Welcome to the Girls RISEnet monthly newsletter, bringing you information on RISEnet resources and our community to advance your work in creating girl-friendly science and engineering learning environments.

Introduction

April 5-13, 2014 is National Robotics Week. Get girls excited about designing robotics. There are over 200 events scheduled in 50 states, so find an event near you and “...keep the inventions coming!”

April is also Math Awareness Month! This year’s theme is Mathematics, Magic, and Mystery. You can follow @MathAware and #MathAware on Twitter to learn about great themed activities available this month.

Encourage girls to explore a sustainable planet!

- This year, on April 22nd let’s all celebrate the 44th anniversary of Earth Day. Earth Day was founded by US Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in first held on April 22, 1970, and is now celebrated in 192 countries. The Earth Day Network coordinates activities globally.
- May 16th is Endangered Species Day. Did you know that more than 1,300 species of plants and animals are currently listed as either threatened or endangered in the US alone? Let’s make a difference!

Visit our showcase to learn more about recent Girls RISEnet activities

Take Flight After School Science Class
Date: 01/06/14-03/14/14
Organization: Kualapu’u School

Girl Naturalist As Artist
Date: 07/20/13-12/30/13
Organization: Friends of L.C. Bates Museum

AT A GLANCE

Apply for a mini-grant to expand your programming for girls For more information about Girls RISEnet, contact Cheryl Lani Juarez.

Click on this image to connect with your regional hub.

Other STEM Events and Opportunities

March-May: Tech Forum: Insight and Innovation for Technology Leaders. Various cities in California, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Illinois. Register now!

April 24: x-STEM Symposium gives students a chance to speak with top scientists and inspiring engineers.

April 26-27: Pre-register now
Upcoming Girls RISEnet events

Programmable Plush
Date: 04/15/14
Organization: Kentucky Science Center

Programmable Plush: Engage Girls To Design And Code
Date: 04/25-26/14
Organization: Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science

Designing Girl Friendly Environments and Learning Experiences
Date: 04/28/14
Organization: Connecticut Science Center

Engaging Girls In STEM Programming
Date: 05/12/2014
Organization: OMSI

Explore the latest resources and research on engaging girls in STEM learning

Science And Engineering Indicators 2014
By: National Science Foundation

For The Love Of Math
By: John Mighton

2014 Racial Disparity In Breast Cancer Mortality Study
By: Avon Foundation for Women

Study: Stereotypes Drive Perceptions Of Race
By: Shankar Vedantam

The Gender-Friendly Classroom: Tips And Tools For Teachers
By: Randal Mason

Find new engineering activities to use with girls

If you’re looking for new ways to engage girls with robotics, check out ATOMS, a toy where maker meets robots. ATOM’s goal is “to enable kids to build their own useful things,” it can be integrated into LEGOS, fabric, wood, or an iPhone. The only limit is your imagination!

Another great toy that will get girls excited about robotics is littleBits. It’s allows kids to safely explore robotics and circuitry. The Correll Lab at University of Colorado at Boulder, as part of an NSF-funded project, demonstrated the effectiveness of using cubelets in a one-hour activity with middle school kids. Get girls involved in robotics today!

for the free USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

May 19-21: NCWIT Summit on Women in IT: Practices and Ideas to Revolutionize Computing. Register now!

Don’t forget to check Girls RISEnet’s comprehensive list of STEM Competitions. Register for one now!

About Girls RISEnet
The Girls RISE Museum Network (Girls RISEnet) is a national network of science centers and museums, led by the Miami Science Museum, ASTC, and SECME, to increase the capacity of informal science education institutions to engage girls, especially minority girls, in science and engineering.

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Modeling is a great tool to get teens to explore mathematics, ecology, and social behavior. Northwestern University has created NetLogo, a software that kids can simulate social and natural phenomena. It’s a great way to use technology to explore patterns in STEM.

To engage young learners in mathematics, explore Math Play: How Young Children Approach Math and Math For Families: Helping Your Child With Math At Home. Both resources have informal strategies and activities for young kids to learn about math.

Looking for ways to engage girls with gaming? Check out the GAMES (Girls Advancing Mathematics, Engineering + Science) Initiative. It’s a new initiative between Northeastern University, the National Girls Collaborative Project, and the Institute of Systems Biology. The goal is to engage girls in STEM using the innovation of gaming. If you’re interested in gaming, there are some useful resources to explore.