

CAREERS IN AVIATION AND DISCOVERY FLIGHT AT AAUW CONFERENCE, March 17, 2018

About 200 middle-school girls headed to Simpson University in Redding for the 2018 Women in STEM Conference. Many technical career options were presented, and our Mt. Shasta 99s presented a section on Aviation Careers and Discovery Flight. Nancy Overton headed the “Discovery Flight” simulation with Barbara Crooker, Julee Garrett, Diana Ward and Sarah Ludlow assisting. Mock runways were taped off on the classroom floor with Barbara Boot stating a brief rundown of what is necessary as a check list prior to a flight. Most of the girls were able to “fly” a tower instructed take-off to the Sundial Bridge and a tower instructed landing for a complete go around. Their bodies were their own “pilot” and “airplane”.



Besides the “Discovery Flight” activity, Barbara Crooker had Young Eagles handouts for the students, and told the students about the opportunities Young Eagles offered. Barbara Boot mentioned some of the scholarship opportunities for women pilots and student pilots. Nancy Overton gave a brief description of how the 99s evolved with Amelia Earhart’s help.

Julee Garrett had a video presentation of some of the recent Space X launches, including the launch of a space ship with a car. She gave some of her personal experiences from her time at NASA and how there were few women in the field when she started her career. The students were riveted to the presentation with the pictures of space ship successes and failures on launches and landings. Julee emphasized the importance of mathematics to enable these launches to be successful.



Sarah Ludlow gave a presentation on her first solo flight. She had a video of this flight, and gave the students a first-hand experience of how she felt. Sarah was only 16-years old for her solo flight.

Diana Ward gave handouts for the Civil Air Patrol and encouraged the students to come to their meetings.



Tony Miller created a drone display including filmstrips for the girls to view, and Lerose Lane gave a short presentation on the future of drones in aviation.



Presenters for the STEM Conference—Aviation Careers and Discovery Flight (Lt. to Rt. Julee Garrett, Barbara Boot, Diana Ward, Lerosé Lane, Sarah Ludlow, Barbara Crooker, Nancy Overton)

Also, a big thank you is deserved by Eric Marshall, Bryant Garrett, and Tony Miller for their help in making this STEM Conference a success!

The annual Women in STEM Conference is organized by the Redding branch of the American Association of University Women as a way of motivating the girls to pursue technical and scientific career paths.