Women in Natural Sciences (WINS) is celebrating its 35th!!

By far, PEEC (Poncos Environmental Education Center) and DAREC (Delaware Aquatic Resource Education Center) are my favorite WINS trips. I like DAREC just a bit more, though. Coupled with the chores, free time, really long walks, and fighting to get a shower before lights-out, WINS really feels like a family. PEEC was really just a beginning to get to know each other and breaking down our barriers, but DAREC was our time to really bond.

I’m so tired, so are the other girls, but if a little more sleep meant we’d miss our activities, I think we’d still be in the exact same spot. My heart feels full and I’m really satisfied with how this trip went. We also learned a lot. Now I know when I hear the sound of a loose banjo string, I’ll keep my eyes peeled for a green tree frog. The rocks I got here are also really beautiful. I think I’m going to start a collection.

I’ll miss the girls when we leave here. If I had the chance to go back to PEEC or do DAREC ever again, I’d do them in a heart-beat. I really love WINS.

Laysha Torres-Fernandez, WINS I

Laysha Torres-Fernandez studying a soil core as part of the WINS trip to DAREC to study the salt marsh.
Being the WINS I Assistant

Being the WINS I assistant was a goal of mine six months after joining WINS. I always admired the work they did and how meaningful it was. So when I was asked to do the job there was no doubt in my mind at all. Since starting in July 2017 the job has been everything I wanted it to be and more. I have connected with the girls in so many ways.

Throughout this experience I have learned so much, not only from the work I do, but from the girls themselves. I have learned how to communicate through teaching and helping, through being a mentor, not only to one, but twenty-five girls all so impressive from my actions. It helped me grow as a young woman, steps away from the real world.

I remember the first time that I realized that I was a role model to the girls. It was within the first month of the job on a trip to the coal mine. On the ride they asked me what I did for a living. I told them that I was a WINS I assistant. They became so excited and asked me so many questions about the job. It struck me how interested they were, how nervous they were and that they turned to me to ease their nerves. That realization then encouraged me to do better and know more to pass it down to the young ladies who may one day be me, and who I know for sure I want to be the best they can be.

Overall being the WINS assistant has been a great experience where I have been able to teach and learn. An experience that I take pride in. Pride that I was able to do my first year over, build bonds with successors on the rise, and grow as person through my learning of these young women, guiding and seeing them through their own challenges. I would do it all over again and definitely with the same young ladies. I am extremely thankful that I was selected to be the WINS assistant and will carry this experience with me through the rest of my endeavors.

Cash’e Chapman, WINS II Senior

Benefits of being a WINS

The WINS program has been an incredibly beneficial addition to my life. I have not only gotten opportunities that I could never imagine, but I have also been able to apply subjects taught at our WINS classes in my everyday school classes. In fact, my science teacher has even heard of our program and believes it’s a great program to be part of! Being able to apply our WINS classes to my everyday life impresses not only my teachers but myself as well. I have learned more at WINS than I have in school and I’m extremely grateful to have it in my life.

Travelling with and being around the WINS girls so much makes me feel as if I’m part of a family. Sometimes, I feel that I can trust my WINS family more than my own family. This program has helped me find people that I would love to keep along with me on my journey into succeeding in life. I have the ability to apply WINS into anything and it automatically makes the environment feel positive.

Being part of this program has opened my eyes to many things such as our planet, what lives on it, and how to take care of it. It has also helped me be aware of my future career as well as how to care for myself and be a good person.

The WINS program is helping to develop me into a successful young woman, I hope to join WINS II and to become part of a stronger family who helps each other succeed and mature. I hope for every girl that joins the program gets the opportunity to grow beautifully as well.

Hannah Sor, WINS I

WINS receives Carver Award

The WINS program received the first ever George Washington Carver Science Fair “STEM Program Award” this past March during the fair’s Secondary Award Ceremony hosted at the Academy. We would like to thank Tom Anderson and the committee for the recognition!

Pictured at right at the award ceremony are Kimberly Godfrey, WINS Coordinator, Tom Anderson, CEO & Founder of the GWC Science Fair, Betsy Payne, WINS Manager, and Nancy Peter, Fair committee member and past WINS Manager.