

girls inc.

of the Berkshires

Eureka! Program 2019

Encouraging Girls to Explore
Science, Technology,
Engineering and Math



Did you know?

A girl's interest and confidence in STEM can begin to fade as early as elementary school. The issue isn't just about curiosity in the subject matter, but also confidence in the skills to do the work. For girls, building self-assurance in their abilities in STEM areas early in their education is key; along with ongoing reinforcement throughout high school.

Girls Inc. Eureka! aims to create a positive environment where girls can take charge of who they are now and who they can be in the future.

With support by Avangrid Foundation partnering with Berkshire Gas Company, Josephine and Louise Crane Foundation and other community partners, Girls Inc. of the Berkshires has brought Eureka! to Berkshire County.

This summer our second cohort of 20 girls who will be entering eighth grade will begin Girls Inc. Eureka! with the expectation that they will participate in the program for five-years, throughout high school.



The Girls Inc. Eureka! Program

Girls Inc. Eureka! is a STEM-based approach engaging and empowering girls beginning the summer before they enter 8th grade. The program help girls to see themselves as an important part of the workforce of the future. During the Eureka! program, girls get to participate in a variety of exciting and compelling activities exploring STEM through hands-on experiences on a college campus. Eureka! fosters educational, professional and personal development by incorporating complementary activities in sports and physical fitness, healthy living and economic literacy.

This summer, the second group of 20 girls will begin their journey through the five-year Eureka! program. They will join girls who began participating in Eureka! last year. Held on the campus of Berkshire Community College, the girls will take part in an intensive four-week summer program, working with professors exploring STEM-related subjects through hands-on, ungraded activities to build their skills and knowledge. Girls begin the program as a group and continue together throughout the next five years, learning and growing!

Eureka! Works

Girls Inc. of the Berkshires is bringing the Eureka! program to the county because it works!



Existing Eureka! programs throughout North America have shown remarkable results. Data shows that girls participating in Eureka!

- Stay engaged in math and science throughout high school
- Many are becoming the first in their family to go to college

And ...

Even though women are underrepresented in STEM post-secondary programs and careers, Girls Inc. girls have the potential to close the gap and change the face of STEM for the next generation.

- 89% say that they find science or math interesting
- 80% believe they could handle harder science or math

Eureka! Program Overview:

The First Two Summers ...

(8th and 9th grade)

Through collaborations with Berkshire Community College and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, girls will participate in an intensive four-week summer program at BCC. The program will emphasize math, science and technology experiences, personal/career development and sports. Girls will have a unique opportunity to have a hands-on, STEM-centered, girls-only environment where they can feel comfortable exploring and learning about various fields of study on a college campus. Girls Inc. program staff create a diverse and interesting experience working with professors and instructors from local colleges along with complementary programs emphasizing personal growth, economic literacy, health, wellness and sports to promote a healthy lifestyle.

During the School Year ...

Throughout the school year the girls will meet to expand on traditional classroom subjects, take field trips and continue to develop relationships with one another, Girls Inc. staff, college staff and women and men who currently work in STEM careers.

Year Three and beyond ...

(10th - 12th grade)

Girls will be placed in STEM-related internships and job shadowing experiences during the summer to gain real-world experience and fuel their career aspirations. Stipends for the internships are an important component to the program to insure girls don't have to make the choice between a summer job and an internship that helps build skills and knowledge for a future career.



What you need to know ...

- Girls entering 8th grade in Fall 2019 and interested in exploring STEM-related subjects can apply to participate in Eureka!
- There is **no fee** for girls who make the commitment to participate in the Eureka! Program
- Transportation to BCC is provided to and from the Brigham Center each day

The Eureka! Summer program dates are July 8, 2019 through August 2, 2019. The program runs from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

Closing Ceremony will be held on Friday, August 2, 2019 at Berkshire Community College.

For more information about participation in the Girls Inc. Eureka! program contact:

Sidney Hamilton, Eureka! Coordinator
413.442.5174 ext. 19
sidneyh@brighamcenter.org



Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and bold!

**The Girls Inc. of the Berkshires 2019 Eureka! program is being generously sponsored by the Avangrid Foundation in partnership with Berkshire Gas Company, Josephine and Louise Crane Foundation, the Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires, and Zonta Club of the Berkshires*

**girls
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165 East Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413.442.5174