

STEP INTO THE FUTURE

SUMMER 2008

FINAL REPORT



EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



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Executive Summary

University of Detroit Mercy

STEPS Camp 2008

In 2008, our seventh year offering the STEPS Camp, ninety-one girls were admitted. We feel we are at the point where most of the major issues from the past six years have been addressed and resolved, allowing us to offer a high quality experience for the girls. Our focus has been on manufacturing, engineering, robotics, and personal awareness and growth. Even though a significant amount of time was spent in academic-type activities, we incorporated activities that allowed the campers to understand their abilities and potential, to develop new friendships, to improve self-confidence and to have fun.

Some of the additions to this year's camp: a new robot project based on the LEGO NXT robotics system; a new Circuits curriculum and teacher; and a new Math class curriculum and teacher.

The strengths of our camp include: (1) the daily robotics class taught by a fantastic high school teacher; (2) an OUTSTANDING group of team leaders; (3) committed staff members who believe in the mission of the camp; (4) academic activities taught by University professors and students; and (5) fun activities (team building activities, water park field trip and an Improv night) which are extremely important for the morale of the camp because they balance the daily academic activities.

The weaknesses/challenges of this year's camp include: (1) a small campus which does not have as many facilities for more on-campus activities; (2) a larger than normal number of girls not showing up despite our calls and the fact that some had already submitted payment.

Website: <http://eng-sci.udmercy.edu/pre-college/steps/index.htm>

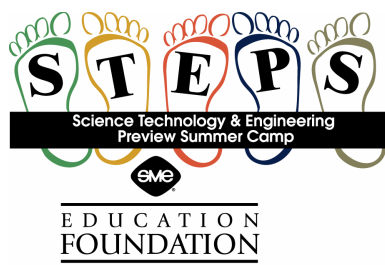
PRE-POST TEST SUMMARY

	Week #1			Week #2		
	Pre	Post	Change	Pre	Post	Change
I am confident in my ability to solve math problems	7.0	7.4	0.3	7.1	7.1	0.0
I am interested in taking science classes in school	7.0	7.4	0.5	6.6	7.2	0.6
I am confident in my ability to write computer programs	4.9	6.7	1.8	5.3	6.9	1.6
I am confident that I can earn at least a B in math	7.8	8.2	0.5	7.8	7.9	0.1
As an adult, I will get a better job if I take math, science or computer classes	7.6	7.8	0.2	7.3	7.8	0.5
I am confident that I can earn at least a B in a computer class	7.7	8.4	0.7	7.5	8.1	0.6
I can picture myself working as an engineer or scientist	6.4	6.5	0.1	5.5	6.6	1.1
I am good at science	7.4	7.8	0.4	6.6	6.6	(0.0)
I am interested in taking computer classes in school	6.4	7.0	0.6	6.6	7.3	0.7
It is OK for a female to work in the field of science	8.8	8.7	(0.1)	8.6	8.9	0.3
I am good at math	7.6	7.7	0.1	6.9	6.8	(0.1)
I understand the field of engineering	6.2	7.4	1.1	5.5	6.5	1.0
People who are good in math and science are cool	7.3	7.3	0.0	6.3	6.7	0.4
My friends will respect me if I take math, science or computer classes	7.3	7.1	(0.2)	6.7	6.7	(0.0)
I am confident that I can earn at least a B in science	8.2	8.4	0.3	7.9	8.0	0.1
After high school, I plan to go to college	8.6	8.6	(0.0)	8.9	9.5	0.6
I am interested in taking math classes in school	7.9	7.8	(0.1)	7.4	7.3	(0.1)
I want to work in an engineering or science field	6.5	6.4	(0.1)	6.1	6.5	0.4
Engineers and scientists make a difference in the world	8.0	7.9	(0.1)	8.4	8.3	(0.1)
It is OK for a female to work in the field of engineering	8.7	8.7	0.0	8.6	8.9	0.3
I am confident in my ability to use science lab equipment	7.4	7.8	0.4	7.3	7.8	0.5
I can picture myself taking advanced math and science classes in school	7.8	7.8	0.0	6.9	7.5	0.6
It is OK for a female to work in the field of math	8.7	8.4	(0.2)	8.7	8.7	(0.0)
I am interested in camps like STEPS	7.8	7.4	(0.4)	7.5	7.6	0.1

