



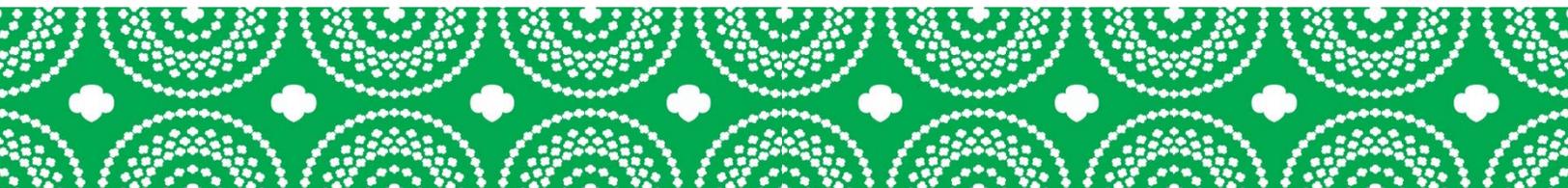
# Valero Energy Foundation



## Girl Scout Juniors

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas  
811 North Coker Loop  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
(210) 349- 2404 or 1-800-580-7247  
[www.girlscouts-swtx.org](http://www.girlscouts-swtx.org)

To learn more about Valero Energy  
Foundation and their mission, visit  
[www.valero.com](http://www.valero.com)





## About

[Valero Energy Foundation](#)'s story is unique in corporate America. Named for the mission San Antonio de Valero, the original name of the Alamo, Valero Energy Foundation was created on January 1, 1980, as the corporate successor to LoVaca Gathering Company, a subsidiary of the Coastal States Gas Corporation. Valero Energy Foundation is the direct result of a \$1.6 billion settlement approved unanimously in 1978 by the Texas Railroad Commission, the state's natural gas regulatory agency, which ended more than 6 years of litigation brought against Coastal by its municipal gas customers who claimed they had been overcharged for natural gas.

Valero Energy Foundation's natural-gas transportation business diversified in the mid 1980's when the company purchased a 50% interest in a Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery owned by Saber Energy. The operation began as nothing more than a vacuum unit and crude unit on a humble plot of land near the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, but in the years that followed Valero Energy Foundation assembled its "Refinery of the Future" and added 16 more refineries to the fold starting in 1997. Through these acquisitions, the company also branched into retail and wholesale markets and continues to operate under the Valero Energy Foundation, Diamond Shamrock, Shamrock, Ultramar, and Beacon brands.

Today, Valero Energy Foundation proudly has a work force of approximately 10,000 employees and maintains a refining output capacity of 3 million barrels per day. The company is a [Fortune 50](#) company, still based in its hometown of San Antonio, and is North America's largest independent refiner. Valero Energy Foundation is also a leading ethanol producer with 11 ethanol plants in the Midwest and a combined capacity of 1.3 billion gallons per year. Valero Energy Foundation also operates a 33 turbine wind farm near its McKee Refinery in Sunray, Texas.

Valero Energy Foundation maintains a strong commitment to safety and stands as one of the most recognized refiners within the federal OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The company demonstrates its commitment to excellence in occupational safety and process safety through an intensive, detailed Commitment to Excellence Management System. And it continues to be recognized among the world's top refining and marketing companies, and among the nation's best employers.

In the community, Valero Energy Foundation is proud of its legacy of support and positive outreach through an international network of Volunteer Councils. Valero Energy Foundation Volunteers proudly dedicate more than 136,000 volunteer hours to community outreach annually. Special missions on behalf of the United Way, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Wounded Warriors and countless children's charities are a source of pride and motivation for every Valero Energy Foundation employee. Valero Energy Foundation, its employees and its philanthropic organization – the Valero Energy Foundation Energy Foundation – annually generate more than \$38 million to support worthy charities or causes, through direct donations or fundraising, to improve the lives of those living in communities near Valero Energy Foundation operations.

