Discussion Section for the NGCP Webinar: Celebrate Computer Science Education Week with SciGirls!
December 8, 2020

How have you been teaching CS in your virtual settings?

Beth Schecher: We use a lot of videos that they can view ahead of time
Beth Schecher: We encourage girls to help out the ones that are stuck on a problem.
William T Fee: All of our coding has been free and online, so things like Tynker and Hour of Code, plus various robot simulators
Beth Schecher: Not leaving a girl behind because she is stuck is one of our biggest challenges
Alanna Howe: I've been investigating with a website called Code for Life (based on UK Comp Sci standards) which is able to run online both on Chromebooks and PC
Ellen: it's neat seeing the girls help eachother out when they get stuck coding too

How are the SciGirls strategies evident in your practice?

SciGirls Strategies: *1. Connect STEM experiences to girls' lives. 2. Support girls as they investigate questions and solve problems using STEM practices. 3. Empower girls to embrace struggle, overcome challenges, and increase self-confidence in STEM. 4. Encourage girls to identify and challenge STEM stereotypes. 5. Emphasize that STEM is collaborative, social, and community oriented. 6. Provide opportunities for girls to interact with and learn from STEM role models.*

Adrienne Provenzano: include images of women in STEM in presentations, diversity
Jennifer Hartsell Stockdale: Tell the girls to anticipate and value the process, even the struggles; don't just focus on "who finishes" or the end product
Adrienne Provenzano: keep learning about current role models as well as historical figures
Alanna Howe: Having the students explain their interests while providing an extensive list of how STEM can relate to that is helpful to understand the presence of STEM in our lives.
Sarah Megyesi: encouraging girls to share their ideas, their struggles, their victories
Adrienne Provenzano: engineering challenges - opportunities to "fail forward"
Adrienne Provenzano: ask open ended questions, listen
Nicole Rife - Indiana State Museum: 3 - With our design activities, we stress again at the end of the activity how they had the same materials but different solutions. There is no single right answer. Celebrating their testing and adjusting as they go. Ask what they would do differently if they had more time or could do it again.
Ellen: we highlight women and diverse scientists to model
William T Fee: We were Sci-Girls trained, so we try to use all of them. We're better about 2, 3 and 6, though
Jennifer Hartsell Stockdale: Smaller groups; the girls seem to share more and relax in smaller groups
Adrienne Provenzano: sharing information on women in STEM with disabilities
Alanna Howe: Working together with the leadership for the students is really important. In the older grades like HS giving the students the opportunity to be the ones leading a larger club or group is important, so the teacher leaders step back and provide input rather than being the ruling hand.
William T Fee: Giving girls collaborative projects that either have a social purpose, or that tie in to wider use work. Like citizen science or community gardens

Adrienne Provenzano: provide "neutral" materials to work with
Adrienne Provenzano: rather than pink/blue
Carol Fletcher: Modern Figures Podcast that features Black, female Computing professionals