

Generations of STEM: Sylvia Acevedo

Engineer, Girl Scout CEO

Sylvia was raised in New Mexico to a US-born father and mother of Mexican descent. As a Girl Scout Brownie, she gained confidence in math and science. She also began to foster an early interest in model rockets and enjoyed an early stargazing field trip. Sylvia earned a degree in Industrial Engineering and went on to become

one of the first Hispanic students at Stanford to earn a graduate engineering degree, specifically a Master of Science in Systems Engineering.

Sylvia's love of space led her to a career at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory working with Voyager 2, creating algorithms and analyzing data. She later worked as an engineer at other prominent companies including Apple, Dell, Autodesk, and IBM.

In 2016 was named interim, and later permanent CEO of the Girl Scouts. Under her leadership, the Girl Scouts introduced over 100 badges related to STEM and the outdoors. She has written a memoir for middle school students, titled *Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist*.



Image Source: [Wikipedia](#) Information Sources: [Sylvia Acevedo](#), [Independent Sector](#), [Colorado School of Mines](#)