

Org-Type	Collaborative Group		
Lead	San Diego Science Alliance	PoC	Patricia S. Winter, BE WiSE Project Director
PoC-Phone	858-454-7622	PoC-Email	pat.winter@gat.com
Address			
URL			
Service-Region	Southern Border		
Type	Student Program		
Subjects	General Science Chemistry Physics Earth Science		
Level	Middle School (5-8th grade)		
Other-Objectives			
Served-per-Year		Demographics	Women
Content	<p>BE WiSE invites girls in grade 7 and 8 to Science Overnights to explore their interest in science, hosts events for BE WiSE alumnae in high school to encourage their selection of more courses in science and math, and exposes these girls to adult women scientists who share their knowledge and passion and experiences with science and engineering careers. Events are scheduled throughout the academic year and during the summer. Imagine 30-50 middle school girls in grades 7 and 8 exploring an overnight scientific mystery adventure, including demonstrations, workshops and a hands-on project, all led by women who work in science every day. That's a BE WiSE Science Overnight, which begins on Friday afternoon and continues until Saturday. BE WiSE girls must write an essay about women in science and be recommended by their science teacher to be considered and then each overnight group is carefully assembled from different schools to encourage group bonding during the overnight. BE WiSE overnights can be located in any safe, sheltered location where science demonstrations and activities can take place, especially where women in science work everyday that enables behind-the-scenes tours and discussions of career information. Past locations include the Fleet Science Center, Birch Aquarium, Sea World, Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego Museum of Man, CRES (Conservation &amp; Research for Endangered Species, The Water Conservation Garden, San Diego Natural History Museum. A volunteer committee of professional women in science plan and implement the BEWiSE program. BE WiSE selects girls from all across San Diego County and has sustained contact with several hundred girls over the past 9 years. The first BE WiSE alumnae entered college in June 2003.</p>		
Outcomes	BE WiSE aims to make a difference for talented young women who are encouraged to pursue a science and engineering professions.		
Started		Funded-Through	
Length	Ongoing	Cost	
Primary-Funding	Foundation Industry	Primary-\$	
Materials			
Other-Funding			
How-Assessed			
Best-Practice-Why	<p>BE WiSE started in 1999 and has encouraged close to 800 hundred girls to explore their interests in science. From BE WiSE surveys, we know that every girl knew more about science, every girl agreed that women can excel in science and engineering, 85% reported considering a career in science or engineering, and surprisingly, more than half planned to take a course that they would not have taken otherwise. BE WiSE alumnae commonly report that they had "fun in learning" and that the program "really made me think about a career in science." And we know BE WiSE inspires these girls who report "BE WiSE inspired me to enroll in an engineering class and that was the greatest thing I ever did" and who acknowledge the "wonderful women I have met." Letters from parents further amplify the effect BE WiSE has on their daughters because "my daughter thoroughly enjoyed and learned so much from the BE WiSE programs" and "showing how to mentor others who come after her, which is desperately needed in both the working world and in the school to career transition."</p>		
Promising-Practice			
Sponsor		Sponsor-Org	
Sponsor-Phone		Sponsor-Email	
Other-Orgs	<p>Anne Prause Blue Biogen Idec Foundation Boston Scientific Foundation Girard Foundation Leo S. Guthman Fund Todd and Mari Gutschow Family Fund San Diego Women's Foundation SeaWorld San Diego The Winter Group Zoological Society of San Diego Nokia, Inc. Qualcomm Incorporated Sempra Energy Foundation Oracle Foundation Mc Carthy Foundation Friedman Family Foundation Lynne &amp; Mason Rosenthal Bernys Borun Hewlett Packard Hughes Network Systems General Atomics TRW, now Northrop Grumman Compound Solutions</p>		