



Are YOU a natural leader?
Are YOU looking for a way to help the next generation of leaders?
Are YOU passionate about working with girls?
Are YOU ready to be a Mentor?

Great! We're looking for YOU!

Who are we? "Art to STEM," a collaboration between Alignment Nashville and the PENCIL Foundation.

Who are we looking for? We are looking for YOU! Because you know how powerful it is for girls to see themselves in successful positions. Because, having been a girl yourself, you know what girls are going through as they try to navigate middle school and high school. Because you want to insure the best possible future for girls. And because it's in your nature to mentor.

What is this about? In a word: GIRLS! Specifically, it's about introducing middle school girls to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) career paths by tapping into their natural attraction to art.

The background: Alignment Nashville, in collaboration with the PENCIL Foundation, received a 3-year 1.35 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation to work with girls (grades 7-9) in MNPS to promote their interests, skills, and abilities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) so that more of them choose to pursue STEM education in high school (through career academies) and post-secondary education. The project, Art to STEM, seeks to build upon the current interest areas of middle school girls, particularly creative interests such as art. Last year, only about 3% of 9th grade girls expressed interest in enrolling in a STEM-related career as their first choice. The most common interest was in arts and entertainment. We believe that all students, but especially girls and minority students, simply are not aware of the many career opportunities in STEM fields and how relevant they are to their own talents as well as real-world issues.

The details: Small teams of teachers and mentors will provide hands-on, problem-based, and engaging activities for girls after school twice per month. The activities are tailored to girls and how they learn. The teams also will partner to provide a one-week residential summer camp in 2010 and 2011.

In early fall of 2009, our partnering community agencies (Girl Scouts and Adventure Science Center) will recruit small groups (10-25) of 7th and 8th grade girls. The community agencies will be responsible for recruiting the girls, providing at least two "mentors" to work with each group, engaging the girls' families, and planning the logistics of meetings, transportation, site visits, etc.

The teachers will partner with STEM experts from the business community and from local universities to develop the STEM content presented in the after-school sessions as well as the summer camp. The materials will be adopted from readily available evidence-based materials or designed to accommodate local issues and business.

What do you have to do? You have to be available and accessible to the girls in your group. You have to be committed and willing to share your time and experience. Remember, Art to STEM is a three year project, and your consistent, supportive presence is an important key to our success.

How can you get more information? Contact Jeri Hasselbring at jhasselbring@adventuresci.com or Carol Nixon at carol.nixon@nashville.gov or 880-1894.



Art to STEM

Introducing girls to Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) career paths
by tapping into their natural attraction to art