

July 29, 2021

Dear Inspiring Woman in a STEM Field,

My name is Kate. I am 14-years-old and working on my Girl Scout Gold Award. My vision to help the planet will bring more girls into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and consequently, for many, out of poverty. My project has three parts. First, I am building a library of STEM books that will be placed in a high-profile location in California's Central Valley and made accessible to girls, many of whom come from families of field workers and low-income households in general. Secondly, within this library will also be a list of online resources to further inspire and educate. Thirdly, and what I am most excited about, I will create a book about women in STEM fields. The book is called *Portraits of Perseverance*, and I hope to include you in the book. Each page of the book will feature a woman in STEM and include her professional photograph as well as her answers to a few questions. My hope is that girls of all ages and backgrounds will open this book featuring women like you, see someone that they can identify with, and be inspired to confidently pursue their dreams in STEM fields, no matter the obstacles.

If you would be willing to help me inspire girls in science, technology, engineering, and math, I would greatly appreciate your time. Please email (subject line "Gold Award") a photo of yourself and answers to the following questions by September 1, 2021. Please feel free to write as much as you'd like! The more you elaborate on your experiences and ideas, the more you'll help the next generation.

1. Your name?
2. What degrees do you hold? And in what subjects?
3. What is your job title, what company do you work for and what are your job responsibilities?
4. What is your background and/or where do you come from?
5. Why did you choose a science, technology, engineering or mathematics field?
6. What was the hardest thing to overcome when you were working toward your career in STEM?
7. How did you overcome that difficulty?
8. What is the best advice you could give to a girl heading into college and a career in STEM?
9. What do you love about your job?
10. Do you give permission to Kate Ainley-Zoll, to use your photo and responses to these questions in her book *Portraits of Perseverance*?

I look forward to hearing back from you.

With deepest gratitude,

Kate Ainley-Zoll
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