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

STEPS CAMP 2008

DAILY SCHEDULE



Sunday

2:00-2:30	Arrival / Check In	E237/239
2:30-3:15	Orientation for Parents & Campers	E237/239
3:15-3:30	Team Leaders Meet with Parents Campers Take Pre-Camp Survey	E237/239
3:30-4:00	Move into Dorms	Shiple
4:00-5:00	Walking Road Rally on Campus	Meet at Fountain
5:00-5:30	Dinner (BBQ)	Engineering High Bay
5:30-6:30	“Get To Know You” Exercise	Engineering High Bay
6:30	Go to the Dorms	West Quad
6:30-7:00	Unpack	West Quad
7:00-10:30	Evening Activities— Get To Know Your Team Show Me Boards	West Quad
10:30 PM	LIGHTS OUT	

Monday

	PINK	PURPLE	YELLOW	BLUE
6:30	Wake up			
7:30 - 8:00	Breakfast "Who Are We"			
8:00 - 9:25	LEGO NXT Project (E372)	LEGO NXT Project (E372)	Alternative Fuels (E222)	Math (E224)
9:35 - 11:00			Math (E224)	Alternative Fuels (E222)
11:00 - 11:30	LUNCH			
11:30 - 12:45	Alternative Fuels (E222)	Math (E224)	LEGO NXT Project (E372)	LEGO NXT Project (E372)
12:45 - 2:00	Math (E224)	Alternative Fuels (E222)		
2:15	Depart UDM for High Ropes Course			
2:30 - 6:15	High Ropes Course, Ferndale High School			
6:15 - 6:30	Leave Ferndale High, Return to UDM			
6:30 - 7:15	Dinner in the High Bay			
7:15 - 10:30	Movie & Games Night Daily Debrief Talent Show Planning Laundry Night			
10:30	LIGHTS OUT			

Tuesday

	PINK	PURPLE	YELLOW	BLUE
7:00	Wake Up			
8:00 - 8:30	Breakfast			
8:30 - 9:55	LEGO NXT Project	LEGO NXT Project	Sensors (E222)	Motors (Meet High Bay)
10:05 - 11:30			Motors (Meet High Bay)	Sensors (E222)
11:30 - 12:00	Lunch			
12:00 - 12:15	Break at the Fountain - "Who Are We" (If rain, use Fountain Lounge)			
12:15 - 1:45	Sensors (E222)	Motors (Meet High Bay)	LEGO NXT Project	LEGO NXT Project
1:50 - 3:15	Motors (Meet High Bay)	Sensors (E222)		
3:15 - 3:40	Head to Dorms, Get Ready for the Waterpark			
3:40	Depart for Water Park			
4:00	Arrive Red Oaks Waterpark			
7:00	Depart Red Oaks Waterpark			
7:30	Arrive UDM, Head to Dorms.			
8:00 - 10:30	Evening Activities Talent Show Practice Daily Debrief			
10:30	LIGHTS OUT			

Wednesday

(Must wear long pants and closed-toed shoes today)

	PINK	PURPLE	YELLOW	BLUE
7:00	Wake Up			
8:00 - 8:30	Breakfast			
8:30 - 9:55	LEGO NXT Project	LEGO NXT Project	Circuits (E222)	Welding (Meet High Bay)
10:05 - 11:30			Welding (Meet High Bay)	Circuits (E222)
11:30 - 12:00	Lunch			
12:00 - 12:20	Break at the Fountain - "Who Are We" (If rain, use Fountain Lounge)			
12:20 - 1:45	Circuits (E222)	Welding (Meet High Bay)	LEGO NXT Project	LEGO NXT Project
1:55 - 3:20	Welding (Meet High Bay)	Circuits (E222)		
3:20 - 4:20	Break in the Dorms			
4:20 - 5:00	Outdoor Games			
5:00 - 5:30	Dinner (High Bay)			
5:30 - 6:30	Dorms Change for the Improv Show (no camp shirts required)			
6:30 - 8:00	Improv Night (Coffee House)			
8:00 - 10:30	Daily Debrief Practice Talent Show Laundry Night			
10:30	Lights Out			

Thursday

	PINK	PURPLE	YELLOW	BLUE
7:00	Wake Up			
8:00 - 8:30	Breakfast			
8:30 - 9:55	LEGO NXT Project	LEGO NXT Project	Batteries (CHM 202)	Vacuum Forming & Candle Making (High Bay)
10:05 - 11:30			Vacuum Forming & Candle Making (High Bay)	Batteries (CHM 202)
11:30 - 12:00	Lunch			
12:00 - 12:20	Break at the Fountain - "Who Are We"			
12:20 - 1:45	Batteries (CHM 202)	Vacuum Forming & Candle Making (High Bay)	LEGO NXT Project	LEGO NXT Project
1:55 - 3:20	Vacuum Forming & Candle Making (High Bay)	Batteries (CHM 202)		
3:20 - 4:15	Break in the Dorms			
4:15 - 5:30	Outdoor Games			
5:30 - 6:00	Dinner - Tacos, Burritos, Nachos (Titan Dining Room)			
6:00 - 7:30	Paper Plate Awards, Team Awards, Cake & Ice Cream (Fountain)			
7:30 - 8:30	Talent Show (June 19 - location TBD, June 26 - Ballroom)			
10:30	Lights Out			

