



FIRST Robotics Competition San Diego Regional

Women in STEM Event

Saturday, March 22, 1:15pm - 2:30pm

Volunteer Lounge at UCSD LionTree Arena

Purpose

Inspire girls to negotiate the world of STEM, help them learn what's available and provide them tools so they can make informed decisions

Objective

Create an environment for meaningful discussions with girls and their mentors, explore STEM, discuss challenges. Use small discussion groups led by role models to encourage open dialog.

Guidelines for Role Models

Be prepared to lead small groups, talk about how you got the job you have, what you did to get there, tell stories about how you overcame obstacles that you experienced or saw other women experience, listen to student concerns, facilitate discussion, dispel myths and any other magic that is needed to create a fun, inspiring and entertaining event.

Agenda

1:20pm - 1:30pm: **Welcome comments.** Each role models shares 30-60 seconds about who they are. Name, title, company you work for.

1:30pm - 1:45pm: **Break into smaller groups** led by role models, ideally 8-12 per table. Engage in discussion.

1:45pm - 1:50pm: **Role Model Table Swap.** You, the role model, will move to a different table to chat with a new group of students.

1:50pm - 2:05pm: **Engage in discussion** at your new table with new students.

2:05pm - 2:20pm: We will ask tables to **share the favorite thing** they learned in their discussion today. (One student should be selected to talk.)

2:20pm - 2:30pm: **Closing remarks, snacks**, invite team members to take role models on tours of pit and robots.

Once in Groups – Role Models Leading Discussions

First: Introduce yourself and explain your background. *What did you study? How did you get your job? What do you like about what you do now? What do you wish you knew before you began your career path? What advice would you give to women entering a field like yours?*

Allow time/space for group members to dig deeper/ask you questions.

Next: Engage members of your group with these sample questions/topics:

1. Do you know anyone now in the STEM fields? What do they do? What appeals to you about their job?
2. Have you experienced any challenges/struggles in dealing with your team, classroom or group work, or some other environment?
 - a. Discuss different strategies- maybe some you have used.
3. Have you ever visited a company? Have you seen STEM in action in the real world? What does it look like? What did you like about it? What didn't you like?
4. When you think of yourself and STEM, what does that look like?
5. What do you find scary about STEM? What do you find exciting?
6. One of my favorite experiences was. . . .
7. I got my best piece of advice from.... And it was

We don't expect that you will get to all of these questions/topics in the 15 minutes you have with each group. It is a loose framework to help you tell your story and to encourage engagement with your group members.