

From Curiosity to Possibility

Celebrating Maria (Cosmic Girls) + Beatrice (SpaceKids)

March-August 2026 • 27 letters exchanged

THE OUTCOME

“I wasn’t really interested in being in a STEM job at the start of this program, but now I’m actually considering it as a career path that I might want to do.”

— Beatrice, August 2026

A relationship that did more than sustain engagement. Across five months of correspondence, Maria consistently treated Beatrice’s curiosity as something worth taking seriously. What began as an introduction to a “Big Sister in STEM” grew into a trusted intellectual relationship spanning space science, international law, ethics, technology, women in STEM, leadership, swimming, creativity, and the future.

The Growth Story

MARCH

Possibility becomes personal

Maria begins by sharing her own path: growing up curious about the sky, sometimes feeling shy or unsure, and eventually earning a scholarship to visit NASA. She presents herself as someone whose opportunities grew from curiosity. When Beatrice names many possible futures—science, politics, animation, biology and more—Maria does not ask her to narrow them. She tells her she can combine interests and invent her own path.

“You don’t have to choose just one thing right now.”
— Maria

APRIL

Curiosity becomes serious inquiry

Beatrice moves quickly from enjoying space topics to independently reading the Artemis Accords, questioning whether international rules are strong enough, identifying gaps in enforcement, resource governance and corporate accountability, and proposing a reporting mechanism for non-compliance. Maria responds with concepts from international law and treats Beatrice's ideas as contributions to a real-world debate rather than simplifying them because of her age.

"Writing to you and researching about things, like the Accords, has really changed my perspective on space." — Beatrice

MAY-JUNE

A habit of inquiry takes root

Their conversations expand into gravity, astronaut training, space tourism, environmental responsibility, AI and ethics. Beatrice connects classroom concepts to swimming, amusement-park physics and technology she encounters in everyday life. Maria repeatedly names that behavior for what it is: scientific curiosity, critical thinking and disciplined questioning. The relationship becomes increasingly reciprocal, with both saying the other makes them think more deeply.

"Every letter you write makes me think deeply too." — Maria

JUNE-JULY

Women in STEM becomes personal

Beatrice chooses to examine women in space, researches representation in spaceflight, and questions the difference in equality. Maria connects those questions to opportunity, discrimination, education and mentorship—explaining that representation matters because it changes what younger girls imagine is possible.

Mentorship becomes not just exposure to STEM, but a place to think critically about who belongs in it—and why.

JULY–AUGUST

A new STEM future feels possible

Beatrice tells Maria that she rarely has people in her everyday life with whom she can discuss intellectual topics such as AI and space. Maria introduces her to Cosmic Girls as a wider community where girls share projects, ask questions and celebrate one another's achievements. Beatrice looks up the organization, considers joining the forum, and then states directly that STEM has become a career possibility she had not seriously considered at the beginning of the program.

"I never get to talk to anyone about intellectual things like AI and space to my friends. I'm really glad that you were chosen as my mentor!" — Beatrice

Why This Match Matters

Belonging before career choice: Maria never pressures Beatrice to "become a scientist." She builds a relationship in which curiosity, ambition and uncertainty are all welcome. That creates the conditions for Beatrice to imagine STEM as one possible part of her future.

A mentor who takes a young person seriously: Maria answers Beatrice's questions with substantive ideas from her own studies and experiences. That respect communicates something powerful: your ideas are worth engaging with.

Connection to women in STEM: Their discussion moves from individual women astronauts to the larger systems that shape opportunity, representation and inclusion. Maria then provides a direct bridge to the Cosmic Girls community.

Independent learning beyond the program materials: Beatrice repeatedly researches ideas on her own (i.e., international agreements, physics, astronauts, technology ethics and space governance) then brings that research back into the correspondence.

Reciprocal mentorship: The exchange is not one-directional. Maria explicitly says that Beatrice inspires her, and a future chapter of Maria's Cosmic Girls series on space debris is inspired by their conversations.

The Most Powerful Detail: The Influence Goes Both Ways

Maria tells Beatrice that a chapter in her "Curiosities from the Skies" series about space debris was inspired by their conversations. She later tells her: "You've inspired me just as much as I hope I've inspired you."

That makes this more than an expert-to-student exchange. It is an intergenerational STEM relationship in which both people are learning, questioning and creating.

Partner Takeaway

27 exchanges are impressive. The transformation inside those exchanges is the real impact.

This match shows what can happen when a young person is paired with a mentor who listens closely, shares authentically, asks challenging questions, and opens doors to a larger community of women interested in STEM and space.

A concise way to describe the arc: *trust produced curiosity; curiosity produced independent research; research produced sophisticated questions; mentorship connected those questions to real women-in-STEM experiences and communities; and the student began imagining STEM as part of her own future.*

BEATRICE — SPACEKIDS	MARIA — COSMIC GIRLS
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“I’m actually considering [STEM] as a career path that I might want to do.”

“I feel so lucky that we were matched. I honestly couldn’t have asked for a better mentee.”

Prepared as a partnership impact spotlight from mentor/student correspondence, March-August 2026.