Air Force Reserve Component Robotics Camp

The UME State 4-H program hosted the Air Force Reserve Component Robotics Camp held at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase MD. 80 campers (9 to 13 year old children from Air Force Guard and Reserve families) from across the country - Texas, Washington, Georgia, New Hampshire and Illinois as well as states in the mid-Atlantic came to the DC area to attend our ARC Robotics Camp. The camps focus was to encourage those 1 Million New Scientists. Our campers enjoyed classes, workshops, hands-on robotics and science programs.

Thanks to the many UME 4-H Faculty who brought fun to the campers through science exploration and experimentation. The camp was a huge success thanks to Vicki Stone, Chris Johnston, Dwayne Murphy, Jim Serfass, Chris Anderson, Mel Johnson, UME 4-H educators, and Jim Kahler, UME volunteer and STEM National Program Leader, and our student workers from the Maryland State 4-H office. Denise Frebertshauser provided outstanding 4-H Camp Staffing to complete our Adult Camp Counselor needs. Garrett County 4-H Gears taught Sugo robotics. Our military youth got to build a Lego robot (Sumo wrestling) and compete against the robots their fellow campers built! The Carroll County VEX 4-H Team taught the campers about VEX IQ Robotics. The campers were excited about building a robot to challenge other teams. Their robots were designed to pick up tennis balls and maneuver them to score goals. For both robotics challenges the campers used problem solving and communication skills to play each game. Other classes focused on hands-on science – including exploding watermelons with the use of rubber bands, Sharpie Tie Dye t-shirts, GIS, Geospatial, 4-H Power of the Wind, Water Balloon Catapults, and Water Science Experiments. Imagine the fun as they launched from their catapults, made snow, balanced balls on the wind, understood the impact of pressure on a melon, found items on the GPS Scavenger Hunt, built from the Junk Drawer Robotics Curriculum, and so much more!!

The days were filled and every night the ARC Robotics Camp had an exciting evening activity. Tuesday was the Davey 4-H Family Circus with lots of camper involvement learning activities like tightrope walking, plate spinning, juggling, and walking/balancing on a ball and the science involved in each.
Wednesday we loaded buses for the Nightime Tour of the DC Monuments and Memorials. Thursday – Movie Night with the movie – *Robots*. And we finished the week enjoying a game win for Washington National Baseball versus the Colorado Rockies. This provided a wonderful last night of camp sitting in the stands and even being on the BIG SCREEN so all could see our 4-H Air Force “ARC” camper (Air Force Reserve Component).

Special thanks to our Camp Director – Alisha Targonski, Maryland 4-H Military Clubs Coordinator, and DavidBrittain, Youth Development Specialist for the Air Force, Sandy Corridon, 4-H Military Liaison sends appreciation to all for helping Maryland provide an OUTSTANDING 4-H Science/Technology/Engineering/Math and Leadership Development 5-day camp for Air Force Guard and Reserve Youth.