



TechGirls

Why TechGirls



TechGirls is an initiative of the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and administered by Legacy International in partnership with Virginia Tech.

The program connects and supports the next generation of women leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by providing them access and opportunities to advance their skills and pursue their dreams.

History of TechGirls

The logo for TechGirls, featuring the word "TECH" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, followed by "Girls" in a blue, cursive script font. The entire logo is centered within a white square that has a subtle drop shadow.

TECHGirls

- **Program History**

TechGirls was launched in 2012 after the first year of the TechWomen program. Since 2012, TechGirls trained and mentored 238 teenage girls (ages 15-17) from across the MENA region. In 2019, the program expanded to include young women from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

COVID-19 Contingencies



- **TechGirls COVID-19 Statement**

Legacy International is working closely with the U.S. Department of State, local and global health professionals to plan a program that adheres to the best public health practices. If the global health situation stabilizes and travel restrictions ease, we hope to conduct the program in person in summer 2021. We remain open to providing a high quality virtual exchange if necessary.

TechGirls Delegation To The US



MENA

Algeria
Egypt
Jordan
Lebanon
Morocco
Palestinian Territories
Tunisia

Central Asia

Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Uzbekistan
Tajikistan

The 2021 program will include two cohorts: The 2020 cohort of 65 participants and the 2021 cohort with 33 participants to be selected (3 TechGirls from each participating country).

TechGirls Central Asia Program 2021

- **Part One: Days 1 - 3**

Participant arrivals in Washington, DC (with Central Asian flight chaperones). Leadership Development Clinics and Women in Tech Panel discussions – Join MENA TechGirls

- **Part Two: Days 4 - 20**

Virginia Tech Campus, Blacksburg Virginia: Join US teens for four technical instruction class options plus meetings with a variety of department leaders conducting cutting edge research. This timeframe also includes the following program activities: Community service day and Leadership Training

*July 10 – Service Day and Leadership training

* July 17 – Home hospitality day with a US Host Family: a real cultural immersion with carefully vetted families in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

*July 20 – Eid Al Adha and Job Exposition with Southwest Virginia Job Shadow Hosts

- **Part Three: Days 21 - 27**

Washington DC: NASA Visit, Tour of the nation's capitol, final action planning, capstone event, Women in STEM Career Day with D.C. Job Shadow Hosts and TechWomen. Depart for home with an escort.

Central Asia Program Dates: July 3 - July 30, 2021

Typical Daily Schedule

- 1 7:30 am Wake up, breakfast
- 2 8:30 am Day begins, warm up activities
- 3 9:00 am Workshops
- 4 12:00 pm Lunch
- 5 1:00 pm Workshops
- 6 5:00 pm Free time
- 7 6:30 pm Dinner
- 8 7:30 pm Evening activity
- 9 10:00 pm Prepare for bed
- 10 11:00 pm Lights out

Legacy International includes time for daily prayers throughout the program.

Building A TechGirls Community

- The participant to staff ratio is 7:1 and supervision is 24 hours a day
- Housing: You will be living in all female dorms at Trinity Washington University and at Virginia Tech and paired with one other TechGirl in your room
- Staff are first-aid and CPR certified and we are happy to discuss any dietary needs.



Legacy International staff is here to make your stay happy, healthy and safe

Program Locations



Washington, DC + Virginia Tech University

Gain Leadership + Tech Skills



The program includes:

- 40 hours of leadership development clinics conducted by Legacy International staff and other female innovators
- 45 hours of instruction with Virginia Tech University professors on four technical instruction class options plus meetings with a variety of department leaders.
- 8 hours of lab visits and discussion with faculty conducting cutting edge research

Community Service



TechGirls Give Back

During the program we have arranged an opportunity for participants to “give back” by participating in a service project in southwest Virginia. Working with various organization to address local concerns may give you ideas for when you return home.

Host Family Visits



A Very Rewarding Experience!

While in the US, participants will spend a day with an American host family that has been carefully vetted through extensive background checks. This will be a day of fun, cultural activities. It is an opportunity to see the daily life of a family in the US first-hand. Participants will be paired up with another TechGirl for this experience, which they will share together.

