

Poster Abstracts

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ONWiE, CWSE-ON, and Girl Guides of Canada Partnership

The Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for Ontario (CWSE-ON) works to increase the participation of women of all ages in science and engineering. Partnerships, such as the Ontario Network of Women in Engineering (ONWiE), play a key role in the program. ONWiE includes representatives from each of 15 engineering faculties in Ontario. The Chair acts as a focal point for sharing resources, etc.

One success of the ONWiE partnership is Go ENG Girl/ GÉNIales, les filles, an event offered to girls in Grades 7- 10. The 2010 event was held at 11 locations across Ontario and engaged more than 1000 participants. Although there are common program elements, each locale tailors components to highlight unique aspects of their engineering programs.

Recently ONWiE members decided to offer an “Engineering Badge Day” to Girl Guides. This expands the impact of ONWiE to a wider age range. As with Go ENG Girl, the Badge Day offers rich learning opportunities through hands-on activities, discussions with female engineering students and faculty and campus tours. CWSE-ON staff support the Badge Day by working with Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council to connect ONWiE members with local Guide units, distributing resources (largely through the ONWiE website) and coordinating with Engineering Month organizers.

The ONWiE–CWSE-ON partnership has been successful because of commitment to the common goal of increasing the participation of women in engineering, significant volunteer efforts and coordination provided by CWSE-ON.