What is Expanding Your Horizons?

Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) is a one-day conference for 7th–10th grade students hosted on Cornell University’s campus. The goals of the conference are to stimulate the participants’ interest in math and science through these hands-on activities, to provide them with female scientist role models, and to foster awareness of opportunities in math and science-related careers.

We focus on providing hands-on workshop experiences in STEM which young women and students from other historically marginalized backgrounds would not otherwise be exposed to in the classroom. Each year, the keynote speaker is a woman who is prominent in her STEM field. We strive to make EYH accessible for students of all backgrounds. For the past few years, participants have come from the majority of New York counties. We continue to offer conference registration scholarships for those who are unable to afford the registration fee, and we have been able to provide sign language interpreters and other accommodations to be inclusive to all participants. In 2022, we launched a bussing program to cover the costs of transportation, and this has brought hundreds of students to the EYH Conference that the school districts could not otherwise afford.
EYH 2024
Conference Schedule

EYH will be held on April 6, 2024

The 7th & 8th grade students each participate in three workshops organized by Cornell students and faculty, while the 9th and 10th grade students participate in two extended workshops and will receive tours of Cornell’s world-class research facilities. Other highlights of EYH include a keynote speech by a prominent woman scientist and a display of science demos, resources, and games that participants and their parents can access throughout the day. EYH also provides breakfast and lunch for all participants and has always done so.

Junior Scientist Program
This track is designed specifically for 7th and 8th graders.

7:30-8:45 Breakfast
7:30-8:45 Registration
9:00-9:45 Welcome & Keynote Address
9:45–10:10 Participants escorted to Workshop 1
10:20–11:30 Workshop 1
11:45–12:30 Lunch (Purple Group) and Demo (Green Group)
12:30–1:15 Lunch (Green Group) and Demo (Purple Group)
1:35–2:45 Workshop 2
3:10–4:20 Workshop 3
4:20–4:30 Reconvene for Closing Remarks

Senior Scientist Program
This track is designed specifically for 9th and 10th graders & offers a more in-depth experience.

7:30-8:45 Breakfast
7:30-8:45 Registration
9:00-9:45 Welcome & Keynote Address
9:55–10:05 Participants escorted to Demos
10:05–10:35 9th & 10th Grade Demos
10:45–12:25 Workshop 1
12:35–1:15 Lunch
1:30–2:15 9th Grade Activity
2:40–4:20 Workshop 2
4:20–4:30 Reconvene for Closing Remarks
4:30–5:00 Raffle Drawing

www.eyh.cornell.edu
In 1987, a group of graduate students invited about 30 girls and parents to Cornell to discuss the benefits and impacts of math and science. The grad students discussed their degree programs, thesis projects, coursework, and how math and science had helped them achieve their goals. The girls asked questions about different majors, job opportunities and difficulties they might face. The girls said that they would like to do some experiments the next year, and EYH was born. In 1988, we found the Expand Your Horizons Network which is a nationwide non-profit that provides support and experience in hosting hand-on workshops that focus on middle school girls. The framework of the one day, workshop focused conference was created with the inspiration of the EYH Network. The conference model constructed in the late 80s is very similar to what we still run today.

EYH was initially offered to 6-8th graders, and over time, the program has evolved to focus on 7th-10th graders. Studies have shown that 7-10th grades are the critical years when girls lose interest in math and science, and that is why we have specifically geared our conference to cater toward this age group. From the beginning, Cornell’s EYH Conference has been organized and run by mostly graduate student volunteers from departments all over Cornell. From our humble beginnings, we have increased the number of students from 30 to 300 in 2011 and now to just over 500. Similarly, the number of workshops has increased from 15 to over 30. Despite our expansion, the focus on hands-on science exploration has remained the same. This dedication to not only introducing the participants to science, but also to fostering a community, is now more important than ever.
The Volunteers

Expanding Your Horizons is not possible without 30+ graduate student committee chairs to organize the conference. Many Cornell graduate students, faculty, undergraduates, and staff volunteer to lead our workshops, perform experiment demonstrations, and record lab tours to make virtual EYH a reality. We have highlighted below the three conference chairs in charge of making the whole event run smoothly. A list of all conference chairs is available on the EYH website. You will likely see some familiar faces from your group, center, or department!

The Executive Board

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EYH Sponsorship

Each year EYH depends on the sponsorship of donors within Cornell and beyond. We keep our registration fee to a minimum in order to make it affordable for families and school districts. Because of that, our costs exceed our registration revenues, and we rely on donations. Sponsoring EYH at Cornell is a visible way to show that you/your organization is committed to supporting young scientists pursue STEM. We encourage donors to participate in the conference and thank our generous donors by displaying their logos in a variety of ways throughout the conference.

Donation: $2500+
- Logo included in keynote address
- One page advertisement in conference slide deck
- Access to table for advertising at during breakfast, lunch and closing remarks
- Extra large logo on the top of the sponsor webpage, publicity materials, and t-shirts

Donation: $1000+
- Access to table for advertising at during breakfast, lunch and closing remarks
- Large logo on sponsor webpage, publicity materials, and t-shirts

Donation: $500+
- Logo on sponsor webpage
- Publicity materials
- T-shirts

Donation: <$500
- Name written on:
  - Sponsor webpage
  - Publicity materials
  - T-shirts

What is the impact of your donation?
- $1500 = 1 school group of 30 students fully funded with transportation
- $500 = 25 conference scholarships
- $250 = materials for 5 workshops
- $100 = all supplies for 1 participant

Contact
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for more details.

Cornell University is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

For Cornell donors, our account number is M09-3340. Please send us your eDoc#.