

NEWSLETTER • Spring/Summer 2022

## **Saturday STEM Academy**



We're excited to announce that after two years the **Girls 4 Science Saturday STEM Academy** went back to in-person learning. The Spring Session -- which ran from April 2 through May 7 -- focused on **The Science of Cars** and was held at the Fast Lane Automotive Training in Chicago. Students learned in a working auto service and repair shop and received hands-on experience in preventive maintenance, including how to check transmission, oil and brake fluids. In addition to learning how a car and its major components work, students



learned how to change a flat tire and used a DIY kit to build their own race cars.



Studying a car engine. We thank the Fast Lane



*instructors for their guidance and expertise and making the experience not only worthwhile but fun!* 

G4S Program Coordinator Diamond Franklin assists student with building a race car at Olive Harvey City College.

#### SUMMER SATURDAY STEM ACADEMY

Marine Biology is the topic for the Summer session of the Saturday STEM Academy. Students will dive deep into activities such as dissecting a Tiger Shark, creating a glowing jellyfish, water sampling with

Saturday STEM Academy 6 Weeks of <u>FREE</u> science exploration, field trips, mentorship Calling All Girls 10 – 18 Years Saturdays: July 9 – August 13 of Age ... 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM GIRLS 4 SC ENCE N PERSON Summer 2022 Session: MARINE BIOLOGY 2022 Higb School Program Sponso Thank you to the thematics and Science Academ riding the content and training e Jellyfish Modeling activity. Three Locations Olive Harvey Community College - Chicago, IL Malcolm X Community College - Chicago, IL
University of St. Francis - Joliet, IL **REGISTRATION OPENS:** MAY 8, 2022 (For All Students) All NEW and RETURNING Students Must Register @ www.girls4science.org click on the REGISTER TAB Olive Harvey Program Coordinator – Natasha Carter (sailorvenusc@aim.com) Malcolm X Program Coordinator – Dezarae Brooks (dezarae.brooks@ingredion.com) University of St. Francis Program Coordinator Sandrine Davis (sandrineg4s@yahoo.com) ories • Increased self-esteem • Peer to neer me

Friends of the Chicago River and exploration at the Shedd Aquarium. We thank the Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy for providing the content and training for the Jellyfish Modeling activity.



The Summer session will culminate with the Student Recognition and Awards Ceremony on August 13, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm at Olive Harvey City College, featuring guest speaker Lisa Porter, MS, HTL (ASCP).

#### FALL SATURDAY STEM ACADEMY





drugs.

#### PHARMACOLOGY

#### Three Locations

Olive Harvey Community College - Chicago, IL

Malcolm X Community College - Chicago, IL

• University of St. Francis - Joliet, IL

#### REGISTRATION OPENS: AUGUST 7, 2022 (For All Students) All NEW and RETURNING Students Must Register @ www.girls4science.org click on the REGISTER TAB

Olive Harvey Program Coordinator – *Natasha Carter* (sailorvenusc@aim.com)

Malcolm X Program Coordinator – Dezarae Brooks (dezarae.brooks@ingredion.com)

University of St. Francis Program Coordinator – *Jennifer Klein-Roberts* (kleinj21@yahoo.com)

Certified Instructors • State of the art science laboratories • Increased self-esteem • Peer to peer mentoring

Registration opens August 7 for the Fall Saturday STEM Academy on *Pharmacology*. In addition to learning about medicines and careers in pharmacy, students will also meet female STEM role models and take field trips to <u>Walgreens</u>, pharmaceutical company <u>Abbvie</u> and the <u>International</u> <u>Museum of Surgical Science</u>.

Register <u>HERE</u>. Click on the REGISTRATION tab. Registration opens August 7.

#### GIRLS 4 SCIENCE LAUNCHES LAB ASSISTANT PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Students in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade can increase their STEM enrichment as a Volunteer Lab Assistant for Girls 4 Science. Two high school students have been selected for the inaugural program. Dajah Thomas has participated in Girls 4 Science for seven years at the Olive Harvey location. Dajah is a rising senior at Kenwood Academy, and after high school, she plans to major in biochemistry in college. Kaylen Irvin is a junior at Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing, Illinois and has participated in Girls 4 Science at the Olive Harvey campus for the past six years. Her current career interest is emergency room nursing, providing hands on care to patients.

