Linda Foster will admit she's a little geeky. She likes computers and she's not afraid to get dirty in the shop or go exploring.

Foster, the director of technology at Dakota County Technical College, knows she's not the only woman out there who enjoys those things. And she wants to make sure girls know it's all right to pursue their interest in them, too.

That's why Foster has organized a camp this summer that will let middle school girls explore a variety of fields through the college that they might otherwise never experience.

The week-long program is called Teens Experiencing Technical Education or TEXT 2011. Through the camp girls will have the opportunity to explore careers in design, transportation, health, technology, science and industry.

"It will be a fun, hands-on week," said Foster.

The first three days of the camp will be dedicated to exploring technical careers. Foster said the program has been split up so girls get introduced to a variety of fields.

On Monday the program will concentrate on design and business, including interior design, visual communication, architectural technology, wood finishing, photography and business.

On Tuesday girls will get to learn about transportation and industry, including automotive technology, heavy duty truck technology, welding, electrical construction, electrical lineworker technology and biomedical equipment technology.

On Wednesday, health and science will be the focus. Girls will learn about nursing, nutrition, biology, nanotechnology, early childhood development and exercise and sports science.

On Thursday and Friday Best Buy's Geek Squad will lead the girls through two days of technology fun. Members of the squad will show girls how to use digital videos, photography, computer networking and hardware.

Foster said the Geek Squad summer academy is a fun way to get girls interested in computers. Foster said the academy was started by a female Best Buy employee who wanted to introduce girls to computers and the careers associated with them.

To add a little physicality to their day, the girls will get to spend some time with the Blue Knight athletes including the soccer team as well.

"We plan to send them home tired but saying, 'I did something today,'" Foster said.
Foster's excited for the camp and hopes it will draw girls from around the area to experience something different. Foster's own 10-year-old daughter will take part in the camp.

"This is a way to make them see other career options that are out there," said Foster.

The camp is open to girls entering fifth through eighth grades. Cost is $25 for the week. The camp will go from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information visit www.dctc.edu/go/txt or contact Linda Foster at 651-423-8439 or via email Linda.Foster@dctc.edu.