TECHGirls

TechGirls is a **one-month summer exchange program for young women ages 15–17** to inspire and prepare them to pursue higher education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. The TechGirls alumnae network offers continuing opportunities for collaboration on STEM projects, competitions, and grants.



EXPECTED

- Confidence
- Independence

Personal Growth

UNEXPECTED

- Increased willingness to take risks
- Increased motivation to study and/or live abroad
- Increased self esteem
- Increased motivation to improve skills
- Increased flexibility
- Shift in parental relationships, viewing alumnae as being more mature
- Increased interest in and opportunities to travel abroad
- New world view



Education

EXPECTED

- Improved English language skills
- Increased focus on areas of interest within STEM
- Hands-on, practical approaches
- Undergraduate and graduate studies

UNEXPECTED

- Scholarships and grants
- Unexpected opportunities to study abroad (U.S. and Europe)
- Internships, fellowships, and research opportunities
- Student leadership positions within university
- Ongoing advice and support from host family, job shadow host and/or program staff



Soft Skills

EXPECTED

- Improved communication skills
- Increased intercultural understanding
- Improved public speaking
- Learning to live in a new culture

UNEXPECTED

- Teamwork
- Time management
- Goal setting
- Problem solving



EXPECTED

- Increased awareness of career options
- Women in STEM as role models
- Job readiness

UNEXPECTED

- Research opportunities
- Entrepreneurship opportunities
- Increased ambition

EXPECTED

Learning how to network

TechGirls

Program

Outcomes

- Connections with cohort members
- Connections with prior TG alumnae
- Connections with TechWomen
- Connections to Americans (host families)

UNEXPECTED

- Connections to subsequent TG alumnae
- Collaboration on projects & competitions
- STEM organizations and clubs
- Closer connections to community
- Community service
- Ongoing connections to Americans

break out of my comfort zone.

It has helped me grow in ways

I couldn't imagine. 99





- ▶ 89% of alumnae reported a significant or moderate change in their awareness of opportunities in STEM fields.
- 98% of participants were more interested or as interested in STEM education and careers after the program.
- ▶ 80% of overseas alumnae and 77% of American alumnae reported that the program had helped improve their STEM skills.
- Participants learned and applied valuable soft skills: leadership (85%), intercultural communication (83%), networking (74%), and public speaking (63%).

66 I think seeing women in STEM has boosted my confidence and it made me personally consider an engineering degree, which I ended up getting. 99

Trajectories



- ► The practical, **hands-on exposure** to a range of STEM fields influenced alumnae trajectories.
- The program helped alumnae decide on a university major, with 78% pursuing further studies in STEM fields.
- The program increased participants' confidence to pursue a career in STEM, and 79% of working alumnae work in STEM fields.
- ▶ 73% of alumnae are also volunteering their time in STEM-related activities.

Connections



- ▶ 96% of overseas alumnae and 75% of U.S. alumnae stay in touch through social media.
- ➤ 55% of alumnae are in contact with their host families.
- ➤ 22% of alumnae are in contact with their job shadow hosts.
- 57% of TechGirls alumnae have had some contact with TechWomen alumnae, and 48% of TechGirls alumnae having participated in TechWomen-TechGirls club activities.
- ► The TechGirls alumnae network offers information-sharing (such as opportunities for scholarships, other exchange programs, travel, competitions, and project funding), English language practice, collaboration on small projects, and, occasionally, mentoring.