

Camp Reach

**Summer Volunteer Opportunity at WPI
for High School Women
Application Deadline: April 17, 2009**

Camp Reach is an award-winning engineering outreach program for middle school girls that has been in operation at WPI since the summer of 1997. We are seeking responsible, mature young women who are currently sophomores, juniors, or seniors in high school to serve on the camp staff as counselors, or what we call "Teaching Assistants" (TAs). The twelfth annual offering of the camp will take place on the WPI campus from **July 19 –July 31, 2009**.

Camp Reach seeks to generate and sustain adolescent girls' interest in engineering and technology and enhance their self-confidence and motivation toward education. Thirty girls entering the seventh grade will be participating in the two-week residential program. The camp program includes hands-on workshops, an engineering design project for a customer in the Worcester community, field trips, recreational activities, and follow-up programs during the academic year.

It is well known that one key to the success of engineering outreach programs for girls is to provide them with many role models. Thus, the staff of Reach is designed to provide a spectrum of role models all the way from high school students, to college students, practicing engineers, middle school math and science teachers, and WPI faculty. We are looking for between six and nine high school students to serve as TAs who will work with teams of campers during their two weeks at WPI. The campers typically respond well to TAs because of their proximity in age and experiences. The responsibilities of the TAs are primarily from 8am-5pm and include assisting with the workshops, coaching the girls about their work on the design projects, being "big sisters" in the residence halls, and participating in evening recreational activities approximately two nights per week. Other evenings are free time, which can be spent either in the residence hall or in the Campus Center. Overall, the most important responsibility of TAs is to be a good role model at all times.

TAs are supervised during the day by program directors, the Academic Coordinator, and middle school teachers. During the evening they are supervised by carefully screened, trained female college student Resident Advisors (RAs) and by the After-Hours Coordinator. In some circumstances and of their own choosing, TAs may commute from home and be on campus only from 9-5 p.m. **TAs are required to participate in staff training/orientation, which will take place on Thursday, July 9 from 8am-5pm.**

Successful applicants, through their written application, letters of recommendation, and interview, will show the capacity to be an excellent role model and reliable staff member: responsibility, maturity, intellectual curiosity, leadership, communication skills, interpersonal skills, achievement in mathematics and science, and an interest or curiosity about engineering.

Because of budget constraints, we are looking for *volunteers* for the TA position, with room and board provided. With parental permission, all TAs will be treated to two "TA Nights Out" during the program.

This experience is a tremendous growth and learning opportunity for TAs. They benefit by enhancing their interpersonal, communication, and leadership skills and by learning more about engineering, math and science. In addition, they work with WPI faculty and staff in a college environment with excellent laboratory facilities. It's a lot of fun too!

Please see the document "Information for Teaching Assistant (TA) Applicants" for details about the application and selection process. The deadline for receipt of complete applications is **April 17, 2009**. More information and all forms can be accessed on our web site (<http://www.wpi.edu/+reach>): follow the Staff link. Questions can also be addressed to Sue Sontgerath, Co-Director of Camp Reach, at (508) 831-6035 or by email to ssont@wpi.edu.



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