



1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



Dates to Remember...

ALL WINS

WINS Night in the Museum - Friday - Saturday, September 14th-15th 7:00pm to 7:00am

Members' Night - Friday, October 12th 5:00-9:00pm

WINS I

First Day Back!

Wednesday, September 5th 4:00 to 5:30pm

Field Trip! - Hawk Mountain

Saturday, October 13th 8:00am to 4:00pm

Field Trip! - Bronx Zoo

Saturday, November 10th 8:00am to 7:00pm

Field Trip! - American Museum of Natural History

Saturday, Dec. 1st 8:00am to 7:00pm

WINS II

Workshop: Dollars & Sense, Understanding Financial Aid
Thursdays, Sept. 20th 5:30 to 7:30pm
Parents Invited!!!

Botany Behind-the-Scenes
Thursday, Oct. 18th 4:30 to 6:00pm

College Tour - New England
October 31st to November 3rd
Wednesday 4:30pm to Saturday 6:00pm

Workshop: Intern Presentations
Thursday, Nov. 15th 4:30 to 6:00pm

Workshop: Eat, Drink, Play, Medicate - the Many Uses of Plants
Saturday, Nov. 17th 9:30am to 3:00pm

WINS Newsletter

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Send your comments or questions to:
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All activities are **rain or shine!**

Please let Ms. Betsy know if you cannot make it to an activity beforehand.



Women In Natural Sciences (WINS) is an innovative and successful science enrichment program conducted by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia. Since its founding in 1982, WINS has been providing female public school students with hands-on science classes, scientific literacy and skill-building activities, and opportunities for personal growth in a uniquely nurturing setting.

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SEPTEMBER 2018

DESLA 2018: A Summer to Remember

As John McPhee, a highly reputable American naturalist, once wrote, "going to have an industrial society you must have places that will look terrible. Other places you set aside—to say, 'This is the way it was.'"

One may spend years attempting to decipher his intent, whereas others may not think twice about how something so efficient can be a waste of space. After spending seven days in the pine barrens, I have come upon an interpretation of my own.

Growing up in the urban city streets of Philadelphia, encountering anything besides the occasional un-mowed lawn or spritely squirrel in this urbanized jungle is nothing compared to the vast wilderness John McPhee writes about in his book, *Assembling California*. Commercial companies are growing and limiting the number of "green spaces." Yet, as a WINS girl, I enjoy exploring the expanses of my back yard and hiking with my WINS peers through

the natural world the Poconos offers. As a passionate environmentalist, I cherish the ability to participate in the variety of interactive lessons and trips the WINS program provides its girls, for I love learning and engaging with the natural world. Therefore, when I was given the opportunity to participate in the Drexel Educational Science Leadership Academy (DESLA) program, located in the Barnegat Bay area, my response was far from reluctance.

As my family drove down the dusty pathway of Navajo Drive, it was as if we were swallowed by a tunnel of

land- the landscape stretched past the horizon filled with diverse species, engulfing us in its natural order. As we stepped out of the car, we were greeted by the DESLA staff, welcoming us with hospitable gestures and giving me an overview of my week. As I unpacked my belongings, I pondered about the practicality of time and the vast landscape, hoping I would have a taste of at least a portion of the area before the week comes to an end. After all, the Pine Barrens does contain at least five million different insects and at least 180 other species.

After a series of icebreakers and learning the names of the twelve peers I would spend my week with, an overview of the Pine Barrens was given. Mr. Ron Smith, a "Pine Barrens protector," as he often refers to himself, shared stories of his childhood in the Pine Barrens, ranging from learning about herbs and other specimens through the "Mushroom Lady," a former neighbor of his, too often being frightened by stories of the Jersey Devil. Through his lessons, I became familiar with the variety of flora (nonetheless the types of berries), aquatic and terrestrial species and even environmental issues, laws and regulations that communities often dispute over to reach a compromise. Throughout the week, his teachings were definitely useful out in the field.

In the middle of the week, we were put in small groups and were assigned to ANSP scientists to work in the fields with them. Whether it was cutting mud brownies in the salt marshes to determine whether or not the landform is rising in elevation at a constant rate, or making our way through unpaved forestry to examine foliage, my peers and I all knew that we were aiding the scientists in their studies and contributing to their data records.



