

STEM Corner

STEM CAMPS SHOWCASE EXCELLENCE

Summer is the surge for the SAME STEM Camps program, as we rolled through our four national camps: the Exploring Engineering Academy in Atlanta (June 6-June 10); and the Engineering & Construction Camps in Vicksburg, Miss. (June 19-June 25); Camp Lejeune, N.C., (June 19-June 25); and Colorado Springs, Colo. (July 7-July 13). Collectively, these camps hosted 243 students this year.

Campers. The SAME camps feature some of the best, brightest and most well-rounded kids you will ever meet. While the students came mostly from the United States, some traveled in from around the world. The campers have grade-point averages as high as 5.0. They play most every sport you can image. They are Eagle Scouts and enrolled in Junior ROTC. They are band members, class leaders, black belts, and active in their community and church. They are already engaged in STEM activities and competitions at state, regional and national level. They want to be engineers, and many want to serve in the Armed Forces of United States.

Volunteers. We get as much out of the campers as we give and this is a vital part of helping us maintain our critical position as a country: Building our Nation's Future Engineers.

Our volunteers are amazing. They come from all over SAME. It takes in excess of 120 people to run these week-long camps. This does not include the many Sustaining Member firms and public/private partners that may play a role for a single activity.

A typical day may start at 6:00 a.m., when the students wake up, and runs non-stop until lights-out at 10:30 p.m. All the camp directors are very thankful to have a great organization in SAME supporting the program with so many dedicated and committed volunteers.

Exploring Engineering Academy. Conducted with the Boy Scouts of America, and held on the campus of Georgia Tech, for 16 years the Exploring Engineering Academy, led in part by the SAME Atlanta Post, has been exposing students in the Georgia area to a very diverse set of engineering skills and activities. We had 67 campers this year and they visited over 27 engineering sites, including the Delta Airline jet engine test center, Porsche simulators, and "under" the Georgia Aquarium.

The camp was a tremendous success. The only disappointment was that over 100 applicants had to be turned away.

SAME/U.S. Army Camp. For 14 years, Vicksburg engineers and leaders with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have hosted a dynamite camp in conjunction with SAME near the Mississippi River. This year, 40 students attended from across the United States. The campers plan and execute hands-on engineering projects and tour engineering facilities. They place concrete, assemble mechanical devices and travel four hours on the Motor Vessel *William James* up the Mississippi while engaged in challenging STEM tasks. Many camp alumni are practicing engineers and military officers serving around the world.



(Top) Students tour the Georgia Aquarium during the 2016 Exploring Engineering Academy, which was co-hosted by the SAME Atlanta Post. (Bottom) The SAME/U.S. Army Engineering & Construction Camp is held each summer in Vicksburg, Miss.



SAME/U.S. Marine Corps Camp. While it may be the youngest SAME Engineering & Construction Camp at just four-years old, the U.S. Marine Corps Camp at Camp Lejeune offers an incredibly exciting experience. With slots for 40 students, the camp activities are almost entirely hands-on. The week features events such as Concrete Beam, Moving Water Uphill, Trebuchet Launcher, “Devil Dog” Reaction Course, Cardboard Canoe, Demolition, and Solar Energy Array.

SAME/U.S. Air Force Academy Camp. With slots 96 campers, the U.S. Air Force Academy Camp is the largest of the four SAME STEM Camps. The week-long



experience includes building and breaking concrete beams, installing irrigation systems, visiting world-class laboratories, water purifications activities, water balloon launches, and constructing vertical wood structures.



The camp is able to utilize the incredible academic resources of the Air Force Academy and many of its talented cadets and faculty. This year, seven of the staff were returning former campers!



(Top and Middle) The SAME/U.S. Marine Corps Engineering & Construction Camp, which was first held in 2012, brings high school students each summer to Camp Lejeune, N.C. (Bottom) The SAME/U.S. Air Force Academy Engineering & Construction Camp is the largest of the SAME STEM Camps, with slots for 96 students each year.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Hundreds of SAME Engineering & Construction Camp alumni have gone on to become engineers in the private sector and leaders in the U.S. military. Know of a former camper who has gone on to great things? Email Scott Prosuch at sprosuch@earthlink.net.

LT. HAILEY CLINTON, USAF



- SAME/U.S. Air Force Academy Camp, 2009
- U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, 2014 (Operational Research)
- First assignment: HH60 Helicopter Pilot, based at RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom.

SEAN PROSUCH



- SAME/U.S. Air Force Academy Camp, 2000
- Tongue Point Maritime School graduate, 2010
- Currently working as a Ship Engineer on vessels over 400-T and 4,000-hp, from the Gulf of Mexico to the North Sea.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Since inception, these camps have produced over 700 engineers and 500 military officers. The programs are essential to our nation’s objective to develop future engineers and STEM professionals. But we always need more support, especially mentors. Application rates also are down. We need Posts to find interested students and steer them to these programs.

Most importantly, we are looking to expand the program and help grow more engineers for our nation’s future. Is your Post interested?

For more information on the SAME STEM Camps, visit www.same.org/stemcamps.

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