



# Engineer **Your Life**™

*Dream big. Love what you do.*

**"Try as many things as possible. Find internships in different areas, experiment, and make sure that you see all of the different aspects that engineering can offer."**

**—Rachel Fine, Mechanical Engineer**

## Take Engineering for a Test Drive

There are lots of things you can do now to find out if engineering is a good fit for you. Check out the ideas below and give them a try. You'll have fun, you'll learn about yourself and your goals, you'll gain a richer perspective about the world of engineering, and maybe even boost your college application!

### See What's Up at Your High School

Take a look at your high school's courses and programs to see what's available that could give you a sneak peek. Some schools are involved in programs like Project Lead the Way (<http://www.pltw.org>), which provide interesting hands-on engineering experiences. Even if your school doesn't offer engineering-related programs, talk to your counselor or teachers in the math and science departments about what other opportunities might be available, including after-school programs, workshops, contests, or special events.

### Attend a Summer or After-School Program

There are short-term programs that will allow you to actively experience engineering firsthand, make new friends, and have a fantastic time. A good place to start looking for opportunities is the Engineering Education Service Center's database of pre-engineering summer camps (<http://engineeringedu.com/summercamps.html>), where you can do a quick search by state. You can also check out the Web sites of local colleges, universities, and high schools to see what after-school, summer, and pre-college programs they may offer.

### Watch TV!

Design Squad (<http://pbskids.org/designsquad>) is a PBS television show in which eight high school contestants tackle engineering challenges for an actual client. Design Squad players have developed everything from a peanut butter grinder for a women's collective in Haiti to a wedding dress that converts into a tent. In the final episode, the top two scorers battle for the Grand Prize—a \$10,000 college scholarship. You can watch all thirteen episodes on the Design Squad Web site, which also offers plenty of information for high-school age kids about engineering.





## Take a Tour

It's easy to arrange a tour of the engineering program at a college or university in your area, or even to visit a local engineering or design firm. Your school counselor may be able to help you set up a tour.

## Talk to an Engineer or Engineering Student

Talk to an engineering student or professional, whether it's over e-mail, lunch, or in a formal mentoring or job-shadowing situation. You'll find many enthusiastic and willing hosts.

## Enter a Contest

Lots of engineering societies, schools, and organizations sponsor competitions that allow high school students to experience the engineering design process as they try to solve interesting problems. For a sample of what's out there, check out the Engineering Education Service Center's list of Pre-Engineering Competitions (<http://www.engineeredu.com/competitions.html>).

## Consider an Internship or Part-Time/Summer Job

Explore opportunities for internships (paid or unpaid), part-time work, or summer jobs at engineering schools or companies. Job opportunities often appear on an organization's Web site, but you may also be able to find information through your school's guidance office or your local library.

Check out [www.EngineerYourLife.org](http://www.EngineerYourLife.org)  
a guide to engineering for high school girls.

- Find out about cool jobs and different kinds of engineering
- Meet inspiring women who love their careers
- Learn from students about what engineering programs are like
- Get info on how to get started towards an engineering career



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