



LISA RIGGE  
Girls use prisms to bend light and split it into its rainbow components, while learning about the relationship between wavelength and color during the session on Prisms, Colors, & Angles at the STEAM Divas day last fall.

## AAUW steers girls toward STEM careers

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## Programs introduce middle-schoolers to scientific possibilities

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Girls! You, too, can thrive in science, technology, engineering and math.

The local branch of the American Association of University Women does not just speak this message; its members are passionately involved in three programs each year to encourage and nurture young females in these areas.

"One area of deep concern for us is the low number of women pursuing careers in STEM fields," explained Wendy Ping, a board member of the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of AAUW. "Our society all too often subtly tells girls and women that they don't belong in science, technology, engineering and math."

Next Saturday, Feb. 24, is the annual Expanding Your Horizons daylong conference at the Diablo Valley College San Ramon campus, for girls in grades 6-9 to learn what

STEM careers can be all about.

"The Expanding Your Horizons conference is open to everyone, with online registration," Ping said, although this year's event is full. "Girls can do walk-ins on the day of the event, and pick up workshops from girls who are no-shows."

Although the conference is put on by the Expanding Your Horizons Network, AAUW provides volunteers to help each year.

"AAUW has a lot of human resources, people with time, some older members retired from STEM careers or careers in education, and who have a passion for this type of thing," Ping said.

For more information, visit [www.tveyh.org](http://www.tveyh.org). The second STEM program is Tech Trek, a one-week residential camp organized by

See **GIRLS** on Page 15

[www.KidzKraftz.com](http://www.KidzKraftz.com)




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