Program

Overview

Enhancing Academic Success for young girls through STEM!

The Harris Foundation's Girls Summer STEM Academy (GSSA) is a two-week non-residential academy hosted at Alief Independent School District located in Houston, Texas providing 36 rising sixth grade girls with an opportunity to improve and increase their knowledge of STEM concepts and STEM career-fields.

The academy will foster youth leadership and citizenship, as well as instill values of responsibility, fairness and respect; offer a program that involves exploring solutions to real-world STEM-related problems, questions and issues through team-oriented collaborative learning and the use of technology; and create an environment through activities and events designed to build self-confidence and self-esteem.

A Project-Based Inquiry Learning (PBIL) model will be used to combine inquiry with scientific and engineering practices that will connect a theme and core problem to field excursions and core curriculum subjects.

Program Elements

Core Principles

The Harris Foundation's Girls Summer STEM Academy will serve to increase STEM literacy for girls. Role models will serve to inspire and cultivate self-confidence, further enabling them to think critically in science, engineering, technology and mathematics

Collaborative Learning

Utilizing 21st century technology and skills in critical thinking, problem solving, communication, creativity and innovation and collaboration. Robotics, coding and other applications, to engage all learners and inspire them to seek a deeper knowledge of the subjects they are being taught

Community Engagement

Providing exposure to STEM-related career fields, women in STEM professions, technology institutions and educators through a unique partnership between The Harris Foundation, Microsoft, and Alief Independent School District

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