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## **Bronx Girls Pursue Scientific Inquiry This Summer at Wave Hill**

Bronx, NY—The Wave Hill Environmental Science Camp for Girls, now in its tenth year, will be doing its share to empower promising eighth and ninth-grade girls to pursue careers in science, traditionally a field drastically under represented by women.

Emmania Rodriguiz, a camper and student at Bronx Community Junior High School 145, said it all when she spoke of her experience, **“I love Wave Hill because it teaches you to be a leader and it opens up many opportunities. It also helps you meet successful women in the field of science so that you realize that will is power.”**

How fortunate that approximately 40 girls will have the same unforgettable experience as Emmania this summer at Wave Hill, a 28-acre public garden and cultural center. For five weeks, from June 28 through 31, the girls will create and conduct their own outdoor science experiments where they are challenged to both “ask the question” and “find the answer.” The campers, recruited from low-income households in Bronx Community School Districts Nine and Ten, as well as District Six in Manhattan, will conduct hands-on science experiments, inquiry-based discussion, online research and digital documentation with laptop computers. For many of these gifted girls, the schools they attend during the year do not provide these crucial experiences.

Camp begins with a week-long science curriculum that offers them an introduction to outdoor field research and topics like soil, invertebrates, and woodland ecology. This module provides campers with a foundation of knowledge to draw on as they design and execute their own experiments in the ensuing weeks. Campers work in small groups to research, develop, conduct, and report on their own environmental experiments that explore urban environmental issues such as air quality and urban woodlands. The girls collect, compile and analyze their own data with guidance from counselors.



These budding scientists will also venture off Wave Hill grounds for meetings with minority women scientists who work in diverse scientific fields. Students will meet with, among others, Angelique Corthals, Collections Manager for the Ambrose Monell Collection for Molecular and Microbial Research at the American Museum of Natural History and Dr. Luz Claudio, Immunotoxicologist at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. The campers will also sail on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and hike in New Jersey's Palisades Park.

*Wave Hill's Environmental Science Camp for Girls is generously supported by the Altman Foundation, The Barker Welfare Foundation, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, the Independence Community Foundation, The New York Times Company Foundation, The Patrino Foundation, The Pinkerton Foundation, the Helena Rubinstein Foundation, and the Frederick S. Upton Foundation. Sustaining support for Wave Hill and its educational programming is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the Sally and Gilbert Kerlin Endowment Fund at Wave Hill for Environmental Science and Nature Education.*

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Wave Hill is a 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades in the Riverdale Section of the Bronx. Award-winning gardens, greenhouses, and woodlands offer people of all ages the opportunity to explore their connections to the natural world. Programs are offered in horticulture, environmental education, woodland management, and the visual and performing arts.

Wave Hill is operated by an independent non-profit organization. Its buildings and grounds are owned by the City of New York. With assistance from Bronx representatives in the City Council and State Legislature and the Bronx Borough President, Wave Hill's operation is supported with public funds through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Council on the Arts-a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Foundations, corporations and individuals also contribute vital support.