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Area Students Experience Tasks at SRS During Nuclear Science Week

AIKEN, S.C., November 13, 2019 – Every year, Nuclear Science Week provides opportunities for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employees to provide hands-on demonstrations and learning activities for local students to experience related to the scientific work performed at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

While visiting SRS facilities dozens of students were recently immersed a variety of topics including lasers, virtual reality, environmental monitoring and the properties of radioactive material.

“We believe SRS is an excellent location for students to experience first-hand some of the science-related technologies we work with on a daily basis,” said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Program.

“I’m confident that Silver Bluff, Lakeside and Williston-Elko High School administrators believe the time spent engaging with SRNS employees and instructors is highly beneficial for the attendees and could have a significant impact on their future studies and career selections.

“We had more than 30,000 students and teachers participate in our education outreach



SRNS Training Instructor Booboo Roberts challenges local high school students visiting SRS to learn more about the properties of radiation by completing tasks that simulate actual working conditions.

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programs last year,” she added. “However, only a couple of these programs give young adults from throughout our region the chance to come away with a better idea of what SRS facilities are like and the wide variety of the work accomplished here.”

Silver Bluff High School freshman Ashley Peters stated that she had previously believed SRS consisted of a single factory-like building. “I never realized how big this place is or all the safety measures there are to protect yourself from radioactive contamination, such as the special clothing and tools. It’s really cool. All of this keeps you and others working around you safe,” she said.

“As employees retire, we need to ensure a transfer of knowledge takes place with new employees, many of which may be the students we’re working with today. We’ve begun to lay that foundation through the Nuclear Science Week program through these future professionals,” said Booboo Roberts, SRNS Training Instructor. “We’ve been taught how to work safely and securely, protect the environment and do our jobs properly, all of this to help make our nation safe. We want to pass that on to the next generation of workers.”

Ireland Mack, also a Silver Bluff freshman, stated that she thinks it’s important for students to visit SRS and explore different career fields found there. “It will open their eyes to lots of opportunities. This visit will definitely make me consider different career options, like engineering.”

The U.S. Department of Energy provides a variety of science and literacy outreach programs at the SRS through their primary contractor SRNS. The goal of these outreach programs is to enhance interest in science, mathematics, engineering and technology and to support improvements in education in the Central Savannah River Area by using the unique resources available at SRS.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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