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## PRARTHANA

Camp Invention,  
Ecybermission, JSHS

I am a junior in high school hoping to enter the medical field.

## WORDS OF ADVICE

Everyone should participate in an AEOP program! These programs teach students leadership, collaboration, and STEM skills that are essential in today's world.

## BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

While participating in eCYBERMISSION I got the chance to explore health science, engineering and electrical science – all fields I am very interested in. My team also got the chance to collaborate with mentors at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University; test at United Laboratories, Inc.; publish a journal article; and present to our local mayors. Outside of these incredible opportunities, the best part about participating in eCYBERMISSION was meeting so many other passionate students and bouncing ideas off one another.

## HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN STEM

Participating in AEOP's eCYBERMISSION in sixth grade was my first exposure to in-depth research. The competition opened my eyes to how many opportunities were truly out there and inspired me to continue conducting research. I loved the problem-solving, collaboration and innovation that our projects required. I also appreciated the emphasis AEOP programs place on community service. That is what now drives me to pursue a career in STEM.

## WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE STEM ROLE MODEL? WHY?

My favorite STEM role model is Rosalind Franklin, who conducted the research that led to the discovery of the DNA double helix. I admire her contributions to genetics, though she didn't get credit for them.