Friday

7:00	Wake Up
8:00 - 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:00	Post Test (High Bay)
9:00 - 11:00	Final Robot Testing, Chromatography T-Shirts, Newsletter Binding
11:00	Head to Dorms / Get Ready for the Closing
11:30	Parents Arrive, Open House (High Bay)
12:30	Robot Demonstrations
1:00	Closing Ceremony
1:40	Departure & Dorm Check Out

**DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN
 STEPS 2008 Camp
 University of Detroit Mercy**

Ethnicity (self-reported)	
Black (B)	38
Caucasian (C)	18
Asian (A)	1
Other	2
C/A	2
B/C	2
Hispanic	1
blank	26

City		
ANN ARBOR	1	1%
BIRMINGHAM	1	1%
BROWNSTOWN	2	2%
BYRON CENTER	1	1%
COMMERCE TWP	1	1%
DETROIT	37	41%
FARMINGTON HILLS	3	3%
FRASER	1	1%
GRAND BLANC	1	1%
GRAND HAVEN	1	1%
GRAND RAPIDS	5	5%
GREENVILLE	2	2%
GROSSE PT	1	1%
HARPER WOODS	1	1%
HIGHLAND PARK	1	1%
KELLER	1	1%
KENTWOOD	1	1%
MITCHELLVILLE	1	1%
MUSKEGON	2	2%
NOVI	1	1%
OAK PARK	1	1%
PEARLAND	1	1%
PONTIAC	1	1%
RICHMOND	1	1%
SALINE	1	1%
SHELBY TWP	1	1%
SOUTHFIELD	9	10%
SPRINGLAKE	1	1%
STANTON	1	1%
TEMPERANCE	1	1%
TROY	1	1%
WARREN	1	1%
WEST BLOOMFIELD	1	1%
WEST OLIVE	1	1%
WESTLAND	1	1%
WYOMING	2	2%
YPSILANTI	1	1%

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY 2008 STEPS CAMP EXPENSE REPORT

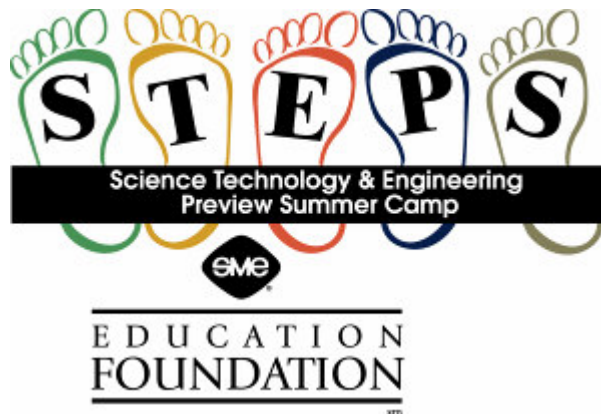
ACADEMICS		\$17,502	28%
	Instruction	\$15,753	
	Teaching Assistants	\$207	
	Course Supplies	\$1,542	
	Robot Supplies	\$0	
FOOD		\$6,228	10%
	Breakfast & Lunch	\$4,270	
	Dinner	\$1,868	
	Misc Food	\$90	
DORMITORIES		\$8,935	14%
	Rooms	\$8,700	
	Dorm Supplies	\$235	
ADMINISTRATION & STAFF		\$16,156	25%
	Camp Co-Directors	\$3,152	
	Team Leaders	\$6,600	
	Dorm Moms	\$4,306	
	General Support Staff (includes pre-camp office help)	\$1,906	
	Planning Meetings	\$192	
GENERAL CAMP SUPPLIES		\$2,782	4%
	General Supplies	\$980	
	T-Shirts	\$913	
	Newsletters	\$362	
	Promotion	\$528	
FIELD TRIPS & ACTIVITIES		\$3,265	5%
	Waterpark, High Ropes, Improv	\$3,265	
MISC		\$1,193	2%
	Closing Ceremonies	\$1,193	
FACILITY USE		\$7,384	12%
TOTAL		\$63,445	

