



NEWS RELEASE

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Watershed Public Charter student selected to participate in National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM

Towson, MD – Berkeley Watson, a rising Grade 5 student at Watershed Public Charter School, has been selected to participate in the [National Youth Leadership Forum \(NYLF\): Pathways to STEM](#), a weeklong academic experience taking place in July in Washington, D.C.

At the forum, Watson will participate in hands-on simulations and workshops related to future careers in medicine, science, engineering, and information technology. In one simulation on outdoor medicine, developed by two Stanford University School of Medicine professors, students will learn how to assist with injuries in wilderness settings and will practice the proper application of medical splints.

Watson, a Gwynn Oak area resident, was nominated to attend the forum last year by a teacher at Woodmoor Elementary School, the school Watson attended before Watershed. At Woodmoor, Watson was a member of French Club and a Student of the Month. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Watson was unable to attend the NYLF program in summer 2020 as planned. Now at Watershed Public Charter School, Watson loves history, reading, and science, and is an active Girl Scout.

“With a curious mind always looking to learn new things, Berkeley is looking forward to gaining the hands-on medical experience this forum provides,” said Lori Widney, Watershed principal. “Berkeley has shown us that she is a kind and conscientious student. She remained virtual this school year, and her passion for math, science and leadership was apparent in the virtual classroom. We are so excited for her to be a part of this program!”

“As an alumna of Envision myself, I am excited for Berkeley to meet, work, and collaborate with fellow high-aspiring students from other cities and schools,” said Amanda Freitag Thomas, senior vice president for Envision, the group that organizes NYLF. “Hands down, my favorite part of attending an Envision program was being with motivated students in an environment designed to help us challenge our assumptions, meet new people, and grow. Creating that same learning environment is a central focus for all of our programs. At NYLF Pathways to STEM, students build the confidence and skills needed to excel in the classroom while gaining exposure to STEM fields and concepts. They learn how to adapt to and communicate in new situations, to new challenges, and with new people, which, given how rapidly the world is changing due to technology and innovation, are essential skills for success.”

(Editor’s note: A photo of Watson accompanies this release.)

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