Volunteer Lab Assistants attend the Staff and Volunteer Training each quarter, participate on monthly Program Committee planning calls, offer feedback to the team related to student input, serve as a Lab Assistant Ambassador at Girls 4 Science outreach events, and assist the Program Coordinators during class with activities and on field trips.



Dajah Thomas



Kaylen Irvin

## GIRLS 4 SCIENCE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER



Luz del Carmen Najera Colunga, Vice President of Global Government Affairs & North America Sustainability Lead at Ingredion Inc., will join the Girls 4 Science Board of Directors. Luz has held several positions during her 20 years at Ingredion. She is an attorney with a master's degree in



corporate law from Universidad Panamericana, a corporate law degree from Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, and a diploma in business administration from

Harvard Business School.

## SPOTLIGHT ON BOARD MEMBER RIVA TREVIDI

**Riva Trivedi** grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and had a passion for STEM since her high school days at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. She joined the Girls 4 Science Board of Directors in 2020 -- after serving on the Advisory Board -- and is an active member of the Finance & Audit Committee. Trivedi is a Senior Associate focused on healthcare investing at Waud Capital Partners (WCP), a private equity firm based in Chicago. Prior to joining WCP, Riva Trivedi was an investment banking analyst in the Healthcare group at RBC Capital Markets.

Ms. Trivedi holds a B.S.B.A., *magna cum laude*, in Health Sector Management & Policy, Finance, and Legal Studies from the University of



Miami. She will be an MBA candidate this fall at Harvard Business School. In addition to her involvement with Girls 4 Science, Riva is an Advisory Board member of La Rabida Children's Hospital and the NorthShore University HealthSystem.

## GIRLS 4 SCIENCE VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Girls 4 Science volunteers are critical to our mission. Volunteers serve on the Program Committee, which plans the curriculum for the Saturday STEM Academy, and are the pipeline to our connections to STEM professionals and field trip sites. Many volunteers also serve as faculty or guest speakers for the Saturday STEM Academy.

# Ericka Kroger, BS Material Science & Engineering, MBA

Engineer Ericka Kroger has volunteered for Girls 4 Science for nine years. In a YouTube video she explains why. Watch <u>here</u>.





#### Chimere S. Brown, PMP, MBA

**Chimere S. Brown** has been a Girls 4 Science volunteer since 2020 at the Malcolm X location, providing professional and technical support for content creation.

Ms. Brown is a Senior Sales Programs Manager at Salesforce. She received a bachelor's degree in chemistry and chemical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and an MBA in marketing and operations from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

She is certified as Project Management Professional (PMP) by the Project Management Institute.

Chimere's professional career spans nearly a decade in both the technology and pharmaceutical industries where she's held a variety of roles. Additionally, she has worked for a number of Fortune 500 companies such as Abbott Laboratories, Oracle, CareerBuilder, and now Salesforce.

# GIRLS 4 SCIENCE ON THE MOVE

#### Rotary Club of Glencoe Family Fun Run

The Rotary Club of Glencoe hosted a Family Fun Run on July 4, 2022, with proceeds benefitting Girls 4 Science. Over 200 families attended the event. To highlight the Summer Saturday STEM Academy on Marine Biology, families were invited to create their own jellyfish using a plastic bag, food coloring and a plastic water bottle, and were treated to Goldfish® crackers. There was also an opportunity to create a DIY lava lamp using water, baby oil, food coloring and liquid antacid.



G4S Board Member Marie-Esther Saint Victor (I) with G4S Alumna Lauren Lomax (r) at Glencoe's Independence Day celebration.



Lauren Lomax displays a DIY jellyfish in a water bottle.



G4S students Logan Lomax (I) and Gioia Puckett (r).

## University of Chicago STEAM Camp

Girls 4 Science students, Logan Lomax and Gioia Puckett, attended the University of Chicago STEAM Summer Camp for Middle School Girls June 20-24 at Norman B. Barr Camp in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. During the week the girls engaged in astronomy and night sky exploration, swimming and outdoor activities, arts, hands-on learning projects, mind and body balance, and talent night.