Valero Energy Foundation proudly carries its legacy of strength and stability in the refining industry and into each community touched by its operations. Through the years, the company has amassed a family of employees from virtually every corner of the energy business. Their expertise and dedication continue to make Valero Energy Foundation a competitive partner in the global energy industry.

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas & Valero Energy  
Foundation are proud to bring to you the...  
Valero Energy Foundation  
STEM Patch Initiative



The need for skilled science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professionals is ever-growing. Though traditionally male-dominated, women are having a greater impact in these areas than ever before. In this initiative girls will push boundaries, test limits and look at the world through inquisitive eyes. Whether they're building a robot, learning the needs of a car's engine or creating a chemical reaction, girls are moving forward into the future.

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas and Valero Energy Foundation are proud to announce the Valero STEM Patch Partnership. In hopes to spur creative problem solving in our everyday lives, Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas and the Valero Energy Foundation are coming together in the Valero STEM Patch Partnership.

Girl Scouts who complete the Valero Energy Foundation Curriculum can work on a variety of projects, everything from engineering paper helicopters to learning about speed and friction.



## Steps to Earn the Valero Energy Foundation's STEM Patch

Girl Scouts is the premier girl leadership development program—girls have fun with a purpose! All activities are girl-led and girls should decide what activities to complete when earning a Business Patch Initiative (BPI) patch. In the spirit of Girl Scouting, girls may choose to participate in activities that are not listed in the booklets and/or supplements. If girls complete the minimum required number of activities based on the theme of the BPI, they have earned the BPI patch. For more information, contact Larissa Deremiah at [lderemiah@girlscouts-swtx.org](mailto:lderemiah@girlscouts-swtx.org).

### Step One:

1. Read through the Activities
2. Think about what you would like to do
3. Choose 3 out of the 4 Units
4. Complete 2 Activities from the 3 Units you chose (total 6 activities)

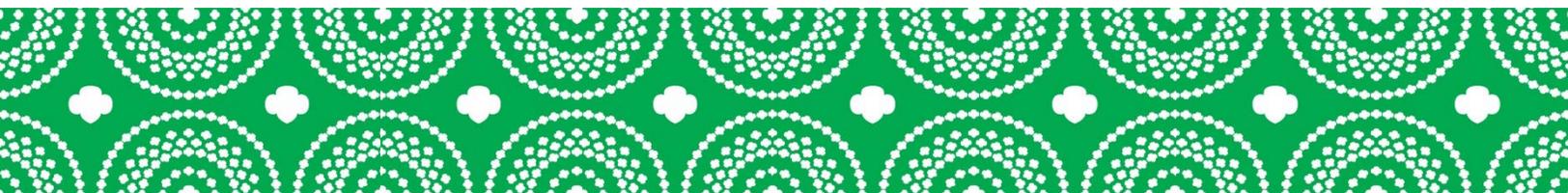
### Step Two:

1. Complete the [Business Patch Initiative \(BPI\) Evaluation](#)
2. For more information, contact:  
Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas  
ATTENTION: Program  
Phone: (210) 319- 5775  
Toll Free: 1-800-580-7247  
Fax: (210) 349- 2666  
[lderemiah@girlscouts-swtx.org](mailto:lderemiah@girlscouts-swtx.org)



### Step Three:

1. Receive your Valero Energy Foundation's STEM Patch!



## The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Girls at every level of Girl Scouting participate in the “*leadership experience*.” A *leadership experience* is an exciting way of working with girls in a series of themed activities focused on building leadership skills. By enlisting the three keys to leadership (*Discover, Connect, and Take Action*) girls learn that they can take the lead to make a difference in their community and the world. The three keys are at the heart of the Girl Scout philosophy of leadership:

### Discover

Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.

### Connect

Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.

### Take Action

Girls act to make the world a better place.

It’s not just “what” girls do, but “how.” When girls are engaged that creates a high-quality Girl Scout leadership experience. All Girl Scout experiences are built on three processes (*Girl-Led, Cooperative Learning, and Learning by Doing*) that make Girl Scouting different from school and other extra-curricular activities. When used together, these processes ensure the quality and promote the fun and friendship so integral to Girl Scouting.