STEP INTO THE FUTURE

SUMMER 2008

Newsletter

Week #2 -- June 22-27, 2008



Yellow Diamonds



Sheridan Taormina



Alexa Cornwall



She-Xiang Hall



Rondalyn Gardner



Diamond Davis



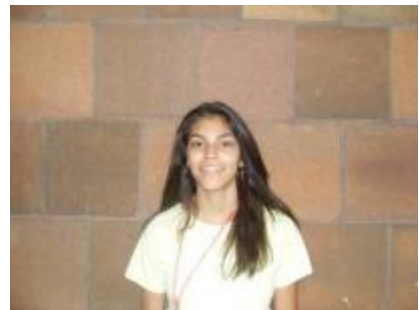
Shoniste Dennard



Jasmin Herendeen



Lakeisha Marshall
Team Leader



Selena Torres

Pink Passions



Lauren VanCourt



Valishia Chapman



Hannah May



Alyssa Long



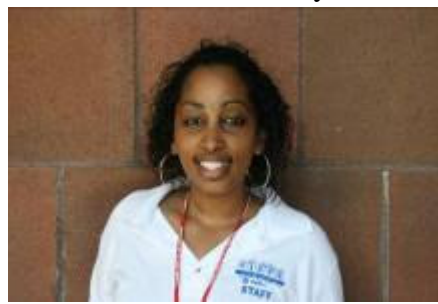
Ariauna Motley



Alesha Floyd



Schuyler Bishop



Beth Tibebe
Team Leader



Kayla Calomemi

Morado Bonitas



Breanna Hunter



Briana Quaker



Mia Simon



Alyse Kirkland



Jasmine Jones



Kia Tyus



Ria Ramsey



Ashley Story



Rebekah Watkins



Erin Reddick



Whitney Williams
Team Leader

Blue Print



Christina DewBerry



Courtney Nash



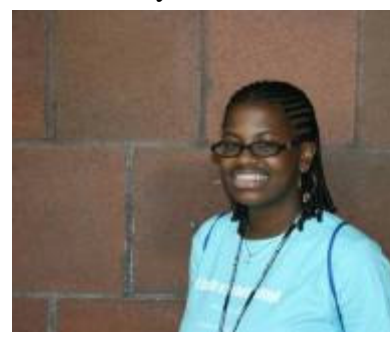
Caitlyn Shreves



Maya Jones



Nicole Patterson



Adrienne Eady



Danielle Williams



Brittney Bond
Team Leader



Kourtney Harris

The First Day of Camp

Written by Maya Jones and Nicole Patterson of the Blue Group

Weeks of waiting and it's here the first day college...well When we arrived we were given to our new home for the week and of our cell phones. Our group then proceeded with our parents to out the dorms. Family and friends reluctantly hugged goodbye and we unpacked and entered into the world.



finally
kind of.
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left as
college



Meeting each other wasn't hard seeing as how everyone was so friendly. We even helped each other make a few changes to the rooms. The scavenger hunt brought our group closer and introduced us to the campus. Even though it rained on us, we still had a lot of fun. After being held hostage by the rain we proceeded back to the engineering building to have a tasty dinner of barbequed hamburgers, veggie burgers, and chicken.

After dinner, we did the "Success analysis". Unfortunately one of our group members was moved during this activity but we still had a lot of fun and didn't let it bother us to much. Back at the dorm rooms, we settled in and had little fun getting to know each other's groups. It was a lot of fun even though people were racing to get in the showers. Overall it's been a nice experience so far...to be continued



Sunday Purple

Written By: Jasmine Jones and Erin Reddick



Here at S.T.E.P.S we focus on learning to the fullest from beginning to end. Immediately after arriving at Detroit Mercy, color coordinated groups of young teenage girls were sent to a classroom to have an orientation. During this lengthy and in depth introduction to S.T.E.P.S camp, some of the students were able to communicate creating a friendly comfortable environment from the start. Later on that afternoon parents departed the campus and we S.T.E.P students were permitted to settle into our dorms. Soon after we accomplished modifying our blank canvas dorms we

collaborated with our roommates and team members throughout the halls for a short time. Hastily taking advantage of the beautiful new beginning of an everlasting memory, we were soon off to a great jump start to an intense learning experience. Within hours of fulfilling this great relationships and support groups were formed and things naturally fell into place. S.T.E.P.S isn't just a camp it's a family, better yet a sisterhood.

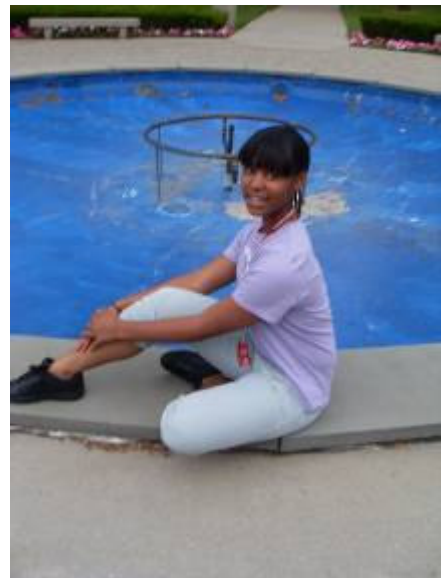


As we got together to get to know each other in our groups and out of the groups

We learned a little bit about each other. There were differences in this camp Sunday, however we were able to come and overcome that and get along. In the dorms there were two bunk beds, two desks, two amours, and maybe a mirror .There were 5 bathrooms and 4

stalls, which we all shared without a fuss.

