

For immediate release
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Women In Bio and Young Women In Bio (YWIB) Announce YWIB's Third Annual Spring Into STEM™ Festival

Free events across the U.S. and in Canada to ignite girls' curiosity in STEM



Sea Island, GA – (March 24, 2019) – Young Women In Bio (YWIB) is proud to announce the launch of its third annual Spring Into STEM™ Festival, a series of STEM-focused events in the U.S. and in Canada for young girls to explore educational and career opportunities open to them in STEM. From the first day of spring in March through May 17th, participating chapters of YWIB invite middle school and high school girls to a wide range of events and activities, including tours of companies, panel discussions and participation at major STEM Festivals. Companies, universities, and organizations participating in this year's Spring Into STEM™ Festival include the [Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Center at McGill University](#), [Emergent Biosolutions](#), [Southern Connecticut State University](#), [BioCT](#), [Genentech](#), North Carolina Central University's [Biomufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise](#), [GWIS Research Triangle](#), and [Abbott Molecular](#).

“According to a report by the committee on STEM education of the national science & technology council, STEM employment is growing faster than other occupations and having strong STEM knowledge and skills is essential for jobs of the future,” said Lily Wound, National Chair of YWIB. Young Women In Bio provides opportunities for young girls to interact and engage in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

“Our Spring into STEM™ Festival is a way for us to showcase what we do all school year long, which is to collaborate with universities, companies, government entities, hospitals and other organizations to develop engaging and meaningful events and programs for young girls from elementary school through high school to explore a wide range of educational and professional opportunities they have in STEM,” Wound said.

Below is a list of featured events included in the 2019 Spring Into STEM™ Festival. For more information on how girls in each region can participate, visit: <https://www.womeninbio.org/YWIBHighlights>.

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March 17, 2019: YWIB-Atlanta: “Participation in Atlanta Jewish Academy (AJA Upper School) Young Women in STEM Career Fair”

The Young Women in STEM Career Fair is designed to expose female high school students and 8th graders to a wide variety of educational and career options in STEM, connect the girls with women in STEM fields, and help the girls connect with their peers that have interests in STEM. This program is supported by a grant from the Jewish Women's Fund of Atlanta. The event will include a keynote address, several booths to introduce and highlight women who have careers in different STEM fields, and break-out sessions for the students to have a hands-on STEM experience or learn more about a specific topic. The booths will be set up like a career fair and the breakout sessions will be schedule similar to a conference. The students can pick and choose what booths to visit or session to attend. The Atlanta YWIB chapter will have a booth at the STEM Fair to introduce ourselves to the students and highlight our work in the community. Additionally, YWIB will facilitate a breakout session titled “From Cups to Cleaner”. This session will focus on green chemistry. Students will learn about the 12 principles of green chemistry, learn about renewable resources such as the biodegradable polymer polylactic acid, and use a simple base hydrolysis to convert a plastic cup into a household cleaning product.

March 23, 2019: YWIB-Atlanta: “Participation in Atlanta Science Festival Exploration Expo”

The Atlanta Science Festival Exploration Expo is the culminating event of the two-week Atlanta Science Festival. The event will draw thousands of people for a fun filled day of 100 interactive activities and performances that celebrate the excitement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Atlanta. This free event is open to all, but the primary target audience will be families with children aged 8-13, with a special emphasis on those with limited access to science education resources.

The YWIB-Atlanta Chapter is excited to return to the Exploration Expo for another year! The chapter will host a booth in Piedmont Park that will showcase demonstrations corresponding to famous women in science. The demonstrations will include flower dissection for Maria Silbylla Merian, a cell workshop for Elizabeth Blackburn, and strawberry DNA extraction for Rosalind Franklin.

March 26, 2019: YWIB-Greater Montreal: “Planting the Seeds of Science”

YWIB Greater Montreal and the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre at McGill University will be hosting the Spring to STEM workshop called: “Planting the Seeds of Science”. Girls from grade 9th will tour around the labs of the cancer center while they explore and hear from graduate students about their experience working in a lab and doing science. Different hands-on experiments and demonstrations will be performed to encourage the discussion around the fields of study in STEM.

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March 28, 2019: YWIB-Capital Region: “Tour of Emergent BioSolutions”

The Capital Region YWIB Chapter in partnership with Emergent BioSolutions is happy to announce their annual Spring into STEM event with an emphasis on biotechnology. This event will take place at Emergent BioSolutions where high school students will have an opportunity to tour labs and engage in hands-on activities. During the career panel discussion, participants will learn more about what a career in the life sciences entails, especially as it relates to the development of vaccines and other products for emerging infectious diseases. The program will close out with another opportunity to interact with STEM professionals during the networking lunch.

April 4, 2019: WIB-Metro NY: "2nd Annual: An Afternoon at LaunchLabs"

An Afternoon at LaunchLabs will provide students with an opportunity to engage with member companies of the premier life sciences incubator in NYC, LaunchLabs, at the Alexandria Center for Life Sciences. Students will hear from the LaunchLabs’ entrepreneurs, experience the environment of a collaborative working environment, and tour the state-of-the-art wet lab. Hearing from some of the LaunchLabs members firsthand, many of whom are female, will introduce a career path that connects academic scientific research to commercialized life science technologies through entrepreneurship.

The Afternoon will be structured with time for students to meet and greet with the member companies, then will breakout into smaller groups to learn more about the entrepreneurs’ backgrounds and their companies and will rotate to different tables to meet each company. The students will then tour the wet lab and enjoy a science-themed snack and soft drink reception.