### Girl-Led

Girls play an active role in the planning and implementation of activities while adults provide age-appropriate facilitation, ensuring that planning, organization, set-up, and evaluation of all activities are done jointly with the girls.

### Cooperative Learning

All members of a group work together towards a common goal that can only be accomplished with the help of others.

### Learn by Doing

A “hands-on” learning process that engages girls in cycles of action and reflection resulting in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.

When Discover, Connect, and Take Action activities are girl-led and involve learning by doing and cooperative learning, girls achieve the desired and expected leadership outcomes ultimately resulting in Girl Scouting achieving its mission: Building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.



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# SCIENCE

## Science: Oobleck

Almost everything in the world is a solid, liquid, or gas. Things can change from solid to liquid to gas. Water can be a liquid, a solid, or a gas. This activity will show you that some substances are very viscous!

Materials: Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. ½ cup cornstarch
2. ¼ cup water
3. Spoon
4. Measuring cup
5. Bowl
6. Food coloring (optional)

Directions: Do not eat your oobleck!

1. Pour the water into a bowl.
2. Add the cornstarch a little at a time while continuously stirring.
3. Keep mixing the substances until all your oobleck looks and feels the same.

Teachable Moment:

How is oobleck different from a liquid like water? How is oobleck different from a solid like cornstarch? Research more about viscous matter. Store the oobleck in a plastic bag. What can you do with your oobleck? Try adding food coloring to make your oobleck different colors. Remember that mixing colors is experimenting; observe the different results from your trials.

Alternate Activities:

Edible Play Dough (recipes and instructions may be found online)

[Crazy Putty](#)

[Why is ketchup so hard to pour?](#)



## Science: Balloon Blowing

Trying to understand more about science in your life? Try to blow up a balloon without using your own breath. This activity will take several people working together!

**Materials:** Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1.  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup vinegar
2. A small plastic bottle with a neck
3. 2 tablespoons of baking soda
4. A small balloon

### Directions:

1. Pour the vinegar into the plastic bottle.
2. Stretch open the balloon mouth and carefully pour the baking soda into the balloon.
3. Place the balloon mouth over the bottle with the balloon to the side so that the baking soda does not fall into the bottle.
4. Make sure that the balloon mouth is tightly secure around the neck of the soda bottle.
5. Shake the balloon so that the baking soda falls into the balloon.
6. What happens, can you figure out why?

### Teachable Moment:

Acids are a chemical that taste sour, are corrosive to metals, and become less acidic when mixed with bases. Bases are chemical that feel slippery and become less basic when mixed with acids. Acids and bases interact chemically. The baking soda is a base and the vinegar is an acid. Baking soda is a bicarbonate ( $\text{NaHCO}_3$ ) and vinegar is an acetic acid ( $\text{HCH}_3\text{COO}$ ). One of the products this reaction creates is carbon dioxide. What can you learn about carbon dioxide?

### Alternative Activities:

[Inflating a Balloon](#)

[Dissolving Sugar at Different Temperatures](#)

Watch this exothermic [reaction](#) or try out this [experiment](#)!

## Science: Home Grown Crystals

Crystals are minerals that are clear and sparkly. Some crystals have colors, too. Ice, salt, and diamonds are all crystals and so is rock candy! Try growing some of your own crystals with this experiment.

Materials: Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. A glass jar
2. 1 cup of water brought to a boil
3. A saucepan
4. 3 cups of sugar
5. Clean string or yarn
6. Pencil
7. A clean paperclip
8. Plastic wrap
9. Magnifying glass (optional)

Directions:

1. Tie one end of the string or yarn to the middle of the pencil. Attach the paperclip to the other end of the string—this will keep the string or yarn straight while in the jar. Make sure that the paperclip does not touch the bottom of the jar.
2. With an adult, boil the water in the saucepan. Be sure to turn off the heat.
3. Add the sugar to the water a teaspoonful at a time. Stir the solution (i.e. water) after each addition to dissolve the sugar.
4. Stop adding sugar when the sugar stops dissolving into the solution.
5. When the solution cools a bit, pour it into the jar.
6. Wet the string with a little water and then rub some sugar along the string.
7. Place the pencil on the jar so that the string hangs down the middle of the jar.
8. Securely place a piece of plastic wrap on top of the pencil and over the mouth of the jar. Put the jar in a place where no one will disturb it for a few days or weeks.