Being in a sisterhood is means that you care for one another and take care of one another. In conclusion this is the beginning of our sisterhood .Thank you for taking the time to read our thoughts on Sunday.



Sunday Raspberry



Before I came to this program, I thought I wouldn't have that much fun in an all girls camp full of people I didn't know. Now that this is my second day, I've learned that this was an opportunity to create new friendships, have fun while doing work, and get to know the University of Detroit Mercy. This would also be a good experience to learn the different aspects of engineering. When I first meet all the members of my team, we didn't talk that much but after the first activity we started talking more.



I have learned a lot of great things already, like how to construct a robot and measure voltage. I would have never imagined that I would be constructing a robot. I really like the hands on experiments that we have been doing. Its also wonderful experience living in the colleges' dorm rooms because it adds to the experience of being in college.

The activities we've been doing has so far have helped us build our character and teamwork skills.



First Day at S.T.E.P.S

Written by Diamond Davis

The first day at steps camp was ok. I got a chance to meet some really cool people. My room mate is very cool and down to earth we are good friends now. Then I meet some more people in my group which is the Yellow Diamonds. Their names are Shay and Ronda. My



roommates name is Shoniste. As far as every thing else it went ok. My leader is nice we get along with her the food was pretty good. I'm looking forward to what we will be doing next.

Written by Rondalyn Gardner

The first day at steps camp was cool. When I got here I'm like, "man I don't want to be here", but now that I'm here I really like it here at camp. On the first day I got a roommate and her name is Shay. And I got placed in the yellow group A.K.A the "yellow diamonds". And I meet my group leader, and she's a cool person and also very nice. But one thing a bout her is she DOES NOT LIKE TO BE LATE. I also made two other friends named Diamond and Shoniste. They are to cool kids. But that just a bout sums up my first day here. And I'm truly thinking a bout coming back next year.



Our First Full Day

By: *Adrienne Eady and Courtney Nash*



What I did first was to go to a math class. It was really fun. I got to make an elevator. My group and I had a weight at the end of a rope and used a motor to turn the rope to make the weight come up. We had to time it and write down the information on a table. Then we had to do calculations with the information that we obtained.

Then there was a science class where solar cars. We used lamps as a source of and we took them out into the hallway so they drive. The fuel used to make the cars go was a combination of oxygen and hydrogen. It was interesting and very fun.



we made photons could

We had one more class - robotics. We started right away to make the robots. It was how we put them together with the pieces that we had. Our last and longest class of the day was Lego robotics. We were divided into groups and each group got a kit to build their robot from Legos. After we finished putting them together, we learned about programming the robot and the different sensors we will use on it. We began programming them for the routine they will do in the end and got ready for our trip to the high ropes course.

got cool



After all of our classes during the day, we went to Ferndale High School. We did group activities for team building but had to go to the gym because of the storm. In the gym we did more team building activities like trying to get our whole group through a cube each in a different way. When the storm passed we went back out to the high ropes course. Many of the girls in our group went up on the challenges and it was hilarious to watch them.

Monday

By: Rebekah Watkins and Alyse Kirkland



Yesterday the purple team had a blast. It was an action packed day even though we spent most of the day trying to get to know everyone better. Our day started off early with breakfast, which, by the way, was very good and fulfilling. After that we made our way to our first class of the day which was the LEGO NXT Project. When we got there we went through guidelines and diagrams for our robots. Next we built our robots and started programming them.

From there we went to math class where we applied mathematical formulas to scientific experiments. We learned how math and science together in the field of engineering. We also had a class on alternative fuels. In that class we learned how we can use solar power to power a car.

After that we went back to our dorms ready to leave for the high ropes course and building challenges. During each activity our team was challenged to solve a problem by using the ideas of the campers.



there we work a class how we and got team team ideas of



After the team building portion of the day, we were challenged individually to overcome our fears and walk across thin wires 30 feet in the air.

We returned to a dinner of pizza and salad in the high bay and then went to the dorms for movie night.

Monday

Written By: Schuyler Bishop Lauren VanCourt



Monday at the STEPS program was an amazing experience for all of its campers. We built robots using the Lego Mind Storm computer program, created mini cars that ran on alternative fuel cells, conducted an electrical energy experiment and had fun on the high ropes course.

