

The STEAM City of Women – Week 1

Sofia, *student*

Hi! I am Sofia, the new blogger for EDsnaps. It is my pleasure to be documenting such wonderful events this summer. I can't wait for you to join me through this journey.

This summer, EDsnaps is offering a 6-week daily free summer program: "The STEAM City of Women" to female-identifying students. Due to the after effects of the pandemic, students, counselors, visitors, and speakers meet through Zoom from 10-12 noon EST. Students learn some of the most valuable tools and lessons of STEM while having fun and being creative. With the support from Dr.C and the counselors, this is going to be an amazing summer for us all!

Monday 7/12

Happy Monday STEAMers! Today was the kickoff for the 2021 EDsnaps summer! We had a lovely introduction from the fabulous Dr. C. Rules can sometimes be very scary, but not Dr. C's. Her rules are simple and encouraging, with the aim to make our experience as best as possible. After she broke down the program for all the participants, the counselors introduced themselves. Their enthusiasm and excitement was evident during their little greetings. One of the counselors is even younger than me; talk about impressive and inspiring! The spotlight was then on us. Through a quick icebreaker, we described ourselves in just 3 words. It is clear that this year's participants are so unique; we have writers, athletes, artists, and so much more! Lots of kind and passionate minds in our group. We also learned through various polling questions that our STEAM interests are diverse: some of us like the arts and sciences, some are more inclined to technology and math. We got straight to work, beginning with our very first project: zinnia planting! It was great to get our hands dirty (literally) and really get a feel for the type of activities that lie ahead of us for the coming 6 weeks. Then we went to breakout rooms with the counselors for some more icebreakers and activities to get the creative juices flowing. I know I am speaking on behalf of most of the group when I say I am looking forward to this summer's e-adventures.

Tuesday 7/13

It's thoughtful Tuesday! Today Dr. C tricked us into doing math as Lianne, the origami wiz, taught us how to make some cute animals for our Poetic Postcard project. Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper, which takes lots of patience and concentration. Lianne really impressed me today, not only with her teaching skills but also her flawless technique. She then showed us her fox origami accompanying her well worded, 4 line poem. I can't wait to see some other poems later on; I know I have many ideas for this assignment! The second half of today was dedicated to Elena Abou Mrad, who gave us a very informative presentation on geospatial technology! It was very intriguing to see different types of maps, ranging from those focused on land routes, specific locations and landmarks, and literary quotes. We looked at maps from all over the world, my favorite being the map of London! Elena showed us her own

detailed map of restaurants and nightclubs in NYC that are and were once associated with the LGBTQ+ community. Then came an even more fun part, as we broke into smaller groups and were able to create our own maps. My group mapped out thrift stores from the five boroughs. We played around with the colors, themes, and icons. It was way more interesting that I had anticipated; I honestly have never had so much fun working with technology like I did today. Our morning was so eventful, time flew by so fast! The results of the final poll were fantastic! No for real, most of us felt fantastic about the morning's activities, with "good" being the runner up mood.

7/14

A very Wacky Wednesday it is! Today, the group's creativity was through the roof, as we jumped into work straight away. Remember the word exercise from day 1? Today we took it a step further. In our small groups, we brainstormed several more words to then create a collaborative poem. Although we only had 20 minutes, which flew by so fast, all the groups were able to come up with wonderful pieces. From the same sample words, our different groups were able to come up with a range of ideas. It was amazing to see the creativity we all had, even though we are all so new to the program! Imagine how incredible our world will be in a couple of weeks. The fun was not over yet, as in the second half of today's meeting, we had a lovely appearance from the New Victory Dance Theater. Olney and Renata, our marvelous teacher artists, guided us through some engaging exercises. We learned to use our bodies for the purpose of creating art and letting our imaginations run wild. Some of our participants are extremely brave, as they did their own unique solos in front of everyone! Next, we watched some videos of real professional dancers and discussed what we saw. Who knew dance could have so much vocabulary! Olney and Renata taught us how to best use the acronym B.E.S.T. - Body, Energy, Space, and Time. I think everyone had a fun time with the type of dance experience, as it was very unexpected. It really showed me that STEAM isn't always about numbers, data, and analytics, it is also about the arts and self-expression.

7/15

Very happy Thursday to you! Today was "Marketing 101" with the beautiful Carol Colmenares. Carol began her presentation by allowing us to express some of our likes and dislikes about specific ad and brand campaigns, in a way to get us engaged straight away. We learned that everything in ads has a purpose: color, sound, people, and more. She taught us that many brands, - Carol likes Nike -, relay powerful messages through their commercials for women of all ages. Next, we talked about our digital blueprints. Everything we post online usually stays forever, so it is best to be cautious and smart about things we say, do, and show on social media platforms. You never know who is looking, as colleges and many companies check the content of your social media. For our activity, we broke into small groups, found ads, analyzed them together, and later on, shared them with everyone. From perfume ads to food, we had much to discuss. It was very interesting to see the opinion of everyone, as some varied and some were similar. What will tomorrow bring?

7/16

Wow, it our very first Friday together! I can't believe week 1 of the STEAM summer is already over. Marcela Mota took it away with 2 workshops on cell photography. She walked us through different examples of pictures, all taken by iPhones, which were professional and beautiful. She shared many of her own pieces, specially from trips she made, which were breathtaking. Angles, angles, angles! If you didn't know by now, it's all about angles. If you have the right angles, your picture can go from mediocre to a complete masterpiece. Next up, we talked about contrast, color, and consistency. These are all factors that lead to a more professional look, whether in picture taking or online presentations. If you are not a natural at picture taking, don't fear. Marcela showed us many different apps and tools to edit and perfect your photography. The tool Marcela currently uses the most is Canva, where you can not only edit, but also make collages and add super cool designs. I will definitely be messing around with that in my free time. Today was a listening day, so we did not break into small groups. So much information in so little time! I can say that I learned a lot about picture taking for the future. A little thing about me is that pre-pandemic, like Marcela, I traveled a lot. I will take the knowledge she shared today forward in my future adventures. Did I mention we have a contest? All students and counselors are given the opportunity to submit their inspiring photos to the judges! Who will win? Stay tuned to find out. See you next week in blog number 2!