



To the Stars Without Difficulty

Lauren Bush has been a Girl Scout for 13 years as a member of Troop 837 in Service Unit 679. She is a Girl Scout alumna and currently a freshman at the University of Kansas.

Lauren's Gold Award project, "To the Stars Without Difficulty," enables teachers to teach the StarLab program in 4th and 5th grade classrooms without extensive individual lesson planning on the part of the educator. StarLab is a science program that's part of CSI – "Cool Science Investigation", a program that promotes interest in science. StarLab was difficult to teach because there were limited resources for the program. The lessons relied on individual teachers creating a curriculum with few previous resources. Lauren created a curriculum that could be used by teachers to either teach as is, or to build off of much easier than starting from scratch.

Lauren worked with Julie Miller and the Olathe School District to plan the project and implement in its classrooms. She found that students retained information from her lessons at the conclusion of the program, indicating it was successful. Utilizing Troop 837 and local Junior troops, Lauren was able to do preliminary testing of the program. Her curriculum will continue with the resources she created, including binders, worksheets and flashdrives with information. She hopes that this project can be distributed to other areas and increase understanding and interest in astronomy.

Lauren Bush

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