Students are nominated by their school to participate. The school provides a letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor and the student’s official transcript to girlcode@cs.stanford.edu.

"It was a good mix of hands-on work, fun, and meeting great new people."

"I was not sure if I was going to like computer science before the workshop but now I love it."

"Thanks for opening the doors to a path that I never knew existed."

Quotes from Girl Code Participants

Program Info

This two-week workshop is taught by Stanford faculty, and is held in the Gates Computer Science Building on the Stanford University campus.

Donations enable us to offer this program AT NO COST to participants!

Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are provided by the workshop each day.

For more information, visit our website http://girlcode.stanford.edu.

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What We Do

Girl Code is a two-week workshop designed to provide a positive first computing experience for the next generation of leading women and underrepresented minorities in technology.

Participants gain practical experience in introductory programming, construction of computer programs, and basic design techniques. The workshop will feature programming using Java, Java is widely used as an introductory programming language in college, and many companies use it to build web applications and large system projects.

Industry leaders will visit to share their experiences and actively participate in Q & A sessions. Site visits are planned where students will get a first-hand opportunity to meet with women engineers currently working in computer science.

Who We Are Teaching

Stanford University is looking for nominations of high school juniors in Bay Area public schools with a strong background in math and science, but little or no computer programming experience.

The scholarship funding will give preference to those groups who are the most underrepresented in information technology: women, African Americans, Latinas/Latinos, and Native Americans. Nominated students should be in their junior year, will ideally be enrolled in AP math and science classes, and will have a high GPA. No previous programming experience is expected.

Why We Do It

The United States, and Silicon Valley in particular, is facing a huge labor shortage in technology jobs. There are far more open positions than qualified applicants, and this gap is growing. This shortage would be significantly reduced if the students in computer science classes were representative of the population at large. Women tend to take introductory computer science courses later in college than men, if they take such courses at all. A positive experience in computing during high school will make computer science a more appealing major to those who otherwise may not have considered it.

Where They Are Now

Girl Code 2013 & 2014 Alumni have now entered college. Our alumni are enrolled at six UC campuses, as well as MIT, Duke, and Stanford.

41% enrolled in a computer science class in college, and 23% have already declared Computer Science as their major.