Teachable Moment:

Take a close look at the sugar crystals that form on the string. Use a magnifying glass if you have one. Do all of the crystals have the same shape? Minerals (i.e. crystals) are solid matter in which atoms are arranged in regular geometrical patterns. Each mineral will always form in a range of crystal shapes. Although there are literally thousands of minerals, their crystal shape can be grouped on the basis of their symmetry into 7 systems of three-dimensional patterns. After you finish your observations, you may eat your crystals!

Alternative Activities:

[Make a Snowflake](#)

TMWMedia, [“An Introduction to Rocks and Minerals”](#)

[Glue Fossils](#)



# TECHNOLOGY

## Technology: Telling Time

Today, we have clocks with miniature minute and hour hands and digital clocks, too. People have been discovering ways to tell time for thousands of years. One invention was an hourglass. Use this activity to learn how to make your own hour glass!

Materials: Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. 2 one-liter clear, plastic bottles with lids
2. 1 liter of sand or table salt
3. Package tape
4. A nail
5. A clock

Directions:

1. Fill one of the bottles with the sand or salt.
2. With an adult, use the nail to make a small hole in each bottle cap.
3. Securely screw the lids back onto both bottles.
4. Place the empty bottle upside down, on top of the bottle of sand.
5. With both lids touching, tape both bottles together tightly so that they are joined.
6. Turn the bottles over so that the bottle with the sand is on top.
7. Watch the clock and record how long it takes for the sand to move from the top bottle to the bottom bottle.



Teachable Moment:

How can you change the amount of time that your hourglass tells? Time on earth is actually slowing down due to tidal friction from the sun and the moon; the solar day is lengthening by 1.7 milliseconds each century as the earth's rotation slows down. In 140 million years, a day on earth is expected to last 25 hours.

Alternative Activities:

[Kosher Dill Current](#)  
[Lemon Battery](#)  
[Surging Spuds!](#)

## Technology: Playing a Game



The computer is the perfect opportunity to learn by doing. Bring your ideas to life using progressive technology and explore the world of hardware, software, and computer sciences. Games are a fun way to learn!

Materials: Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. Parent/guardian permission
2. Computer and internet access

### Directions:

1. Find a fun interactive game for the computer.
2. Play the game.
3. What did you like about the game?
4. How would you change it to make it more fun?
5. Ask a friend or family member to play the game.
6. Ask them what they liked about the game and why?
7. How would you make the game easier or harder?

### Teachable Moment:

Games have the potential to be relevant and meaningful. Many studies have shown that knowledge and skills may be acquired by an engaged game player. It is up to the creators of games to produce a game that results in meaningful learning. The most meaningful games are interactive role-playing games. Who would you make your game for and what would be the purpose of your game?

### Alternative Activities:

Scholastic, [Build a World: Putting It All Together](#)

I can... [be the Video Game Developer](#)

Learn about a current event

**EXAMPLE:** Wall Street Journal, “Pokémon Go: Why You Should Play”

## Technology: Say Cheese

*Camera obscura* is Latin for “darkened room,” and is believed to have origins in Ancient Greece by Aristotle. Some experts believe that there is evidence that the *camera obscura* principle was used by Stone Age people to produce the world’s first cave art. You can put the great light energy from the sun to use right now by making a simple and exciting pinhole camera!

