

# GEM (Girls Exploring Math)



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*One fun project: making integer bracelets*



*Field Trip: Learning to design, code, and build computers*

From jewelry making to stock tracking, girls at local middle schools now have the chance to investigate and learn about math through ALearn's new -- free -- program called Girls Exploring Math (GEM).

"We think all girls can love math and learning, and can be leaders," said Kathryn Hanson, founder and CEO of ALearn, a non-profit, working to increase the college-going rate among low-income and underserved populations by offering free-of-charge math and college-readiness after-school and summer classes. She added, "We are thrilled to be offering this program." To date, ALearn has served nearly 8,000 Silicon Valley students, with most being the first in their family to attend college.

The GEM program brings together lessons in pre-algebra, leadership, empowerment and college-readiness. Hands-on math and science activities designed to specifically engage girls are featured in the program. GEM also includes online-math lessons using Khan Academy. Successful Silicon Valley women share stories about math and their careers to the girls, through GEM's guest speaker series. Past guests have included a GoPro Tech Advisor and a Google Robotist.

All ALearn programs are free and follow a Common Core and blended-learning curriculum, with hands-on activities, group projects, and computer-enhanced learning. Intensive instruction is delivered by credential teachers together with exceptional college student teaching assistants --- most of whom are first-generation to college themselves.

The program includes an all-day Saturday workshop at the Computer History Museum. At the "Design\_CODE\_Build" event, GEM girls partnered with others in completing real-world tasking, including creating code that translates to music.