Workshops

1. DIY Organisms: The Story of Evolution
Have you ever wondered about the amazing diversity of life on Planet Earth and how so much diversity has come about? Learn about natural selection and participate in a hands-on simulation where you will see first-hand how natural selection works. Be in charge of creating your own organism! It might not turn out like you planned!

2. Tickle Your Taste Buds
What is a food scientist and what do they do? In this session, learn about sensory, flavors, and how they come together to make the food you eat every day! You will also be able to create your own snack and beverage!

3. Teenage Engineers are Changing the World
Discover how high school girls are changing the world with their inventions for Milwaukee gardeners and solar-charged reading lamps for people living off the electrical grid in Guatemala. The try your hand at creating a mini lamp circuit!

4. Reptiles and Amphibians, Oh My!
What makes an amphibian different from a reptile? What are the different types, or groups of reptiles? Come prepared to bust myths and misinformation about these misunderstood animals, and learn about the diversity of reptiles, what they eat, where they live, how they defend themselves, and much more!

5. WINC: Helping You to Help Wisconsin Wildlife
What do I do if I find a baby bird or orphaned wildlife? With the help of their animal ambassadors learn how the Wildlife in Need Center is available to you and Wisconsin’s native wildlife for rescue, rehabilitation and release back into a healthy environment. Featured in this workshop is the chance to meet several of the animals WINC helps, including, a Barred owl, an American Kestral, a Bull snake and an ornate turtle!

6. Think Like a Computer
Computers are really good at following instructions, which means we have to be really good at giving those instructions. In this class, we will work together to program a “computer” to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich! With such an easy task, what could possibly go wrong? (Note: Girls with peanut allergies should look at enrolling in one of our other fabulous classes.)

7. Stranger than Science Fiction
Every day we are discovering and learning more about objects in our universe that are stranger than science fiction. One such object is the black hole. You will learn how they are formed, how they can turn you into spaghetti, and even mess with space and time itself. We will be working with a model of space-time and how it responds to a black hole. Finally, have you ever wondered where the atoms in your body came from and how old they are? Well, you are in for another shock from our universe!

8. O and not 1, Silly! The Art of Computer Coding
Every day, information is being transferred around us - a text message is sent, a movie is streamed, a satellite beams photos. With the help of some magic tricks, learn how errors are detected and then corrected during information transfer!

9. Future Engineers
We take robotics to the next level! Be among the first to engineer with the newly released LEGO EV3! This state-of-the-art programmable “brain” allows students to build and program their own robots. With four input ports and three output ports for following your commands, students can build, customize, program, and experiment with their own amazing robots!

10. Egg Projected Structure Challenge
How far do you think you can extend an egg from the wall using only string, paper, and masking tape? Join the American Society of Civil Engineers and learn about how projected structures (or “cantilevers”) work in bridges and buildings around you! Then, use your new skills and knowledge to build a projected structure of your own and see how far you can project an egg from the wall!

11. Great Odin’s Raven, It’s All About Vikings!
Come and learn all about the group known as the Vikings, great seafaring explorers who were raided and traded all throughout Europe from the 8th century all the way up to the 11th century. Learn about their culture, habits, and explorations through time, and even participate in your own Viking burial excavation!

Workshops

GEMS Day
8:00am-8:45am — Check-in at UW-Waukesha
9:00am-10:15am — Welcome presentation & Student Panel
10:15am-11:15am — Parent Workshop & Student Panel
10:25am-11:15am — Session I
11:25am-12:15pm — Session II
12:15pm-1:20pm — Lunch
1:30pm-2:20pm — Session III
2:30pm-3:20pm — Session IV
3:20pm-3:30pm — Wrap-up and pick-up

Parents are invited to stay for the parent program and for their own student panel! This year, the parent program will discuss higher education options, a suggested timeline for college preparation, what your student can do now and throughout high school, and how to apply for scholarships. Should your student volunteer, join a club, or play sports? We’ll talk about all of that! Don’t forget to RSVP!

We are excited to offer our annual GEMS program which will bring middle school girls and their parents, teachers, community leaders, and successful professional women together in an effort to boost knowledge and interest in various areas of math, science, and engineering. Our unique program will allow girls ages 11 to
Student Panel

Girls will have the opportunity to ask current college students any questions they may have! All of our student panel participants are college students attending local schools in our area. Our student panelists will reveal some valuable tips and tricks for being a successful college student! You will find out what other students have done to apply to college, how they set up their class schedule, if they work, if they live at home, and anything else you can think of to ask! Parents will also have the opportunity to ask questions after the girls begin their first sessions!

Parent Session

RSVP for Timeline for College! 10:15am-11:15am

Parents will also have the chance to speak with our student panel! Find out from current students what they wish their parents would have known! Bring your questions and find out what you can do to best prepare your student for their future. This year, the parent program will discuss higher education options, a suggested timeline for college preparation, what your student can do now and throughout high school, and how to apply for scholarships. Should your student volunteer, join a club, or play sports? We’ll talk about all of that!

Here’s what one parent had to say about GEMS:

“My oldest daughter, Leah (14), didn’t sign up for “I Spy an Eye” specifically because it said that they would have an opportunity to dissect an animal eye. She has always been squeamish about blood, doctors, needles... you name it...So, she texted me and told me that she was upset she was placed in that workshop and didn’t want to do it. I told her to give it a try and to let whoever was running it know you had a bit of an issue with it. In the past, she actually did almost pass out one time in a science class and did faint in the doctor’s office.

Well, as it turns out, it was probably the absolute best possible workshop for her. She came home telling us that it was actually interesting. Later that night she brought out the handout and went over it with us. She told us that while she didn’t initially participate she eventually did participate and after this experience she will probably go ahead and do the dissections in her prep biology class this fall in high school versus the online dissection option. Attending the workshop that she didn’t want to attend, was probably the best thing that could ever have happened to her and will make a direct impact on her participation in dissections in high school.

It’s just amazing what doors can open when given a chance. I’m hoping you can share this feedback with who ever ran the I Spy an Eye workshop. Awesome job and many thanks!”

Registration Info

Registrations will only be accepted accompanied by the enclosed liability/release form and are taken on a first-come basis. Workshops will not be assigned without the enclosed forms or payment. To secure your spot in the workshop, please mail or bring your registration to the Continuing Education office at 1500 N University Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188. Sorry, registrations are not available online or by phone.

Workshop choices are not guaranteed. Though we will do our best to place girls in their top four choices, in order to accommodate everyone we cannot guarantee spots in workshops. Each year, we strive to encourage young girls to pursue their interests in STEM fields by presenting them with the opportunity to speak to and learn from those who have already attained success in their field. We hope to present them with the opportunity to make connections with new people and those like-minded individuals to encourage friendships and personal connections. For this reason, we are unable to honor requests for girls to be put in the same workshops as a friend.

Registrations will not be accepted without the enclosed liability form and workshop choice insert completed.

We cannot honor requests for girls to be in the same workshops as a friend.

Workshop assignments are final. Please be aware that changes to workshops cannot and will not be made once they are confirmed.

Questions?

We’re happy to help!
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