products such as gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, ethanol, biodiesel, olefins, polymers and intermediate chemicals, as well as base oils and asphalt. The refining business operates refineries in Alaska (North Pole), Minnesota (Rosemount), and Texas (Corpus Christi), with a combined crude oil processing capacity of more than 800,000 barrels per day. The petrochemical business includes production facilities in Illinois, Michigan and Texas. The renewables business operates ethanol plants in Iowa, a biodiesel plant in Texas, and has made equity investments in bioenergy companies. The asphalt business produces and markets products in the Midwest and Alaska. A subsidiary owns an interest in a lubricants base oil facility in Louisiana.

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend in Rosemount, Minn., has a crude oil processing capacity of about 325,000 barrels per day. Pine Bend employs about 900 people full-time; an additional 400-2,000 union contractors work at the refinery daily on construction projects. More information about the company is available at [www.fhr.com](http://www.fhr.com).

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