Dates to Remember...

**ALL WINS**

**Big Sister / Little Sister activity** - Tuesday, August 13  2:30pm to 4:30pm

**WINS I**

**Field Trip! - Pioneer Tunnel**
Wednesday, July 17  7:30am to 5:30pm

**PEEC**
Monday, August 5 at 8:00am to Friday, August 9 at 12:00pm

**First Day Back!**
Wednesday, September 11th 4:00 to 5:30pm

**WINS II**

**Field Trip! - Watershed Studies at Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed**
Thursday, July 18th 9:00am to 3:30pm

**Field Trip! - WINS USDA-ERRC Intern Presentations and Wyck Garden**
Thursday, August 22nd 9:00am to 3:30pm

**First Day Back!**
Thursday, September 19th  4:30 to 6:00pm

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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Where do I even begin? Our Delaware Trip to Cape Henlopen State Park was the best experience I’ve had at WINS.

I had never been on a boat that big before, so when we got on the ferry, I was a bit nervous, but Ms. Kim made me feel safe and I was no longer scared. While on the boat, my friends and I joked around and laughed we also took a lot of pictures. The captain told us that we might be able to see dolphins; we didn’t see any, but the view of the water was still amazing.

When we got to Cape Henlopen words could not describe how amazed I felt. There were trees for miles, and you could smell the ocean. Although I’ve never been to the beach, I knew what the smell was because you could smell the abundance of salt.

It was a 30-minute bus ride to our cabins and when we got there, I had so many questions as to why the cabins looked like barracks*, but I kept it to myself. Our first activity was eating and then we went on a hike to the beach. I was so excited to go. The beach was beautiful but windy and the water was freezing cold. The sand was covered in many broken shells, but a few people were fortunate enough to find some whole shells. We picked up anything interesting that we could find for the show and tell activity later. I picked up a few multicolored shells for show and tell so that I can remember my experience at the beach.

The next day we went on the longest hike ever. I believe it was about 4 hours long and it was so hot outside. Surprisingly, I actually enjoyed the hike because I saw a snake up close and small frogs and lizards.

We had 2 hours of free time after which was well needed because we all were exhausted. I cooked dinner with my friend Aya that night and the food was so good. Later that night we went on a night hike to the beach and the view was just so amazing. I don’t think there was a time on this trip that my shoes were not filled with sand.

We had a shirt decorating activity that was absolutely amazeballs. The room was filled with laughter and warm smiles. People were showing off their cool shirts and asking others to sign them. The next day it was time to leave and the bus ride back was long, but I slept the whole time.

When we got back to the academy everyone gave their hugs and went home. My mom said I ran my mouth the whole car ride and that was because I had the best trip ever thanks to WINS. I am happy that I was given the opportunity to experience the Delaware trip.

*WINS I usually goes to Mallard Lodge in Smyrna, DE on the spring break trip to study the wetlands, but due to remodeling we had to find a replacement site. We chose the Cape Henlopen State Park which at one time was a military base; their camps are converted military barracks.

Autumn Coleman (middle) with WINS student Zabana Salcedo and Cape Henlopen Nature Center Educator “Seining the Bay” during our spring break trip.
I survived WINS

End of the 2018-2019 year and it is bittersweet to say that I am a WINS Alumna! Four years of learning, growing, mentoring, and working.

My first class at WINS I did not know what I was getting myself into. I touched my first Madagascar hissing cockroach, and now I’m not afraid to touch anything. I have become more curious and caring about nature. WINS have given me so many opportunities that I am overly grateful for. They gave me my first job at 14, an internship at the USDA, an all expenses trip to Japan, various college tours, and I also got to be the WINS I assistant and mentor to the incoming freshman.

Due to me becoming the WINS assistant I had the chance to do WINS I all over again. It was really fun and exciting. I have survived hikes, walking in any kind of weather, canoeing, kayaking, overnight trips, senior cook-out, and many, many other things. I will forever and always be a WINS Girl and I survived WINS!

Due to my experience working as a WINS assistant, I had the opportunity to work with my friends as a mentor to the incoming class. My favorite experience was going to Japan. I went to Tokyo to represent WINS, alongside Jaelynn Robinson and Ms. Betty in the World Science Centre Summit. If someone would’ve told me when I was a freshman that I was going to Japan, I wouldn’t have believed them. It was such a blessing that everything was free for me. My first time on a plane, and it was outside of the country. It was so fun, and I will never forget that part of it.

WINS has given me that wonderful opportunity and I absolutely appreciate it. If I wasn’t a WINS girl, then I wouldn’t know what I would be. I have survived hikes, walking in any kind of weather, canoeing, kayaking, overnight trips, senior cook-out, and many, many other things. I will forever and always be a WINS Girl and I survived WINS!

Khadijah McGriff, WINS Alumna

WINS 2019 Alumna

Where did the time go! This past May, our 14 seniors “survived” WINS and are on their way to be college graduates. This group of seniors was very active and took advantage of all the program had to offer. Twelve of ladies either were Explainers and/or Interns in the Academy and the USDA, all 14 were able to participate in WOW, 6 participated in MAYA and two got to travel to Japan!

Eleven of the seniors will be staying in Pennsylvania for their colleges, while three will be going out of state. Nine of the ladies will be in STEM fields. This year’s WINS Drexel Scholarship went to Sawitri Mawardy who will be studying Health Sciences - congratulations Sawitri!!! Close by too are Khadijah McGriff and Yassimine Nassam who will be at the Community College of Philadelphia studying physical therapy and pre-med respectively. Leilani Cintron will be studying Business at Esperanza College of Eastern State University, Myney Seng will be doing nursing at Jefferson University, Jada Catanch will be studying marine biology at Millerville University and Lanayah Wilder will be studying forensic science at Penn State Harrisburg. Cynthia To will be studying computer science and Elizabeth Escobar psychology both at Temple University. Jaelynn Robinson is going to Arcadia University to study theater and Jakiah McDonald to LaSalle University to study law. Farther away will be Amy Voong in Trinity Washington University in DC studying occupational therapy, Nayeli Perez in Goucher University in Maryland studying biology and Makayla Drew in Virginia State University with a full ride for pre-med.

Way to go ladies - remember the goal and good luck!