Just like every other day, we started out with a delicious breakfast that consisted of French toast, eggs, hash browns, and a beverage of our choice. After that, it was time for class. For our first class we had the chance to play with Legos, programming our robot to

move forward and stop.



Next, we experimented with solar panels and alternative fuel cells. We powered a battery with the solar panel, and ran a car with the energy from the alternative fuel cells. The electrical energy experiment was fun too. We powered a small lift that acted as a mini elevator, then measured the volts and currents and put it into an equation that showed how efficient it was.

Also, we participated in team building activities that were fun. But the high ropes course was the most fun.



The Yellow Diamonds RULE!

Written By: Sheridan Taormina and Alexa Cornwall



It was the first day of camp and we were all excited. The first stop of the day was breakfast. Although it was tough getting up at 6:30 in the morning, it was worth it. The food was delicious and before we knew it, it was off to class.

For the team, our first class alternative fuels.

we were able to build a fuel cell car, and shocker – it actually worked. Then we made our way to math where we experimented with small elevator motors how efficiently they lifted certain weights.

The main class however, is our robotics class, we built robots out of Legos. We also started the programming. It's complicated but fun.

We then went to lunch and enjoyed some delicious pasta and breadsticks. Then came the best part of the day, all of the girls made their way to Ferndale Middle School for the high ropes course. But before we could get to that, the whole yellow team was given a series of challenges that we needed to solve together. The first one was the rope challenge, where our team struggled but finally got the rope by tying our key chains and a shoe together. IT WORKED!



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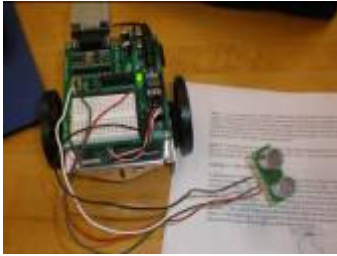
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After a few more small challenges, we got to the high ropes. It was nerve racking but all in all, a lot of fun. All of the team did great and some people even conquered their fear of heights and did a phenomenal job! Today was a great day and I can't wait to see what's to come in the next few days.

Tuesday!!!

By Caitlyn Shreves and Kourtney Harris



Things were going great on Tuesday morning. We were well rested. The cooks prepared a wholesome breakfast, and after we went to the LEGO NXT robot class. We were successful in our effort to make our robot dance and sing. We enjoyed the challenge of building a mechanical robot.

After the tiring process of building a robot, we proceeded to

lunch and enjoyed chicken patties and pop. then ventured to the fountain to do the “Who We” challenge. Later we to our motor class and enjoyed building tiny out of everyday things. we successfully created motors we headed towards our sensors class. sensor class we worked different types of miniature robots.



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Finally after a day of building, the best of all had finally come. We went to the Red Oaks Water Park. Everyone went swimming and got to know each other a little more. We bonded over subway and strawberry shortcake. We were exhausted afterwards after our afternoon at the park.

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When we arrived back at the dorms we were extremely tired. We showered and changed into our pajamas. Then we all gathered in lounge and enjoyed watching the BET Awards together. Overall, Tuesday was a good day. It was another day for us to enjoy each other’s company.

FUN IN THE SUN

Written by Ashley Story and Briana Quaker



On our second day of working on our Robots we accomplished many tasks that had been previously planned. Programming our NXT Robots was frustrating and many wanted to give up. We pushed through it with the help of some moral support and overcame our obstacles. The pre-made road map had left, right and straight arrows on the intersections. Each group had to program their Robots to follow the arrows and also stop at the white line similar to the way a car would stop at a stop sign. By the end of the class each group had successfully programmed their robots.

While working with magnets we learned that current in a battery can make copper spin in circles. Each girl built a model of this in the form of a motor. This was a great experience in learning how magnets can pull objects in different ways.

A sensor takes a physical system parameter and converts it to an electrical signal. Then this signal converted to a form that can be “understood” by the controller/computer. We learned the basics of sensors using a computer and a bobot. We also used an ultrasound sensor and a photoresistor on the robot. By writing a code into a program on the computer we were able to get our boe bot to sense distance and blink different color lights.

The hard work is now done and we are all ready to be on the sun. As we loaded the vans you could hear the excitement buzzing. Arriving at 4:00 and leaving at 7:00 we had plenty of time to mess around and have fun. The waterslides were a little tight fit on the tubes you rode on. Many people got stuck. In the lazy river we could just sit back and relax.

