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## Anything You Can Do ... / ATK boosts girls' interest in science

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By **JAMIE LAMPROS**

Standard-Examiner correspondent

OGDEN -- Sharon Klar knew when she was 12 years old that she wanted to be a veterinarian.

Her father, however, told her no one in the family was good at science or math and suggested she pick a different career.

"I graduated from college in art and art history, but I was depressed because it just wasn't what I really wanted to do," Klar said. "So I went back to school."

Today, Klar is a veterinarian at North Ogden Animal Hospital and Burch Creek Animal Hospital.

At the eighth annual Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics conference on Saturday, she told more than 600 girls not to listen to someone when they say you can't do something.

"You can do anything you want to do if you set your mind to it," she said. "It pays not to listen to people when they tell you you can't do anything."

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The conference, sponsored by ATK Launch Systems and held at Mount Ogden Middle School, had dozens of hands-on learning experiences in math and science fields.

Not only did the girls wake up early to learn about veterinary medicine by giving physicals to dogs Lucy, Wrangler, Ashley, Chester, Coonie and Berek -- they also got to make their own lotion, jewelry and cosmetics.

"I think it's been a lot of fun today," said 11-year-old Olivia Landrum. "I really like science and math and I think girls should know about it. We can learn and help the world, too, just as much as boys can."

Expanding Your Horizons is a national organization. Its goal is to expose young women to various math and science

fields so they will become excited about the job opportunities in those areas.

Those in attendance came from all over Northern Utah and Southern Idaho, said ATK public relations director Trina Patterson.

"ATK understands that if these girls get hooked on science and math at a young age, there is a good chance they will pursue those types of degrees when they get to college," said Lydia Biegert, conference chairwoman for ATK.

"It is exciting to see these girls returning year after year."

Other workshops centered around careers in pharmacy, medicine and dentistry. Girls also got to learn what ice cream and rockets have in common, brain basics, flying chocolate, climate change, cells, solar dermatology and fingerprinting.

"I think it's cool to see this stuff, and it would be neat to go into medicine," said 13-year-old Camilla Triana. "Girls can do anything boys can do, and we should start learning more about it right now."

Brooke Jorgensen, 13, said she thinks girls see things differently from the way boys do, which gives them a different perspective.

"That's a good thing. Sometimes you see boys off in the corner telling jokes while the girls are paying more attention," she said. "So we might see something that they've missed. Girls are just as smart as boys. In fact, I think we're smarter."

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