

Girls Inc. EUREKA!®

at

University at Albany (UAlbany)

Program Information for Girls & Parents/Guardians

Girls Inc. Eureka!® at UAlbany is a free and unique program that will provide girls with a gentle introduction to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education through an intensive summer camp experience followed up with support during the school year. Girls commit to the program for five years, preparing them for the next step in their education after high school.

Purpose and Philosophy:

The purpose of Girls Incorporated programming is to inspire girls to be **STRONG, SMART & BOLD** and to give them the capacity to achieve their full potential. In addition, we strive to provide an equitable environment for girls through activities that help direct them to a confident and responsible adulthood, economic independence, and personal fulfillment.

**Applicants *must* be entering 8th or 9th grade
in September 2024**

Dates of the 2024 summer program: **July 8th – August 2nd**

Child Drop Off / Pick Up: **Girls Inc. 962 Albany Street, Schenectady (M-F 8:00 am & 5:45 pm) OR
UAlbany 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany (M-F 8:45 am & 5:00 pm)**

Eureka!®

- Engages girls in informal STEM education that supplements classroom education.
- Involves girls in a multi-year program that has outcome measurements.
- Encourages girls to discover and explore by doing rather than just listening.
- Places girls on a college campus to reinforce the importance of higher education.
- Provides girls access to top-level scientists on the job in a world class facility.
- Plays an important role in the “cradle to career” education pipeline in NYS and the Capital Region workforce.
- Ensures girls are exposed to STEM careers so women are better represented in STEM.
- Employs learning methods that are gender-based to more effectively engage girls.
- Emphasizes the strengths and needs of young women.
- Develops girls using the “whole girl” approach.
- Develops skills in individual and team sports while learning about puberty and sharing the challenges of dealing with rapid physical change. The combination serves to inspire bodily confidence, competence and control.
- Encourages girls to build leadership, confidence, and a positive “Eureka! Attitude.”
- Reinforces persistence in education, college goals and career awareness.

Overview: The Eureka!® program

Summers

The First and Second Summers

Girls will attend a four week summer camp at UAlbany that engages them in hands-on STEM activities as well as, personal and workforce development workshops. They will also participate in regular group sports, individual sports and swimming. Girls who do not know how to swim will have the opportunity to learn. Each week there will be field trip focused on STEM.

The Third and Fourth Summers

Participants in the Eureka! Internship Program will be placed in local businesses and organizations chosen by the Eureka! manager. The Eureka! Internship Program is tailored to suit the individual needs and strengths of each student.

The Fifth Summer

Seniors meet with the Eureka! Manager to help guide her in securing an internship, job or summer program on her own.

SCHOOL YEAR (SEPT-MAY)

It is expected that Eureka! girls will commit to at least one Eureka! programming opportunity per month during the school year. A variety of opportunities will be offered to fulfill this commitment and might include:

- A group activity hosted at their school
- A take home assignment
- Participating in an organized community activity with the group
- Eureka! Saturdays (field trips, community service, STEM and other programming)
- Other Girls Inc. events and programs

To obtain the monthly commitment, during the school years, Eureka! participants must earn Eureka! credits to continue through the program.

- First Year (8th grade): 10 credit minimum
- Second Year (9th grade): 10 credit minimum
- Third Year (10th grade): 5 credit minimum
- Fourth Year (11th grade): 5 credit minimum
- Fifth Year (12th grade): 5 credit minimum

Other credit opportunities:

- We will notify you of community events brought to our attention that fit within the scope of our program but that staff may not be able to attend.
- You are allowed up to 1 credit for anything post secondary education related ie SATs, college tours
- First and second year students are allowed up to 3 credits for any extracurricular activities that you participate in. Ask the Eureka! Manager for an extra credit submission form.
- Participation in the monthly mentoring sessions. Mentorship is a requirement of the program but if you attend at least 80% of your sessions you will receive 1 credit at the end of the school

year. If you attend at least 50% of your sessions you will receive .5 credit at the end of the school year.

We understand students are busy and have other commitments. Many opportunities will be given to Eureka! girls to achieve these requirements and activities they already participate in will also be considered for credit. We will work with each girl to develop an individualized plan that meets their interests and needs.

Third and fourth year participants must do a 3 day internship for four weeks. These internships include a \$500 stipend. We will be seeking paid internship opportunities through our partner organizations.

Fifth year participants find their own placement and stipend with guidance from the Eureka! manager.

Locations

The primary locations for Eureka! will be the Girls Inc. sites in Albany and Schenectady and UAlbany

Transportation

During the summer participants are responsible for getting to Schenectady Girls Inc. (If located closer to Schenectady) or dropped off directly to Collin's circle at UAlbany in the morning. We will provide daily transportation to and from the UAlbany campus from Schenectady, as well as to and from weekly field trips. Participants will need to be picked up at Girls Inc. Schenectady or from UAlbany at the end of each day. During the school year, we do our best to provide transportation to and from events, but it is not always possible. Sometimes there will be a limit on the number of transportation spaces available to some events and other times transportation may not be available.

Eureka! Staff

The implementation team includes Girls Inc. staff, UAlbany faculty, UAlbany students, and other community partners.

Acceptance

30 students will be accepted into the program. Applications will be reviewed and students along with their parents/guardians will be selected to participate in an interview. An interview does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Space in the Eureka! program is limited. Not all applicants will be accepted. Students should be passing all of their classes.

After the application is received, we will contact you to set up an interview with the applicant & parents/guardians.

Thank you for your interest in the program & GOOD LUCK!

Questions?

Please email the Eureka! Manager at kmucci@gcr.girls-inc.org with the subject "Eureka! Question".

Important Details

- Those admitted are committing to the five-year program, including the four-week summer session.
- Girls are encouraged and committed to attending Eureka! activities throughout the year.
- Participants must dress appropriately for sports, including athletic shoes and swimsuits during the summer.
- Girls are expected to participate in all Eureka! activities, including field trips and swimming.
- Girls, and parents/guardians, who are applying for the Eureka! program are required to attend the interview and, if accepted, an acceptance meeting to complete all necessary paperwork. Interviews and acceptance meetings will be scheduled on an individual basis and occur at either the Schenectady or Albany Girls Inc. sites.

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About Girls Incorporated of the Greater Capital Region: Girls Incorporated of the Greater Capital Region is a non-profit organization that delivers life-changing programs that ***inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.*** We help girls in grades K-12 overcome economic, social and gender barriers to growing up healthy, educated, and independent. Girls Incorporated of the Greater Capital Region is one of the local Girls Inc. organizations in a network that serves 150,000 girls ages 5-18 annually at over 1,400 sites in 350 cities across the United States and Canada. Free after-school programs are provided at our two main centers in Albany and Schenectady and full-day programming during the summer months and school vacation weeks. Select programs and workshops are delivered to schools and community organizations throughout the Capital Region. Find us on Facebook® at www.facebook.com/girlsinccapitalregion or visit our website at: www.girlsinccapitalregion.org.

E-mail Kelly Mucci, Eureka! Manager
kmucci@gcr.girls-inc.org
if you have any questions.

**** Eureka! program is contingent upon funding****

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