UMaine Institute for SELF, Connecting young 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 by participating in demonstrations, hands-on projects and field trips. Participants will use the New Balance Student Recreation Center.

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
• Meeting with a panel of female engineering faculty on career in engineering fields.

To qualify for the institute applicants must:

• Be a high school student, preferably a sophomore
• 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

Applications Due April 1, 2019

For more information, contact Sheila Pendse
sheila.pendse@maine.edu Or visit umaine.edu/gem/

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