

## Eureka! FAQ

### **So what is this Eureka! Program anyway?**

Eureka! is an intensive 5-year program (five summers and monthly meetings during school years through senior year) for girls entering 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade that encourages girls to explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in a fun, hands-on environment. (\*If girls join as rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders, they do not participate in a 5<sup>th</sup> year). During the first two summers, in addition to STEM classes, girls will also participate in team sports, self-defense, swimming, and personal development. In the third summer, girls will be placed in an internship and will receive a stipend upon completion of the program. During 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> summers, girls continue to be engaged in STEM field career exploration and college preparation, these programs could include: additional internships, enrollment in college courses, college campus tours or college residential programs. During the school years, girls will participate in a variety of activities and explore career and college options.

### **How do I get involved in Eureka!?**

Girls can apply during the spring of their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. The application is on our website ([www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org)). We take 20 new Eureka! participants every other year and accept girls who represent the broad range of demographics in Alameda and the Bay Area.

### **Do you give preference to certain girls?**

We look for girls who have a “can do” attitude, who are interested in the program and who can commit to the program timing. We will give priority to girls who are first generation college students (meaning their parents never attended college) but all girls who are eligible are encouraged to apply.

### **I don't get A's in math and science, should I still apply?**

Yes! Eureka! is designed for all girls who are enthusiastic about math and science, not just high achievers. Girls must earn average or higher grades in these subjects.

### **How much does Eureka! cost?**

We have a sliding scale, depending on household income, from \$175 to \$375 for years one and two. Years three - five are free to participants.

### **What is the time commitment?**

During the summers, girls must commit to the four-week program that runs Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm during the month of July. Girls must plan to spend the next three Julys in Eureka! (**\*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year summer program may not take place in July**). During the school year, girls must commit to at least one session per month.

Four-five years might sound like a long time commitment, but girls who have participated in this program receive many benefits from sustained involvement! Participants are a part of unique, supportive community of fellow STEM enthusiasts, where they are exposed to opportunities they would not have outside of Eureka!. They have strong mentoring relationships, develop life-long friendships and mentors, and have exposure to a variety of careers in STEM and other non-

traditional fields. In addition, they go on amazing fieldtrips and take part in special opportunities like youth leadership conferences! Eureka! girls, have continued on to internships at Stanford, the District Attorney's Office of Alameda, and have been selected for youth leadership programs in Washington D.C.! Eureka! girls build a strong academic and professional portfolio, and gain support in their path to college! Eureka! girls also have the opportunity to apply for Girls Inc. National Scholarships in both their junior and senior year. Scholarship prizes are between \$5000-\$20,000 and Eureka! participants often have compelling stories to share because of their participation in such a dynamic and impactful program.

**I'm going on vacation in July. Can I still participate?**

No. We require girls to commit to all four weeks during the summer and one session per month during the school year throughout all three years of the program (\*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year summer program may not take place in July). Girls will not earn their stipend at the end of the program if they don't fulfill all of these requirements.

**I have more questions about Eureka! Who can I contact?**

Please contact Maria Tijerino at 510-521-1743 x 208 or [mtijerino@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:mtijerino@girlsincislandcity.org)

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