

Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center Girls Inc. Eureka! Information Guide

Girls interest and confidence in STEM can begin to wane 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 as is ongoing reinforcement throughout high school.

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 from Berkshire Gas Company/Avangrid Foundation, Hyatt Community Grants through Cranwell Resort and Spa and other community partners, Girls Inc. of the Berkshires has brought Eureka! to Berkshire County.

The first cohort will be made up of 20 girls who will be entering eighth grade with the expectation of a five-year commitment to the program. Through Girls Inc. of the Berkshires on-site and outreach programs, girls will learn of, and apply to participate in the program. Most importantly, girls will not be charged a fee to participate in Eureka! removing the cost burden that may be a barrier to a girls' participation.

Program Overview:

The First Two Years ...

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



Year Three and beyond ...

Girls will be placed in STEM-related internships 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 be sure 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.

Learn how you can be a part of Eureka!

**Girls Inc. of the Berkshires
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Some Facts:

Why Girls Inc. Eureka! in Pittsfield >>

- Results from the 2017 New Generation MCAS for Math show that only 24% of 8th grade students scored “meeting or exceeding expectations” v. 48% statewide
- 20% of 8th grade students in Pittsfield scored “proficient or higher” on Science/Technology MCAS tests in 2017 v. 40% statewide
- 50% of Pittsfield students were identified as economically disadvantaged v. 30% statewide
- Schools report that 33% of students identify as minority, 21% have been determined to be disabled and 40% of students live in single parent households
- Recent workforce studies indicate an increased need in our region for employees with a strong background in science, math and technology while the area suffers from a continued drop in population and lower than average testing scores.



In our most recent fiscal year, the Brigham Center served 3,209 members across six programs. 223 girls participated in Girls Inc. programming ...

- 44% of the girls came from households with income below \$25,000
- 59% identified as minority
- 40% lived in a single parent household
- 12% lived with neither parent
- 88% resided in Pittsfield
- 97% of girls participating in existing Girls Inc. programming at GABCC completed 80 % of sessions
- 85% of girls participating in Girls Inc. programming report avoiding things/ behaviors that are dangerous or unhealthy

**girls
inc.**

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of the Berkshires

Eureka! Works

Girls Inc. of the Berkshires is one of 20 affiliates throughout North America to offer the Eureka! program!

Results from Girls Inc. affiliates that have implemented Eureka! programs are remarkable. Data shows that girls participating :

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

And ...

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

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