### 8th Annual Orange Day Peace Party

Girls 4 Science hosted a table at the Orange Day Peace Party in Hadiya Pendleton Park on June 4, 2022. This event was held in memory of Hadiya Pendleton, who was a victim of gun violence shortly after she performed at the second inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2013. Girls 4 Science gave away Goldfish® crackers to highlight the Summer 2022 Saturday STEM Academy on Marine Biology, provided math games, and displayed a sheep brain.







G4S student Aliya Brooks receives horseback riding instructions on June 4 at Hadiya Pendleton Park.

## Paul Cuffe STEM Academy

Girls 4 Science was the featured community STEM organization at the Paul Cuffe STEM Academy Annual Family STEM night on April 29, 2022. Located in Chicago's Auburn Gresham neighborhood, 50 Paul Cuffe families attended the event and learned about the Girls 4 Science Saturday STEM Academy. To promote the summer Marine Biology session, G4S Volunteer Mentor Myiah Williams dissected a shark and distributed a word search puzzle featuring shark anatomy terminology. Attendees were also introduced to basic engineering, electronics and circuitry concepts by working with a Snap Circuits<sup>®</sup> kit, which features more than 50 hands-on engineering activities.



G4S Volunteer Myiah Williams demonstrates dissection of a shark at Paul Cuffee STEM Academy.



Families assemble Snap Circuits<sup>®</sup> kit at Paul Cuffee STEM Academy.

#### White Oak Library District STEM Fest





Jackie Lomax with a local student creating edible plant and animal cells at Romeoville Branch Library.

More than 1,000 people enjoyed adventures in science at the April 9, 2022, STEM Fest, held at the Romeoville Branch of the White Oak Library District. Girls 4 Science Executive Director Jackie Lomax invited families to create edible plant or animal cells using Twizzlers, Skittles, cream cheese, rice crispy cereal, and gummy bears. The event introduced families from the Southwest suburbs to the G4S Saturday STEM Academy at University of St. Francis.

## Chicago Council on Science and Technology 15<u>th</u> Annual Science in the City Gala



Representatives from Girls 4 Science attended the Chicago Council on Science and



Left to right: G4S Executive Director Jackie Lomax, Volunteer Mentor Chimere Brown, G4S participants Logan Lomax, Kyla Wiggins, Karmen Brooks, Program Director Dezarae Brooks, Volunteer Mentor Tien Truong. Technology 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Science in the City Gala on March 28, 2022. The Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation sponsored a table for Girls 4 Science to attend the event and network with guests to promote future student STEM opportunities. The event featured science displays from DePaul University students and staff, which included soil sampling, honeybee preservation, and neuroscience muscle stimulation.

#### **AeroSTEM Youth Aviation STEM Expo**





Girls 4 Science Volunteer Mentors Tien Truong (I) and Kenyana Tysika (r)

Volunteer mentors Tien Truong and Kenyana Tysika, with Program Director Dezarae Brooks, represented Girls 4 Science at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual AeroStar Youth Aviation AeroSTEM Expo at the Illinois Institute of Technology on March 26, 2022. The event, for Chicago students ages 12 and up, introduced youth to the aviation and aerospace fields and offered interaction with flight simulators, minidrones, and robots. More than 300 students and family members from across the city attended. Girls 4 Science was a featured organization and hosted a table where Truong and Tysika encouraged students to take part in hands-on activities from the Fall 2021 G4S Saturday STEM Academy session on Robotics/Bioengineering, provided information about Girls 4 Science programs and gave away G4S promotional water bottles.

#### Girls 4 Science Sponsor: Ingredion Incorporated

Girls 4 Science Executive Director Jackie Lomax and Program Director Dezarae Brooks met with three representatives from Ingredion Incorporated, a long-time sponsor of G4S. They discussed ongoing efforts to inspire girls in STEM with job shadowing and realworld STEM activities. Luz del Carmen Najera Colunga and Danielle Zuhlke-Smith represent Ingredion on the G4S Board of Directors. Robin Brown is a former Board member.



Left to right: Luz del Carmen Najera Colunga, Danielle Zuhlke-Smith, Jackie Lomax, Robin L. Brown, Dezarae Brooks.

