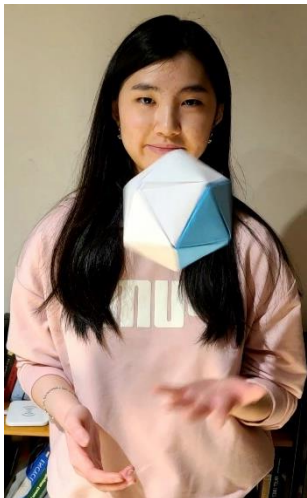


Katelyn Ho, STEM KIT Challenge interview



Katelyn Ho, the 2020 winner of the AWA STEM Kit Challenge, is a 14-year-old freshman at Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, New York.

Ho says, she spent a week thinking about what could be a simple, but a challenging project when she came up with her winning idea of 'Creating Icosahedron Origami Ball.' "I also wanted to come up with an idea that would have a cool outcome without being too costly to make."

1. Why did you enter the AWA STEM Kit Challenge?

My mom found the AWA STEM Kit Challenge on Facebook and I thought it would be fun to do. I was also in need of service credits.

2. Why do you want to help advance and empower middle school students, age 13 and older, in STEM?

I want to help advance and empower middle school students in STEM because I didn't have much exposure to the STEM world in middle school. I hope my project will spark an interest in the students so they will be able to find a passion in it and enjoy it as much as I have.

3. Tell me a bit about your challenge.

My challenge of creating the icosahedron origami ball was mostly repetitive folding. You need to have patience to create each connecting joint and side. It's something that you can take a break from, but then pick right back up and continue to completion.

4. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the most difficult, how difficult do you think it is to create your challenge?

I think the difficulty of my challenge is a 4 or 5, because to create it you need to precisely fold the papers and connect them together to form the ball.

5. What words of wisdom would you tell students trying to create your challenge of the Icosahedron Origami Ball?

I would tell students that patience is key and to try to fold and put each piece together as precisely as they can.

6. Why do you think it is important for girls to take on challenges in STEM?

I think it's important for girls to take on challenges in STEM because it could end up being something they really like to do that they wouldn't have known before.

"People think STEM is only for boys to do, but it could be for everybody. Girls should take a look into the world of STEM."

7. What are your favorite classes? *My favorite class is band class.*

Katelyn plays flute, piano, guitar and bass guitar – just to name a few!

8. What are your hobbies? *My hobbies are golf, music, and Tae Kwon Do.*

Katelyn has been playing golf since she was three years old. In 2018 she won 3rd place in the 6th Annual LPGA USGA Girls' Golf of Greater Newark Invitational and she has also played at events like The First Tee – Birdie Level and Morgan Stanley - girls' golf networking events. Also, Katelyn has a 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

9. How did you get interested in STEM?

I got interested in STEM through my 1st and 8th grade math teachers in my elementary and middle schools. They tried to give us as much hands-on projects, or they would take us on field trips to learn more about the STEM world. Since my schools didn't really offer STEM, my mom would look for free STEM programs around New York City like littleBits, Apple, Microsoft, and Splash at Yale.

The program at littleBits teaches children how to connect robots and wires to get action, while the program at Yale Splash teaches chemistry by creating a cloud in a jar and the program at Microsoft teaches Python coding.