April 6, 2019: WIB-Metro NY: “Spring Into STEM in CT at Southern Connecticut State University”

The Metro-NY YWIB chapter will host its inaugural STEM fair in Connecticut with Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) for middle and high school girls where they will participate in a variety of interactive exhibits, hand-on learning and presentations from Connecticut’s leaders in technology, pharma, biotech, university, government and more! Attendees will get a sense of what types of STEM careers await them!

April 12, 2018: YWIB-Atlanta: “Participation in GEMS STEM Day at Agnes Scott College”

The Generating Excellence in Math and Science (GEMS) learning community at Agnes Scott College will host their annual STEM-Day April 12th. This annual event brings approximately 30 students (girls) from Alcovy High School to campus in order to highlight STEM departments at Agnes Scott College. Alcovy High has limited math and science resources and this is likely the students’ first exposure to higher education STEM possibilities. Each department (math, biology, chemistry, and physics/astrophysics) will be represented by Agnes Scott College student, faculty and staff volunteers. Each department will run a

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related activity to showcase their field to the visiting students. The purpose of this event is to encourage these high school students to pursue studies in STEM fields and promote higher education after high school.

For the second year in a row, YWIB Atlanta will host a lab session at STEM Day. Students will participate in the “Cups to Cleaner” lab where they will learn about the 12 principles of green chemistry, learn about renewable resources such as the biodegradable polymer polylactic acid, and use a simple base hydrolysis to convert a plastic cup into a household cleaning product. Several Agnes Scott College STEM students will collaborate with YWIB and help facilitate the session. This opportunity will not only promote STEM to high school students but introduces the undergraduate students of Agnes Scott College to networking opportunities and possible mentors from the local chapter of a national organization, YWIB.

April 18, 2019: YWIB-San Francisco: “How to Get Into the Brain with YWIB”

On April 18, 2019, Genentech will host an event with YWIB-SF, where middle and high school girls from around the SF-Bay Area can learn about how scientists engineered antibodies to be able to enter the blood-brain-barrier. They will learn about the different considerations and clever strategies behind this research, put into perspective through hands-on activities. The event will include a tour of the purification pilot plant and Genentech campus followed by a panel discussion on paths in science featuring professional women at all levels in their careers.

April 27, 2019: YWIB-RTP: “Spring Into Stem 2019”

WIB-RTP Young Women In Bio, in coordination with Graduate Women in Science RTP, is excited to be hosting its annual Spring Into STEM event on April 27 for middle school girls at North Carolina Central University's Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise. RTP-YWIB held the first ever Spring Into STEM event in 2016, which lead the way for YWIB to create a national festival around Spring Into STEM. Throughout the morning, participants will have the experience to extract their own DNA, learn about design and engineering principles during a hands-on biomedical engineering activity, be introduce to colloid science while making their own slime, and be amazed by the diversity present throughout entomology. Girls will be able to take home their own lab notebook.

April 30, 2019: YWIB-Philadelphia: “YWIB-Philadelphia at Drexel University”

WIB-Philadelphia Metro’s Young Women In Bio and Drexel University invite middle and high school girls to visit Drexel University's Integrated Sciences Building for a tour and talks on STEM. The girls will have an opportunity to meet and hear from faculty and current students in the Biology department while engaging in small group discussions. The discussions will cover a variety of topics including the current roles of the women, their roles in STEM and how they got to where they are today.

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May 2019 [Date TBD]: YWIB-Seattle: “YWIB Spring into STEM Tour of Adaptive Biotechnologies”

YWIB-Seattle is partnering with Adaptive Biotechnologies to explore how our adaptive immune systems have the wisdom to diagnose and treat cancer and other diseases, and how next-generation DNA sequencing can uncover this information to change how clinicians may treat disease. Guided by Adaptive's computational biology scientists, students will participate in reviewing DNA sequences to monitor disease progression and answer novel research questions and have the opportunity to tour their state of the art facility and labs.

May 2019 [Date TBD]: YWIB-Greater Boston: “A Day in the Life of a Scientist at Merck”

YWIB-Greater Boston, in partnership with Merck, will be hosting an event for school girls to learn more about STEM careers in biotech/pharmaceutical industries. The students will hear inspiring talks from scientists regarding their career journey and working as a scientist to find a cure for debilitating diseases. They will tour the labs and see scientists in action. The girls will also have a chance to participate in simple experiments which they really enjoy. Finally, pizza will be served and the students will participate in group discussions with scientists to learn more about careers in biotech/pharmaceutical industries.

May 15, 2019: YWIB-Chicago: “YWIB Spring Into Stem Tour of Abbott Molecular Diagnostics”

YWIB-Chicago, in partnership with Abbott, is hosting a tour of the Abbott Molecular Diagnostic facility in Des Plaines, IL. Middle school girls will learn about the history of Abbott and the types of diagnostics developed at the facility. The girls will tour the facility and have an opportunity to view lab space and manufacturing, while also having time to meet scientists and management.

ABOUT WOMEN IN BIO (WIB)

Founded in 2001 to support women employed in the field of life sciences from the classroom to the boardroom, Women In Bio (WIB) is a multifaceted organization with 13 chapters in North America. It offers an array of professional educational programs, peer to peer learning, mentoring and networking opportunities, and is the only organization for women that integrates all career levels and life sciences fields. 22,00 strong, WIB is funded by sponsors and partners dedicated to supporting women of all ages in their lifelong journey; in the life sciences and beyond. Please visit www.womeninbio.org.

ABOUT YOUNG WOMEN IN BIO (YWIB)

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Young Women In Bio (YWIB) empowers today's girls to become tomorrow's leaders, helping them affect positive change through science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). We exist to ignite the curiosity and fuel the passion in girls, supporting them as they shape and change the world. We aspire to be the "go to" organization for girls looking to shape and change the world through STEM, providing them with the tools and resources they need to build successful careers. To learn more, visit: <http://www.womeninbio.org/ywib>

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