

**Dear Parents,**

If you have a daughter who is in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, please encourage her to apply for the BE WiSE program. Any girl, so long as she is genuinely interested in science and engineering experiences, has all the qualifications she needs to apply.

The goal of the BE WiSE program is to engage girls in science and engineering activities through real-world situations. Your girls will interact with women who are currently working in the science and engineering fields. Your daughters will work alongside professionals in the industry, while attending workshops held at universities, and other science affiliated institutions.

The BE WiSE program will broaden the girls' knowledge of what opportunities are available in the science and engineering fields and hopefully increase the number of girls in San Diego County who might consider science or engineering as a career option. In the end, there is no requirement that they actually become scientists or engineers. Girls who apply need to be willing to participate in science-related workshops on weekends with other girls from all over San Diego County.

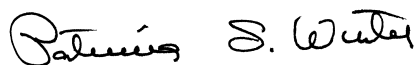
Each girl is admitted independently, based on her own interest in the program. We select girls from as many different middle schools as possible, and will not select more than two girls from any one middle school to attend any one sleepover event. The goal is to make new friends and have amazing science experiences. If chosen for the program, the girls will be invited to a sleepover, where they will meet others girls their age and receive information about how to sign up for workshops, usually held on Saturdays throughout the year. These workshops are offered by grade level. After the sleepover the girls will receive emails that explain what workshops are available, when and where they will be held, and instructions on how to sign up for them. In the summer there are opportunities for the girls to take longer workshops. Once the girls are members of BE WiSE, their membership is valid until they graduate from high school.

We are aware that many 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls may be intimidated by having to write an essay, which will be used in the evaluation process. Please reassure your daughters that they do not need to be science superstars or great writers to be chosen for the BE WiSE program. If they are interested in participating in ongoing science-related activities, then please encourage them to apply.

We are looking for a very diverse population of girls to expand their knowledge and career options in science and engineering. All girls who are in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are encouraged to apply. When necessary, we are willing to speak with (and provide appropriate translation for) parents who might be concerned about their children participating in sleepovers that take place outside of the local school environment.

Thank you for encouraging your daughters to apply for this amazing opportunity, which will engage them in current science and engineering technology. Through the BE WiSE workshops your daughters will become science and high-tech savvy and possibly develop a career interest in science and engineering.

Sincerely,



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