What Happens After TechGirls?

When you return home, you have 3 responsibilities:

Give a presentation to your community

Execute a community-based project

technology transfers, career fairs, community service days, tech courses, panels of professional tech women, building websites for local organizations, etc.

Join TechWomen + TechGirls Clubs for on-going mentoring and support

How To Apply

Website: <http://legacyintl.org/techgirls>

Students Who Are Eligible

Eligible Countries

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Uzbekistan

Aspiring

- Intend to pursue higher education and/or careers in technology
- Will attend at least one additional semester of secondary school upon their return to their home country
- Committed to completing a community-based project upon their return home
- Demonstrate an interest in Engineering, and/or math in their academic studies

Eligible Ages

Ages of 15 and 17 at the start of the exchange

Not Eligible

Preference will be given to those who have limited or no prior experience in the United States. You are not eligible if you have traveled to the United States in the last three years as part of any other ECA exchange program

Tips For Applying



Complete All Answers in English

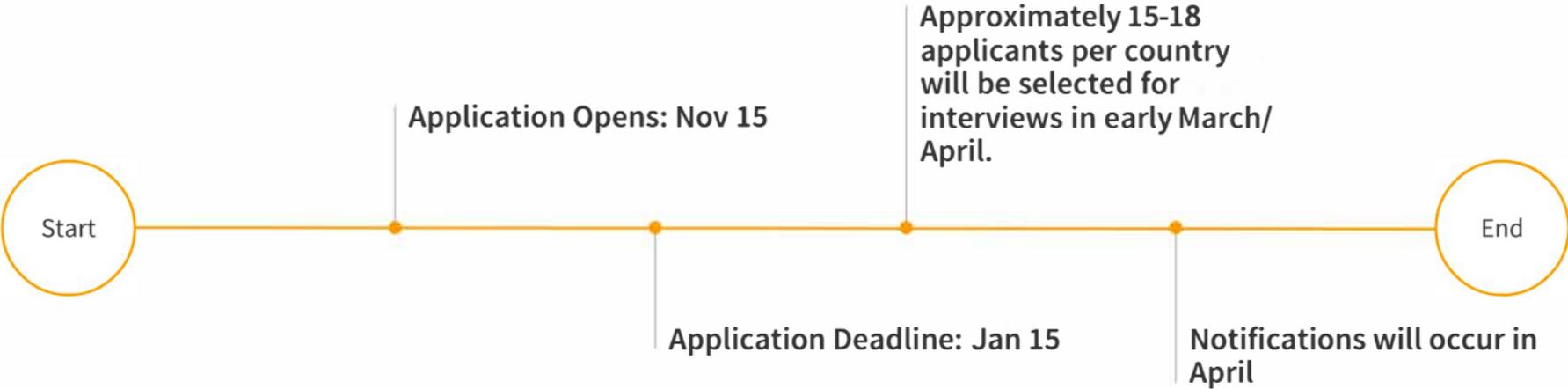


For essay questions - we recommend you write them in a Word document first



You do not need to have prior experience with coding or technology - a passion for the subject is helpful

TechGirls Selection Timeline



Why TechGirls Are Leaders



Tech Achievements

50% report attending and becoming finalists in tech competitions including Lego Engineering Challenges, Microsoft's DigiGirlz, Microsoft Challenges, and Cisco's Innovation Grand Challenge.



Community Engagement

95% of the alumni report that their projects addressed community violence, refugee needs, volunteerism, public health, and exposure to technology for marginalized youth. 200+ community projects were conducted helping 6,000+ people.



Boosting Educational Opportunities

100% reported that tech skills made them more competitive in university enrollment, and boosted their confidence to pursue STEM in higher education. 70% report now studying medicine, math, computer science, engineering, or business.



Building a Global Network

Over 3,000 U.S. tech professionals, host families, and peers have maintained contact with young women across the MENA region.

TechGirls have trained over 5,800 other girls in digital and leaderships skills, including computer basics, robotics, filmmaking, building websites, app development, and data analysis.

TECHGirls



Apply Today To Be A Tech Leader Of Tomorrow