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Super Saturday Science offers girls a chance to work with professional

Summary:

(September 26, 2003)-Science is cool! Does your daughter know it?

The University of Minnesota, Morris will again host “Super Saturday Science,” a program aimed at encouraging girls' interest in science. Super Saturday Science will give girls in grades five, six, seven and eight a chance to explore science with professional women scientists.

Super Saturday Science will take place Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to noon at the new Science Building on the UMM campus. Girls will participate in a wide variety of hands-on science experiments, meet other girls who like science, and work with female scientists.

This marks the second year for Super Saturday Science and several new activities have been added. This year's activities include:

CSI: Morris

Who done it? Using science, what can we learn about a staged crime scene? Can we solve the mystery?

I Scream, You Scream

What's the quickest way to freeze milk into ice cream? Make it with liquid nitrogen! Instant ice cream!

Plus two among the following:

Come See and Be DNA!

You might have heard of DNA, but have you seen it? You will see DNA isolated from spinach with things found around the house and be a part of a human DNA chain.

Acids & Bases

We need rain but is it always good for us? We'll look at rain/water and learn about acids and bases all around us. Crime Scene Connection: Can we determine if some of the solutions at the crime scene are acids or bases?

What are the Odds?

Life is like a bag of Skittles. What are the odds of getting a purple one? We use probability every day. Learn how

scientists use probability to explain research results.

Tracking an Epidemic

Role-play an epidemic and then use logic to track back to "patient zero" (who started it?).

The Rhythm of Your Heart

See the rhythm of your heart by shining light through your finger and watching the changes on a computer. Try to change the rhythm by running, holding a snake (!), or lying down.

Tools of the Trade

Use the tools scientists use to mix, measure and separate. What's a vortex?

There She Blows!

Oh! No! Lava everywhere! Create your own mountain by using different compounds and make it erupt by mixing solutions to create chemical reactions. You will learn about various volcanic rocks, lava flows, and gases.

Molecular "Coin Sorter"

You will play with test tubes and colorful liquid to learn how scientists determine the sizes of tiny molecules.

Presenters for Super Saturday Science are biologist Nancy Barbour of the USDA-ARS North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory in Morris agricultural economist Margot Rudstrom of the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris Morris Area High School science teacher Laura Reese and chemist Jennifer Ropp, biologists Cheryl Neudauer and Timna Wyckoff and biology student Laura Freeman, all of UMM.

"Super Saturday Science is aimed at sparking girls' interest in science at an age when their enthusiasm often flags," said Nancy Carpenter, co-organizer of the event. "There have been great strides in balancing the scales in terms of the numbers of women and men in science, but the scales are still uneven."

To register for Super Saturday Science, you can download the registration form from the Super Saturday Science web site at <http://www.mrs.umn.edu/satsci>, or call Margot Rudstrom, West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris, 320-589-1711. Registration forms can also be obtained from your daughter's science teacher, or at your local public library. There is a \$6 (or 2 for \$10) registration fee. Scholarships are available for those unable to pay the fee by contacting Margot Rudstrom at 320-589-1711. The deadline for registering is October 15.

This program is sponsored by the University of Minnesota, Morris, Division of Science and Mathematics West Central Research and Outreach Center USDA-ARS North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society Morris Area Women of Today the Morris Lions Club and the Center for Small Towns at UMM.

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