

COASTAL VIEW NEWS

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eureka! program participants get a taste of what college life is like on the U.C. Los Angeles campus.

Local teens tour dream universities

Ninth-grade participants in Girls Inc. of Carpinteria's Eureka! program spent their spring break exploring college campuses between Los Angeles and San Diego. The Eureka! College Road Trip is designed to encourage girls to envision themselves as college students and explore their interests and priorities when it comes to choosing a dream school.

Over the course of three days, the girls explored five college campuses, U.C. Los Angeles, U.C. Irvine, U.C. San Diego, San Diego State University and University of San Diego. They had the opportunity to learn more about entrance requirements, financial aid, majors and student life through interactive scavenger hunts that encouraged them consider not only academics, but also campus demographics, geography and culture.

In addition to the college experience, girls were able to see the sights of the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego, as well as the Santa Monica Pier. "Getting girls out of their comfort zones and into new and different places is key to the success of the Eureka! program," said program director Jessica Wetzel. In addition to STEM enrichment, Eureka! is focused on personal development, helping girls to decide who they are and what they want, while giving them the tools to take healthy risks in getting there.