

Please duplicate and have each girl mark her preferences. Fax all forms to the GSI office at 214-768-3147. If preferences are not returned, assignments will be made based on space available. Please number choices 1-3 (choices will be used for both am and pm).

Student's name _____ School _____

**BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS
GIFTED GIRLS CONFERENCE 2009**

_____ **MAKE DECISIONS – BE PROACTIVE**

Dr. Sally Dobyms—University of Louisiana Lafayette

This session will be limited to one student from each school represented at the conference. It will be an opportunity for the selected girls to discuss and participate in Dr. Dobyms' ongoing research regarding high-achieving young women.

_____ **THE FUTURE IS NEARER THAN YOU THINK**

Alan Ramirez and Kerry Schneidewind—SMU Admissions Counselors

College is a time to grow personally, intellectually, socially, mentally, and physically. With over 3,000 colleges in the country, the options for post-high school life are enormous. You are in the driver's seat when it comes to selecting a college. What do you want to study? What types of classes do you want to engage in and share your opinion? What goals do you have for the future? Come learn about how to be successful when making the step towards college life.

_____ **SPACE EXPLORATION AND MARS**

Kurt Chankaya—Aerodynamics Engineer, Member of the Mars Society

Come examine how people can go explore, and live, on Mars in the near future. We'll do an overview of what it takes to reach out to, land on, and explore new worlds in outer space, such as rocketry, planetary orbits, and spacesuit design, with the emphasis on the planet Mars. This session will briefly look at the history of the Apollo program, unmanned robots on Mars, what has been found, and what we can hope to find in the future. This is not just for the scientist, but anyone interested in the next new frontier.

_____ **WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?**

Dr. Carol Clyde, Director of Leadership and Community Involvement, SMU

We talk about leadership all the time, but do you know what it really means? Participants will spend time learning what the word means and how they can apply it in everyday situations. Girls lead differently – find out how to make the best of it and outshine those around you!

_____ **THE CRACKED, BUT NOT SHATTERED, GLASS CEILING**

Lindsey Martin, SMU Graduate Student; and Matthew Thompson, Political Consultant

This break-out session will be an interactive discussion covering various topics pertaining to the equality of women in America and world-wide. This conversation is purely intellectual and will not be grounded on political or religious ideologies. We will also discuss how some self-acclaimed "feminists" have actually become the biggest roadblock to reaching true gender equality. Some of the topics we will discuss are: (1) choosing between a family and a career; (2) changing your last name at marriage and children taking the father's name; (3) the history of wedding ceremonies (you'll be shocked); and (4) beauty and the brain - they CAN coexist!

_____ **FROM ABE LINCOLN TO AVRIL LAVIGNE, AND OTHER MIND BLOWING CONNECTIONS**

Dr. Heather McMinn—Assistant Professor—Literacy, Language, and Learning, SMU

Explore how the brain makes learning connections through association. Students will gain an understanding of basic neural and brain anatomy using sensory and perceptual cues. Learning principles, classical conditioning and operant conditioning, will be introduced experientially to help students appreciate the influence of everyday stimuli in their lives. Other questions examined include: how do you recognize a penny; can you make sense of "gibberish" (yes, you can – but why and how?); what does the automaticity of language mean for you as a learner and thinker, and where does Avril fit in all of this? Students will enjoy this interactive and lively look at the brain, thinking (the mind), and learning.

_____ **ROBOTS ALL AROUND**

Nathan Huntoon—SMU Engineering Student

Robots have gone from science fiction to reality. Come and learn about how robots are crucial in nearly every aspect of our lives. We will talk about how robots are used in modern society, and where the future for robots is going. Special attention will be paid to the amazing advancements in medicine made possible through robotics.

_____ **WRITING YOUR OWN STORY**

Suzanne Frank—Director: Continuing and Professional Education Creative Writing Program, SMU; Author of seven novels

We're each the hero in our story. Learn what kind of hero you are and how to make the "story" of your life satisfying to you. You already *have* all the pieces...