Materials: Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. A sunny, outdoor location
2. 1 sturdy shoebox with lid
3. Black tempera paint and large paint brush
4. Tape
5. Scissors
6. 3 inches x 5 inches rectangle of tracing paper or wax paper

Directions:

1. Cut a 2-inch x 4-inch rectangle in the middle of one of the small ends of the shoe box.
2. Paint the inside of the shoe box and lid with the black tempera paint. Make sure that the paint covers the entire inside and is thick. Wait for the paint to dry.
7. Tape the 3-inch x 5-inch rectangle of tracing paper or wax paper over the hole on the outside of the box.
3. At the other end of the box, directly in the middle of the panel, carefully punch a small  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch hole.
4. Take your camera outside on a sunny day and place something such as a toy, a friend, or another object directly in front of the pinhole.
5. Keep the screen in front of you for viewing. If the image is too blurry, place a covering over your head and the screen so that no light is able to get in.
6. You’re a photographer with your own homemade camera!

Teachable Moment:

When you aim the small opening of the pinhole camera at something, a fuzzy but noticeable upside-down image appears on your screen. The image is upside-down because light normally travels only in straight lines. Light rays from the top part of the image are reflected to the bottom part of the screen while rays from the bottom part of the image are reflected on the top part of the screen. How will you improve this camera?

Alternative Activities:

[Dixie Cup Telephone](#)

Homemade iPod Speakers (different experiments and examples may be found online)

Make your own [Guitar!](#)



# ENGINEERING

## Engineering: Law of Falling Bodies

Falling Bodies, also called projectiles, are objects moving downward under the influence of gravity. The nature of this motion is the same for an object that falls straight down as it is for one that moves forward and down at the same time. Knowledge of the motion of falling bodies is important in calculating trajectory.

**Materials:** Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. 1 softball
2. 1 golf ball
3. 2 sheets of paper
4. High platform or porch

### Directions:

1. Always make sure that the area is clear below and around you.
2. Hold the softball and golf ball side by side at the same height. Drop them to the ground and see which hits first.
3. Hold the softball and golf ball side by side at the same height. Drop the golf ball and throw the softball straight to the ground and see which hits first.
4. Hold the 2 sheets of paper side by side at the same height. Drop them to the ground and see which hits first.
5. Wad up 1 of the sheets of paper. Hold up the sheet of paper and the wad of paper side by side at the same height. Drop them to the ground and see which hits first.

### Teachable Moment:

Galileo proved that the rate of falling is caused by gravity and that all objects fall at the same rate. A resistance is the factor that changes the rate at which an object falls. Astronauts on the moon proved that in a vacuum, an atmosphere without air like space, a hammer and a feather will fall at the same rate and hit the ground at the same time. How can the law of Falling Bodies help us?

### Alternative Activities:

[Design a Parachute](#)

Exploratorium, "[Science of Sailing 101](#)"

[PBS Kids: Heavy Moving](#)

## Engineering: Hard Hats



Engineers must know the important differences between arch, suspension, and cable-stayed bridges. These differences are important when deciding what kind of bridge will work best in any given situation. Engineers take into account the bridge purpose and location before choosing the best bridge design. Test your engineering knowledge and skills with this activity!

**Materials:** Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. Tape
2. Paper
3. Scissors

### Directions:

1. Work with your troop/group to design a bridge.
2. Experiment with your materials to test their strength.
3. Sketch or draw a blueprint of your bridge.
4. Using only the tape, paper, and scissors, construct your bridge.
5. Evaluate the stability of your structure. Will the bridge support a small stone, coin, or button? Can a toy car cross the bridge?
6. How could your structure be stronger?

### Teachable Moment:

As of 2010, the longest suspension bridge in the world is the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge in Kobe, Japan. Opened in 1998, it spans an amazing 6,529 feet. Used for water distribution, the Delaware Aqueduct in New York, USA is the longest tunnel in the world. Drilled through solid rock, it reaches a staggering 85 miles in length. As of 2010, the tallest building in the world is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, UAE. It reaches an incredible 2,717 feet in height. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest of the Ancient Wonders of the World and the last one that remains largely intact.

