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Girls Get “SET” AT Adventure Mini-Camp, Discovering Careers in Science, Engineering and Technology

AIKEN, S.C. – June 29, 2017 – Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands recently teamed up with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) to offer a camp for high school girls interested in careers involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), called Girls Get SET.

“We are very grateful to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and one of its parent companies, Honeywell, for providing the funding for this camp, with their support we are able to offer a quality program at a very affordable rate,” said Patti Bennett, programs coordinator for the Aiken Girl Scout Service Unit. “The program is a win-win-win situation; the girls get an amazing camp experience, USC Aiken (USCA) can showcase their award-winning campus and SRNS develops potential candidates for a future workforce.”

The event consists of a three-day, two-night residential camp that offers participants the opportunity to experience life in a college dorm, engage in hands-on engineering and nuclear science programs and participate in a career exploration forum.

This is the second year the camp has been offered and a new component was added for rising 11th- and 12th-graders in which they make their own game board by soldering together an electrical circuit, similar to the game Operation.



SRNS recently sponsored a summer camp for high school girls from the region near SRS to enhance the participants' understanding of careers related to science, engineering and technology. Wallis Spangler, SRNS Senior Vice President, NNSA Operations and Programs, is shown here assisting a team of camp participants, Z'nyaya Johnson (left), South Aiken High School, and Kayla Davis, Midland Valley High School, as SRNS engineer and mentor Kelsey Schlegel looks on

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“It’s really cool how they have us think outside of the box,” said Noria Williamson, a rising freshman at Silver Bluff High School. “It’s so visual and a great way to learn using hands-on projects. I would definitely recommend this camp to my friends.”

Williamson explained that her occupational goal is to become a mechanical engineer. “Learning about this approach to collaborative and innovative thinking is challenging, but it can help me in school and to get the job I want.”

Rising ninth- and 10th-graders again completed the “Engineers to the Rescue” program where they design and create different items to help them survive a staged scenario of an earthquake during a campout.

Bennett explained that the mini-camp is called Girls Get SET, where SET stands for science, engineering and technology. “We also want to help them ‘get set’ for college, careers and life,” added Bennett.

“When I was in school, our counselors emphasized teaching, nursing and other careers typically associated with females,” said Bennett. “The primary goal of this camp is to inspire girls to consider careers in nontraditional fields and to give them a basic introduction to a few of those career options.”

All the campers also completed the Girl Scouts Get to Know Nuclear patch program, developed by the American Nuclear Society.

The donation from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions covers the costs of housing, meals, supplies and a stipend for camp counselors.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, 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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