

S T E M π Corner



Serious Fun! 2017 SAME STEM Camps

The SAME STEM Camps Program had a spectacular 2017 summer, conducting or supporting six camps, including four with the military services. Although these camps are only week-long events, the experiences for the campers last a lifetime. SAME is proud to champion these camps and contribute to developing future STEM professionals for our nation.

Recruiting increased this year, which is great news. We did have to turn away some highly qualified individuals due to space limitations. However, we have been working to add capacity for more students and this should occur starting next year with a new Air Force STEM Camp in 2018 at Scott AFB in Illinois, and possibly a new Navy Camp in 2019.

For more information on SAME's STEM Camps Program, visit www.same.org/stemcamps.



EXPLORING ENGINEERING ACADEMY

The 2017 Exploring Engineering Academy held on the campus of Georgia Tech, and hosted by the Atlanta Post with the Boy Scouts of America, ran from June 4-9. A total of 67 high school students received certificates of completion, including a record 20 females.

Engineering events included visits to Georgia Power, General Electric, TOTO, Novelis, Delta Airlines, Porsche, the Georgia Aquarium, Six Flags Over Georgia, and the new Atlanta Braves Stadium. In addition, new events were added this summer at television networks CNN and The Weather Channel.



SAVANNAH ENGINEERING ACADEMY

This summer, 21 students completed the Savannah Engineering Academy, of which the SAME Savannah Post is a major sponsor and provides mentors. The academy is designed to expose students to multiple engineering disciplines. Students participated in hands-on activities, facility tours, and presentations that were hosted and conducted by professionals from the local engineering community. Activities such as a water filtration laboratory, an aerospace simulator, a skittles factory competition, and an underwater robotic vehicle design activity presented students a glimpse of possibilities that could be found in engineering.

Started in 2004, the 2017 Savannah Engineering Academy was held June 5-9 at Armstrong Atlantic State University. The academy is completely run by local organizations and volunteers who are engineers working as professionals in the local area.



SAME/U.S. MARINE CORPS CAMP

The fifth SAME/U.S. Marine Corps Engineering & Construction Camp kicked off aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., on June 18 with a new record 50 campers. Organized into five squads, each was led during the week by a Marine Corps noncommissioned officer and two SAME mentors. The Marine Corps Engineer School was the host for the week and provided world-class support.

The five squads competed in a range of events: including designing and constructing a concrete beam, trebuchet, a cardboard canoe race, a best management practices stormwater management device, and sports activities. Each event was graded by the activity coordinators. Guide-on streamers were awarded, and at the end of the week, the Top Squad award was presented to Echo Squad. Top campers were recognized for each squad and an overall Top Camper award and scholarship were presented to Todd Stencil of Greenville, N.C.

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SAME/U.S. ARMY CAMP

The 15th annual SAME/Army STEM Camp was highly successfully this year. Sponsored by the local SAME Post and other volunteers from the lower Mississippi Valley, the camp was well received and enjoyed by the 39 participating campers, 14 of which were females—35 percent.

The campers completed activities in all of the labs at the U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center, the Mississippi State University's Center for Advanced Vehicular Studies, and the Nissan Plant. They conducted river engineering while enjoying a ride down the Mississippi River; did GIS and Auto-CAD at the Neel-Schafer A-E firm; went to the Vicksburg National Military Park; and placed concrete at the Mississippi Materials Plant. Campers also played engineering Jeopardy, had a swimming party, a bowling outing, a military survival challenge, karaoke, and were also treated to a surprise landing of a Black Hawk Helicopter by the Mississippi Air National Guard.



SAME/U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY CAMP

The 2017 SAME/U.S. Air Force Academy Camp hosted 96 campers to the school's Colorado Springs campus for hands-on opportunities and guidance from engineering professionals. With a 17-year history, the camp's alumni base continues to grow. The staff of 40 exceptional SAME volunteers consisted of 26 former campers, returning mentors, or former academy cadets.

Campers participated in 25 events this year, ranging from building dog kennels to concrete beam competitions to touring the academy's laboratories and hiking around Garden of the Gods. And while the engineering challenges are important, the relationships with their Flight mates, mentors and other staff is long lasting and has just as significant an impact. It is an ongoing goal to have the campers join the SAME family, and remain engaged through college and beyond.



Introducing AIM



SAME supported the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Introduction Mission Program (AIM) for the second year in 2017. The Society's role going forward is to recruit, select and sponsor up to 10 high school juniors interested in engineering. The Narragansett Post has been leading this effort.

AIM, which dates back 60 years, is an integral part of the Coast Guard Academy's admissions program, so the students that SAME selects to attend receive a direct acceptance to AIM. From out of last year's nominations, three students received appointments to the Coast Guard Academy and were Swabs this summer.

Special Recognition



Col. Kurt Ubbelohde, F.SAME, USA (Ret.), was recognized at the Air Force Academy Camp for his 11 years as Senior Mentor.

Lt. Gen. Robert VanAntwerp, P.E., F.SAME, USA (Ret.), 51st U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, spoke to campers at the Air Force Academy Camp.

Brig. Gen. Patrice Melancon, F.SAME, USAF, Mobilization Assistant to the Director of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, met with campers at the Air Force Academy Camp.

Maj. Gen. Mike Wehr, USA, Commander, USACE Mississippi Valley Division, was graduation speaker at the Army Camp. His son Chuck, a former camper, served as a mentor this year.

Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers, P.E., F.SAME, USA (Ret.), 50th U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, also spoke at the Army Camp. His granddaughter, Hannah, was a camper this year.

By the Numbers



306 campers
from around the world.



120
full-time volunteers.



83 Posts sponsored campers and provided scholarships.



Over 90
part-time volunteers.



30% of students
are from underrepresented groups.



Many former campers
are now mentors.