

Hello Everyone,

A new school year is almost upon us after a busy and exciting summer! We have much to be proud of and even more to look forward to.

For the third year, we put on a **very successful two weeks of GoGirls STEAM Camp**. Thirty-nine girls, from 3rd to 5th grades, enjoyed our portable planetarium, robotics, Ooblek, owl pellet dissection, nature hikes, and more. The girls learned how to extract DNA from a strawberry and how to build a catapult. Thousand Oaks Police Chief Tom Hagel and several officers came out to help, along with approximately 75 volunteers from organizations including Bank of America, Conejo Valley Unified School District, DC Teens, and the National Charity League. **Special thanks and recognition also go out to Board Member Terri Parks** for her indefatigable work and dedication before, during, and after GoGirls! We also want to thank **Cydcor, Conejo Recreation & Park District, and Chief Hagel and the Safe Passage program** for their partnership and generous support.

We also were excited to partner with the **National Informal STEM Education Network and the Museum of Ventura County** to put on a Free Family Science Fun Day, on May 11, that drew 400 people to nine of our space-themed hands-on activities, including the extremely popular Stomp Rockets. The Museum donated both indoor and outdoor space to us and provided ten wonderful volunteers.

The Discovery Center was represented at Kids Day on July 12 at the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Clara Valley's Santa Paula clubhouse**. We had fun demonstrating to the kids – and several adults – how to make gas bubbles with dry ice and dishwashing soap. The newsletter photo gallery will give you a glimpse of our educational fun with GoGirls, Kids Day, and Free Family Science Day photos.

Looking ahead, we have booked several Family Science Nights for the Fall: **September 24 and 26; October 15 and 17; and November 12 and 21**. We do need volunteers for select dates. If you're interested, please drop me an email at athille@discoverycntr.org!

Of course, **NOTHING we do is possible without our AMAZING volunteers!** We can never say thank you enough and it's never enough to just say thank you. We look forward to recognizing and honoring our volunteers throughout the year. You are The Discovery Center's heart and backbone.

In closing, I am very excited to share with you **our new partnership with The Annenberg Foundation** to help bring fun, experiential, hands-on STEAM education to more Ventura County kids!

Elementally yours,

Anne Thille
Executive Director