The wave pool is the exact opposite. You were filled with excitement when that buzzer went off meaning the waves were coming. Many people swam to the deep end so they could catch the big waves. After dinner many girls just relaxed and talked while others continued on, busy



with the water rides. The ride back was awfully quiet in some vans while girls were swept with exhaustion.



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is
by

A Splashin' Tuesday with Passion Pink

By: Kayla Calomeni and Hannah May



On Tuesday the pink team had an eventful day working with our robots, programming and making sensors run, making motors out of batteries and magnets, and finally ending our day at the water park.

We started off our day in sensors class; we programmed the basic stamp for the Bobot platform. We looked at ultrasonic and touch sensors and how they functioned. Along with our day we made mini motors, we used batteries, copper wiring, paperclips, magnets, and a wood block to hold it all in place. Even though it took a lot of time and didn't always work correctly, the motors were lots of fun to build.

After our lunch we had a "Who are We", we learned which campers could play the flute, never carries a purse, and who can wiggle their ears. We do these activities every day and it is very cool to learn a bunch of random facts about the other girls at the camp this summer. Then it was off to robot class, we learned more complex programs and how to make it and go on its own. We worked through frustrations as it wanted, and not what we wanted it to do. The robot can now stop when it sees a white line and then can go forward if the intersection is clear. It is very neat to see the robot behave like a human and



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know that we accomplished what we wanted to do.



The day ended with a trip to the water park, which was a ton of fun. The pink team worked their way through the water park making stops at all the fun attractions. We started off at the water slides, racing each other down them. Next, we relaxed on the lazy river. Then, we hung out at the wave pool, talking and laughing the day away. Then we headed back to our dorms to watch the BET awards or just hang out in our rooms. Sadly, our fun adventure had to end with lights out.

A Day of Fun

By Shoniste Dennard and Selena Torres



The morning of June 24th 2008 the Yellow Diamonds went to assemble the Lego NXT robot project. We learned how to make the robot talk, dance, and move in different directions. During the class we had a break to learn more about the people in our robot groups. The exercise made us tell something about ourselves with every different colored skittle we collected.

After this class was over we went to a class called Sensors where one person typed in the program for the robot car while the other partner acted as a mechanic and built the robot. In the end the program was able to tell how far someone was from the robot.

Next the Yellow Diamonds went to a class called motors where we built motors out of a battery, a block of wood, rubber bands, wires, paper clips, and coils.

Finally we were off to the Red Oaks Water park where we had tons of fun sliding down the water slides, swimming in the wave pool, and lounging in the lazy river. Then we had a delicious dinner from Subway and swam some more and finally went back to our dorms.



Our Wednesday

Written By: Danielle Williams & Christina DewBerry



Today we had an interesting experience, it allowed us to do things we had never done before, just to name a few: Welding, chasing a squirrel, and practicing for our talent show.

Welding was fun, because it was a rare opportunity for us to learn something new, that we could use in our near future. We learned how to do a very specific weld called corner weld. In this process we used two pieces of metal. Furthermore, we used three types of machines to get the metal in a box shape. Then, we used the acetylene torch to do

the welding.

To continue our experience as University of Detroit Mercy campees, we were entertained by chasing a squirrel. While in circuits class one our group members saw a squirrel. We thought she went mentally insane for a minute, but when we all saw the squirrel it was another story. We catapulted out of our seats and down the hallway with it. We chased the squirrel around the second floor for about 7 minutes until it flew off the second floor and was never seen again.

After all our classes we had dinner then relaxed for about an hour until it was time for the Improv show. Most of us were introduced to an Improv show for the first time and had unpredictable thoughts about it. This show was really entertaining because it included some of our peers from the camp, which made it more interesting and funny. Everybody seemed to enjoy the show. Then, we headed back to our dorms.



Little did we know we still had to make a skit and dance for our camp talent show coming up Thursday evening. We took our time trying to analyze our options and opinions on ideas for the show. We picked a song and got right to work on our performance. Then, it was time to get ready for bed, so we headed to our dorms and light were out at 10:30.



The Purple Experience: Wednesday

Written by: Ria Ramsey and Mia Simon



The purple team went to the LEGO NXT project class on Wednesday. In the class we worked on identifying different colors such as purple and oranges as we tried to get our robots to go in a particular direction. Many were flustered but at the end we all succeeded in our endeavors to perfect our robots.

After lunch we attended a welding class where we created boxes out of scraps of metal. Even though many of us were nervous because of the fiery torches, in the end our boxes were created to perfection. In the following class we were taught about circuits and how they make electrical and mechanical energy. We learned and comprehended Ohm's law and many other theories that contribute to the study of electrical circuits.



That evening, after our long day of classes had ended we attended an improv show. Some of us had never been to one, so this was a gratifying experience for all. During the show many campers went on the stage to assist the actors during their performances. It was a laugh out loud show, and helped us with the preparing for the talent show which would be the following day.



