

Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) at Cedar Valley College

Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) is a national program to encourage girls to continue their studies of math & science by introducing them to interesting career options in technical fields. The girls participate in hands-on workshops of fun activities related to various career fields; these workshops are led by women who are working in those fields.

This program is designed to be of interest to all girls, not only those who have already indicated an interest in science. It does not require previous science experience or aptitude. In fact, one of the goals is to show that science activities can be fun and interesting.

The EYH program at Cedar Valley College was started in fall 1993. It is organized by members of the Southwest Dallas County Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). You can learn more about this local group at **www.AAUW-SWDC.org**.

Our target age group is 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls. We feel it is important to interest girls in science and math before they get to high school and start choosing their major subjects. Since 2001 our EYH conference has also included a program of speakers for adults. Photos from some of our past conferences are available in pdf files at our website **www.EYH.AAUW-SWDC.org**.

The first Expanding Your Horizons conference was organized in 1974 by a group of women at Mills College in Oakland, CA. Since then a national organization, the EYH Network (formerly known as The Math / Science Network), has been formed to provide guidance for EYH conferences offered around the US. More information is available at the national website **www.EYHnet.org**

Email - Mailing List:

Groups that have attended our previous EYH conferences will receive early notification about the next conference, usually in the late fall preceding the next conference (late February or early March). The complete registration information, with the list of student workshops, is usually available on our website **www.EYH.AAUW-SWDC.org** in mid-December, and printed brochures are available in early January.

If you wish to be on the email notification list and/or brochure mailing list, please send your contact information to **penny@acm.org**, and list EYH in your subject line (else your message may be deleted, unread, with the junk mail).

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Our Registration is Limited:

Our EYH conferences are held at Cedar Valley College. The attendance is limited to approximately 175 girls because of limitation of available classrooms. Advance registration is required so that we can assign the girls to workshop sessions. Each workshop session is limited to approximately 20 girls. On the registration form we ask that each girl list her 6 preferred workshops; we will then assign her to 3 of those choices, on a first-come basis.

In addition to the workshops for the girls, we offer a program for parents and teachers, male or female. There will be 2 or 3 speakers, presenting information and holding group discussions about subjects related to encouraging adolescent girls in their life and education. This program was initiated so that the parents or teachers who bring students will have a useful way to spend their time while the girls are attending their workshops. Typically a maximum of 40 adults participate in this session.

Conference Registration Information:

Registrations are recorded on a first-come basis and will be accepted until we reach our attendance limits. We have never had to 'close' registrations, but we would need to do so if the registrations reached 200 girls.

The fee per student is \$3 for early registrations (typically until January 31), then \$4 until the deadline (typically late February), and \$5 for later registrations (made by telephone, if we have openings). There is no charge for adults to attend the adult program but we do request advance registration so that we know we will have adequate seating.

Early registration is encouraged so that we can confirm the number of sessions to offer for each student workshop topic. Also, the girls are assigned to workshops on a first-come basis, so they benefit by early registration.

Conference Day Schedule:

- Most of the classroom buildings at Cedar Valley College are located around a central courtyard, but we hold our EYH sessions in Building M, the large building to the right (east) of that complex. Building M has large window areas and is labeled over the main entrance as Veterinary Technology, Science, Allied Health. Building M is located just north of the far public parking lot, labeled S1.
- The sign-in area is either in the main lobby or a classroom of Building M. Signs will direct participants to the correct area. Sign-in will take place from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m. After you sign-in you will be able to sit in a class room area to review the student packet material.
- At 9:20 a.m. Cedar Valley College honor society student volunteers will meet you in the lobby area to gather groups and lead them to their first class room. During the conference, the honor society students will be available to help the girls find their next workshop classrooms. Thus there is no need for adults to accompany the girls to their workshops, and in fact, we do not have room in the classrooms to accommodate adults.
- The girls attend their 3 assigned workshops (of 55 minutes each) while the adults attend the separate adult program. Activities are over by 12:45 p.m.

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Some Suggestions for Group Participation:

If a small group of girls wishes to be assigned to workshops together, they should send their registration forms in together. If their workshop selections are compatible, they will be assigned in sessions together.

We have found that the girls enjoy their workshops more if they are assigned to workshops of their choice, rather than workshops selected by a teacher or random assignment. However, this requires that the teacher or group leader start collecting the registration requests at an early date. Since the workshops are assigned on a first-come basis, it is advisable to submit the early responses promptly and not hold them until all girls have responded.

Many groups have been submitting their registration requests weekly via email and then making the payment by one check. If you need to wait and make 1 payment when all registrations are complete, discuss this with the Conference Chair / workshop registration manager Penny Ball (penny@acm.org, telephone 972-709-1957).

If the registration fee is being paid by a school district or other sponsor, some girls will probably be 'no shows'. You may wish to have arrangements for last minute replacements; they will not have a choice of workshops but would attend in place of the 'no shows'. We cannot refund the fee for registered girls who do not attend. Since the number of girls assigned to each workshop session is limited, any girl who registers but does not attend has deprived some other girl of attending the assigned workshops.

If you wish to register a number of girls, but do not know specifically who they will be and thus do not have specific workshop choices, we can assign 'slots' for your girls in a representative selection of workshops.