UMaine Institute for Sustainable Energy Leaders of the Future (SELF)

Connecting young rural girls to STEM careers through research, mentoring and community service in forest bioproducts

The SELF Institute is a cost-free residential program for rural high school students. The three-and-a-half day program will focus on the responsible use of forest ecosystems as a building block for sustainable and renewable energy. Students will explore cutting-edge forest bioproducts research at the University of Maine by participating in demonstrations, hands-on projects and field trips. Recreational activities at the New Balance Student Recreation Center are also planned.

Institute activities include:

- Demonstrations of physical principles and properties of wood and wood products
- Visiting University Forest to learn about harvest methods and systems, logging equipment and costs
- Observation and work on chemical and physical processes in the making of transportation fuels (ethanol, jet fuel) from woody biomass and estimate the cost of manufacturing
- Analysis of sustainability attitude and participation in focus group on renewable energy in Maine

To qualify for the institute applicants must:

- Be a high school student, preferably a sophomore from rural counties
- Have an interest in science and technology
- Submit a report card
- Submit an essay on why she wants to participate in the institute
- Have at least one letter of recommendation

For more information, contact Sheila Pendse, sheila.pendse@maine.edu, or visit umaine.edu/gem/participating-schools/sustainable-energy-leaders-of-the-future-self-application for an online application.

Applications are due April 30, 2016