#### **Girls 4 Science on WTTW**

On March 12, Girls 4 Science was featured on *Chicago Tonight: Latino Voices.* The Saturday STEM Academy Spring session on the Science of Cars was highlighted. Watch at: <u>WTTW Chicago Tonight:</u> <u>Latino Voices</u>

# **GIRLS 4 SCIENCE ALUMNAE**

#### Girls 4 Science Alumnae Reunion

On June 11, 2022, Girls 4 Science hosted a reunion for alumnae at Beggar's Pizza in Alsip, IL. The young ladies enjoyed an afternoon with USF Program Coordinator Monique Puckett, G4S Board member Onome Alabi, and Executive Director Jackie Lomax. The



group reflected on their post-high school achievements and spoke about the importance of staying connected to Girls 4 Science as they pursue their goals. "Girls 4 Science is a family legacy for me and having a circle of support means a lot to me," said 2016 graduate Sairyia Jemison. The alumnae received a commemorative pin with the Girls 4 Science logo and pledged to continue to serve as Girls 4 Science Ambassadors.



Front row (I to r): Brooklyn Klarke Denman, Sairyia Jemison, Lauren Lomax, G4S Board Member Onome Alabi Back row (I to r): Leona Barnes, Demi Alabi, Sydney Shaffer, Aerial Shaffer, USF Program Coordinator Monique Puckett, G4S Executive Director Jackie Lomax.



#### Afternoon at Black Ensemble Theater



Girls for Science alumnae Kenyana Tyiska (I) and Lauren Lomax (r) enjoy an afternoon at Black Ensemble Theater to see the renowned musical "It's Just Like Coming to Church" on Sunday March 24, 2022. The ladies were celebrating Kenyana's acceptance into medical school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Lauren and Kenyana have stayed in touch since their days with G4S and both serve as

Volunteer Mentors. Kenyana served on the planning committee for the Summer 2022 Saturday STEM Academy on Marine Biology and Lauren participated in the Winter 2022 session on Mental Health in a discussion of "How to Rehabilitate the Mind" with students from Midwestern University Occupational Therapy Club.

#### CALLING ALL G4S ALUMNI

# 

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#### Alumni Association

Welcome ... Follow us on Instagram and Join our Facebook Group ... Submit

Welcome to the Girls 4 Science Alumni Association! This alumni community is a place of continued encouragement, support, and education for the Girls 4 Science alumni. We're excited to reconnect with you and learn about what you're doing now.



The goal of the Girls 4 Science Alumni Association is to engage alumni with current Girls 4 Science students and programs. We provide professional development resources such as:

- Video Tutorials
- Interview Help
- STEM News
- Networking Opportunities
- Self-Assessment Tools
- Volunteer Opportunities

Resources will be available to alumni on the G4S website, quarterly newsletter, alumni Facebook group,

and the alumni Instagram.

Subscribe to our newsletter, join our alumni Facebook group, and follow us on Instagram to stay up-to-date with Girls 4 Science.

The <u>G4S Alumni Association page</u> provides professional development resources -- including video tutorials on interview help, professional networking, resume writing, and self-assessment tools -- and volunteer opportunities with Girls 4 Science. G4S Alumni are encouraged to stay connected by joining the <u>Girls 4 Science Alumni Group on Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>, and subscribing to the <u>G4S Alumni Newsletter</u>, which will feature alumni spotlights, news and achievements related to women in STEM, and updates from current Girls 4 Science programs. The newsletter will also include information about local networking opportunities and provide tips to help G4S alum succeed in college, careers, and beyond.

\*\*Girls 4 Science is seeking G4S alumni to help with the web page and newsletter. If you are interested contact Jackie Lomax at <u>jlomax@girls4science.org</u>.

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Support Girls 4 Science by starting your shopping at <u>smile.amazon.com</u>



Your generous donations help us expand our programs and expose more girls to STEM and the career opportunities available.

#### Other Ways to Support G4S

- Sponsor a Saturday STEM Academy session
- Host a Field Trip
- Donate lab supplies
- Provide refreshments for a Saturday STEM Academy
- Sponsor G4S T-shirts with your company logo
- Become a volunteer





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