### Alternative Activities:

[Material Properties](#) and a fun [game!](#)

National Geographic, "[Impossible Bridges: Denmark to Sweden](#)" (video)

[Dominoes Toppling](#) or learn more about [chain reactions](#)

## Engineering: Building for the Future

Did you know that engineers are changing the world all of the time? They dream up creative, practical solutions and work with other smart, inspiring people to invent, design, and build things that matter. What's your idea of a dream job?

Materials: No materials are necessary, feel free to utilize free online software to design and construct your own future building! Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

### Directions:

1. Choose a public building like a hospital, police station, library, or school.
2. Make a model, poster, or sketch of what it might look like 50 years from now and 100 years from now.
3. Imagine what will be there instead of elevators and escalators.
4. How will people move about in the building?
5. Think about safety measures to keep a building safe from natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods.
6. What safety measures would you include in the building?

### Teachable Moment:

Engineering is an ideal outlet for your imagination and creative problem-solving. Engineers improve peoples' lives by tackling problems, improving current designs, and coming up with innovative solutions. Among many other things, engineers develop systems that save lives, prevent disease, reduce poverty, and protect our planet. How does engineering affect your life every day?

### Alternative Activities:

*[Dream, Invent, Create](#): Engineering the World by Corinna Wu (2013)*

Discover amazing women in [engineering careers](#)!

National Geographic, "NASA for Kids: [Intro to Engineering](#)"



# MATHEMATICS

## Mathematics: Money Words

A cipher is a secret or disguised way of writing a message; you may call it a code. Historically, cipher actually meant to “do arithmetic” or math. Use this activity to explore how you can use math to turn your message into a unique cipher!

Materials: Number and variety of materials is contingent on number and desires of girls.

1. Paper
2. Pencil

Directions:

1. Give a monetary value to each letter of the alphabet.  
**EXAMPLE:** A = \$1, B = .50¢, C = \$3.25, D = .75¢, E = \$5
2. Add up the monetary value of the letters in your first name.  
**EXAMPLE:** “DEB” = .75¢ + \$5 + .50¢ = \$6.25
3. Add up the monetary value of the letters in your friend’s first name.
4. What is the most expensive word or name that you can think of?
5. Find as many words as you can that add up to \$5, \$10, and \$20.

Teachable Moment:

In the 1920s, the teaching of algebra and geometry in the United States was regarded as an “intellectual luxury.” In the 21st century, schools are working to increase students’ higher math skills so that the citizens of the United States can be competitive in a global economy. Math teaches logic and order, skills that can be carried over into everyday life. How do you use math each day?

Alternative Activities:

[Bloxorz](#) or [DuBlox](#) (online games)

Design a [Fraction Quilt](#)

Make a [Sit Upon](#)

## Mathematics: **Möbius** Strips



Math can be found everywhere including in science, technology, art, and nature. Mathematical careers range from engineers and astronauts to culinary artists and fashion designers. Achieve your dreams with invaluable math skills!

**Materials:** Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. A piece of regular white paper
2. Scissors
3. Tape
4. A ruler
5. A pencil

### Directions:

1. Draw a design on one side of the sheet of paper.
2. Draw long, straight lines 1 inch apart along the length of the paper.
3. Cut the paper into strips along the lines.
4. Make three different kinds of loops as shown to the right.
5. Tape the ends together.
6. Without breaking the loops, cut the loops in half.
7. What happens? Feel your way around the edge of the Möbius strip.



### Teachable Moment:

The Möbius strip, also called the twisted cylinder, is not a true surface but is a surface with a boundary. B. F. Goodrich Company patented a conveyor belt in the form of a Möbius strip which lasts twice as long as a conventional belt (i.e. a normal cylinder). M. C. Escher, an artist and master of optical illusion, was very fond of portraying Möbius strips. What can you do with a Möbius strip?

### Alternative Activities:

[Fibonacci Art Project](#)

[Stomp & Smash: Number Line Game](#)

[Post It Note Division](#)

## Mathematics: Terrific Tessellations

Tessellation, or tiling, is when you cover a surface or plane with a pattern of flat shapes so that there are no overlaps or gaps. Nature is the first tessellation artist, just look at turtle shells, the outside of a pineapple, the honeycomb of a bee, and even reptile scales. M.C. Escher is famous for his fascinating and intricate tessellation designs, now it is your turn!

