

EXITE (EXPLORING INTERESTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING)

Parent organization: IBM Corporation (Community Relations)

Web address: <http://www.ibm.com/ibm/ibmgives/grant/education/camp.shtml>

Grade level or ages served: 11 - 13 year olds (Grades 7 and 8)

Overview: The goal of the EXCITE program is to encourage the girls' interest in mathematics and science, and give them an in-depth look at the numerous career opportunities in the field of technology. Girls can participate at IBM locations in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia-Pacific. Participants receive hands-on experience and support during activities which might include breaking down and rebuilding computers, constructing web sites, making liquid nitrogen ice cream, building and programming a LEGO robot, climbing rock walls, scavenger-hunting using clues or a GPS, field trips, and developing presentations.

Subjects covered: STEM, leadership, self-esteem, STEM, presentation skills, work/life balance

Size of program: Summer 2005: More than 1500 girls at 48 locations worldwide; since 1999, 3700 girls have attended EXITE camps worldwide. IBM's Beaverton location has hosted an EXITE camp of about 25 girls each summer since 2001. Selected attendees are invited back to act as aides at subsequent camps.

Where offered: Selected IBM campuses worldwide.

Time spent by students: Five days

Partners/Sponsors: IBM employee volunteers

Materials available on web and/or purchase: Some activities use outside websites and materials; IBM does not market materials internally developed for this program, but does not rule out making them available

Training for teachers, facilitators, volunteers, leaders is: Available Required.

Please explain: IBM employee volunteers are required to take training on activities in which they have a role for the EXITE program.

Cost structure & Funding: IBM sponsors this program; there is no cost to participants.

Other points of interest: Girls are assigned mentors for the following year; contact is via email. Introduction & icebreaking activities during camp help start the relationship.