

# Klara Drees-Gross '26

Girls Who Code Work Prep Program hosted by Bank of America  
Summer 2023

This summer, the Byrne Scholars Program supported me to participate in the Girls Who Code Work Prep Program hosted by Bank of America. This technical and professional development program introduced me to careers and concepts in cybersecurity. Over the course of three weeks, I attended virtual workshops with leaders and engineers at Bank of America who spoke about different cybersecurity roles and potential careers at financial institutions. I also completed asynchronous assignments that taught me about the threat landscape and detection. The program culminated in a final presentation in which I worked on a team to produce an incident response plan to a hypothetical cyber attack. Working within a three-part framework of mitigation, response, and recovery, we proposed actions to protect against vulnerabilities, restore capabilities quickly in the event of an attack, and prevent future breaches. The experience was highly enriching and allowed me to learn about cybersecurity, collaborate with peers, and engage with female professionals and mentors at Bank of America. As I am interested in the real-world applications of math and computer science, this program has provided me with a better understanding of some careers that use these skills. Thank you to the Byrne family for this opportunity!