Materials: Number and variety of materials is contingent on the number and desires of the girls.

1. A sheet of paper
2. A ruler
3. A pencil
4. A piece of lightweight cardboard
5. Scotch tape
6. Scissors
7. Light colored construction paper
8. Crayons, paint, or markers

Directions:

1. Cut out a 3 inch by 3 inch square from your sheet of paper. Use the square to create your own tessellation pattern. The design must begin and end on the same side.
2. Draw your design on the right side of the square. Cut out your design and tape the cut out to the left side of the square. Draw your design at the bottom of the square, cut it out, and tape the design to the top of your square.
3. Use your new pattern to trace the design on the piece of cardboard. Cut out the design on the card board. This is your pattern for the construction paper.
4. Start anywhere on the construction paper, trace your pattern. After tracing, slide the pattern in any direction and continue tracing. Do not flip or turn your pattern. Each shape should match up like a jigsaw puzzle.
5. Decorate your terrific tessellation!

Teachable Moment:

M.C. Escher was born in June of 1898, and people still cannot agree if he was an artist or a mathematician. His work continues to be popular including “Relativity” and “Metamorphosis II.” He studied and appreciated mathematics, science, and crystallography but he had no formal training. His mathematically complex structures, intricate repeating patterns, and spatial perspectives all require a second look. Do you think he was an artist or a mathematician, why?

Alternative Activities:

Draw a Mandala (examples and instructions may be found online)

Create your own [Optical Illusion](#)

Find your own fun riddles and brainteasers, try to solve them!

**YOU DID IT!**



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## For More Information

Valero knows that being a good operator also means being a good neighbor. The company demonstrates its commitment to all of its communities through a variety of philanthropic efforts, volunteer activities and educational support programs. For the second year, Valero made the list of America's 50 most community-minded major companies – [The Civic 50](#). Valero is the only energy company in the top 50, recognized for its commitment to improve the quality of life in communities where it does business.

Overall in 2014, Valero and its philanthropic organization generated more than \$38 million for worthy charities or causes, through direct donations or fundraising. Always a leading supporter of the United Way as a two-time national Spirit of America Award winner, Valero and its employees pledged more than \$11.2 million to the United Way in 2014, for donations in 2015, including a company match – up nearly 6 percent from the year before. The company raised \$10.4 million for children's charities across the United States in 2015 through the [Valero Texas Open](#) and Benefit for Children.

Valero established the Valero Volunteer Council in 1983, and each location still has a council serving its local communities. Valero employees log more than 130,000 volunteer hours each year for hundreds of community projects. Valero is a strong supporter of food banks wherever it operates, sponsoring several food drives each year. Since 2008, Valero has collected approximately 400,000 pounds of food for the [San Antonio Food Bank](#), plus many thousands more at other locations. Valero Volunteers additionally have built numerous [Habitat for Humanity](#) homes throughout Valero's communities.

Valero is a strong advocate of education and contributes to programs, agencies or organizations that share the same focus. The Valero mentoring program is a top priority of our Valero Volunteer Council and management. For more than 10 years, the program has helped school children in schools across the country. There are various events and programs, including school-supply and uniform drives held at the end of summer to help students start the new school year, as well as "Career Days" at area schools, and tours.

Valero supports many worthy military organizations including [Fisher House](#), Warrior Support Foundation, Operation Comfort, Operation Homefront, Marines Helping Marines, Vietnam and World War II veterans' museums, Returning Heroes Home, local VFWs, National Museum of the Pacific War and the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. For the 10th consecutive Thanksgiving Day, about 400 members of the U.S. military in 2014 were treated to a traditional holiday meal at headquarters, while 175 Valero Volunteers and their families served food and entertained their young military guests.

For more information, contact the [Valero Energy Foundation](#) Corporate Headquarters at (210) 345- 2000.



# End of Booklet

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San Antonio, Texas 78216  
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