Lynn Larabi holding a puffer fish while attending DESLA in Barnegat Bay in New Jersey

swallowed by a tunnel of

(cont. pg. 2)

DESLA (continued from page 1)

The week that I spent in the Pine Barrens truly sped by. Along with the experiences and knowledge that I have gained, I have made a variety of companions and friends, with whom we have spent countless hours playing ping-pong, debating over common terminology and even fangirling over throwbacks from the '2000s and our favorite composers. DESLA has allowed us all to classify the difference between a roundabout and a rotary (in which we still debate over today on the group chat that we all share) and spend mindless hours in the lab examining algae specimens and conducting a blind contour of them. We have shared all our failures and successes, including myself being stung by two wasps, and cheering each other on when canoes tip over and someone slips in the mud.

Through my DESLA experience, I can relate to McPhee's quote; I am truly thankful for reservations and other preserved lands, such as the Pine Barrens, that provide a taste of nature at its best - nature without any form of artificial habitats or caged wildlife. The Pine Barrens brought my attention to the pretty-but-not-so-pretty city of "Brotherly Love." Meaning, yes, Philadelphia's urban landscape contains the history of our patriotic nation with exceptional sights such as the Liberty Bell. Yet, the Pine Barrens

and other regions contains our natural history- way before colonization and life itself- the ability to walk through an acre of untouched land is mesmerizing; you can say that I am walking on land that George Washington has once treaded, and the ability for future generations to understand this feeling leaves my conscious at ease, thanking such preserved lands that remain true to themselves.

Lynn Larabi, WINS II



Lynn Larabi measuring wetland sedimentation deposition rates.

My PEEC Experience

As I am sitting in these peaceful woods, I feel quite nostalgic. I feel as if I have traveled back into my childhood because I honestly haven't had a childhood much. I have always been a hardcore introvert so to have this happy feeling is relieving.

To add on from PEEC - sitting in these woods I feel like a child again... I feel like the typical kid who had always had friends, knows how to have fun, and be proud of whom she has become. This experience has boosted up my self-esteem as well as relieving my stress, and it has made me stronger. Not to mention, I have made great friends who stick out for me.

Although I still do have a difficulty with opening up to people I even know, I believe that time will finish that favor for me. I AM A PROUD WINS GIRL who is no longer afraid of who I am or what I'll become to be. Due to WINS no matter what is thrown at me, I'll use it to my advantage and if it is a parable

perhaps I'll carve my own lesson into it. No matter how uncertain the future may be, I'll be okay. I'll shake & fall but I won't quit!

Thuy Le, WINS I



Thuy Le, in Two Ponds trail, writing down her thoughts on her PEEC experience as part of the last night's journaling activity.

WINS gets Presidential Award!

We are excited to announce that the Academy's WINS Program received *The Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering (STEM) Mentoring* this June. It is the highest national mentoring award bestowed by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation. Through the award, WINS received \$10,000 to support the program, which is free to all participants and operates primarily on grant support and contributions by Academy supporters.

This award recognizes the "outstanding efforts of our mentors in encouraging the next generation of innovators and developing a science and engineering workforce that reflects the diverse talent of America". We are one of fourteen organizations to receive this coveted award.



Accepting the Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring in Washington DC are from left: Betsy Payne, WINS Manager; Latasha Harding; Academy Board Member and WINS Alumna; Mazina Adams, WINS Alumna 2018 and Dr. Jacque Genovesi, Academy's Vice President of Education.

We share this award with all the Academy staff and scientists and all our collaborators who have mentored our WINS students over the last 35 years. Thank you all!

Betsy Payne, WINS Manager



JULY

- 2nd - Aya Mouakkil
- 7th - Aniyah Lundy
- 13th - Arianna Alfaro
- 24th - Catherine Smith
- 6th - Kassiana Perez-Burkes
- 11th - Khadijah McGriff
- 24th - Leilani Cintrón
- 24th - Aalexiyah Rodriguez

SEPTEMBER

- 4th - Kiana Hebrsham
- 11th - Donnetta Jordan
- 18th - Maiya Mangum
- 25th - Crismairy Familia
- 6th - Sanaa Fleet
- 15th - Breana Freeman
- 19th - Le'Naya White
- 1st - Sarah Sabu
- 8th - Lanyah Wilder
- 24th - Xiaoya Kang
- 3rd - Niaheliz Sanchez
- 14th - Angie Albarouki
- 26th - Ruby Lee

NOVEMBER

- 9th - Elickxa Quiles
- 11th - Mariami Shinjiashvili
- 19th - Alany Mendez
- 14th Autumn Coleman
- 21st - Cynthia To
- 23rd - Sophia Senh
- 30th - Weiwei Lu
- 10th - Habibata Sylla
- 17th - Joanne Li
- 23rd - Hannah Sor

AUGUST
OCTOBER