In conclusion, Wednesday was a very strenuous and long day. Many people were exhausted as the week was coming to a close. We had to make finishing touches on our robots, and we also took classes that taught us how to be cautious with certain tools and materials such as; circuits, torches, saws, and hammers. Even though the day made us very tired we still enjoyed our day as a part of the purple team.

Raspberry Wednesday Activities

By Alyssa Long and Valishia Chapman



of sparks but came out fresh.

Yesterday we got up around 7:00 am to get ready for breakfast. Of course we were the first ones there because we are early birds. The class we started with was Robotics and we all were pretty out of it. My team's robot was acting up the day before but for some reason ours seemed to be the only one cooperating. Then we went to circuits and we had form science formulas for $V=IR$, our body looked so funny when we formed our variables. After that we went to welding and the was that best part. We cut out a square piece of metal banged it, burned it, and shined it. The shining part had a lot

Afterwards we went to lunch and had burgers. Next was more class and before you knew it, it was already dinner. The food we had was good but unfamiliar. I didn't like the fact that they had tomatoes in it because I hate tomatoes. Then about five minutes later I was feeling kind of sick so I just tried to relax.

We headed back to our dorms and practiced for the talent show. The only thing about the practice was that I was half sleep and half awake. It was of funny because they got a pretty good shot of me napping. Finally it was time for Improv and as soon as I in there I flopped down in the chair and fell asleep. My was banging so hard that when they woke me up my team me that the comedian had asked me to get up and it made situation worst.



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When the show was over we headed to dorms for the night. My team went to practice again when they found out they had to go to bed at 10 everyone started running towards they room because Regina was coming. It sounded like a stampede. The night was over and finally we were all asleep.

WILD WEDNESDAYS

By: She-Xiang Hall & Jasmin Herendeen

She-xiang: Today I had a crazy day. We had robotics class and I did not feel well so I had to sit outside of the classroom. Later on I hung out with all of team members, even my team leader Lakisha. My friend Rondalyn and I taught our friend Jasmin to pop her butt. Girl, Jasmin was gettin' it.



Jasmin: Today was really fun, but annoying as well. First, we were doing circuits and Rondalyn (I was sitting next to her) accidentally made the power block smoke and I was like OMG! It was a wake up call.

Then we did welding. At first I was a

bit afraid, but it was really cool and enjoyable. The person I was working with said I was a natural. Then in robotics, you already heard from my partner Shay (that's what I call her). She got sick and had to leave. I mostly worked by myself except for a little help from Maya. Then, the computer crashed and I was ticked off and so I had to work until the end of class to get the program to where it was suppose to be.



Finally we worked on the talent show and saw the improve show. Then after, we were hanging out and Rondalyn taught me a dance move and I was really happy until they suggested I show it to my parents. I stopped right there. Then we went to bed at 10 because of Tuesday's fiasco. It was as I said, fun but annoying.



THE CULMINATION

On Thursday we had worked at our final classes for STEPS. We made candles, used vacuum forming to make a plastic shape from a mold. We decorated our molded piece and worked on our LEGO robots. After lunch we did the “Who are We” activity. Some of the lessons we learned at camp this week include:

Don't give up on your dreams just because they are hard to accomplish.

Volunteer and get exposed to lots of different types of work and activities.

Don't let anyone tell you that “you can't do it”.

Be flexible.

Stay true to yourself and keep your integrity.

Take the hard classes in high school... especially math.

Don't shut any doors. Engineering opens all kinds of opportunities for you.

After classes we took a short break and then spent a little more time getting our robots to work. We had tacos and nachos for dinner, and then went to the fountain for our paper plate awards. Later that evening we had a Talent Show. All the teams gave entertaining performances and we laughed a lot. Tomorrow we will have the final robot demonstration in front of our parents and the invited guests. We worked hard to make the robots perform effectively and are very proud of our teams.



STAFF WEEK #1



Dan Maggio
Director



Anne Moeser
Assistant Director



Chris Brownfield
Dorm Mom



Regina Isaac
Dorm Mom



Vicki Kramer



Jonathan Weaver



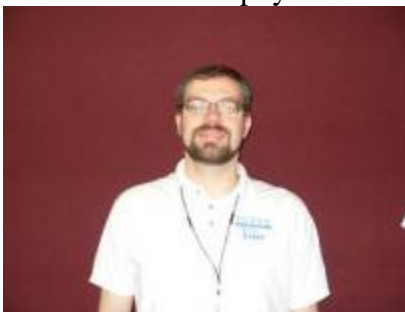
Tim Murphy



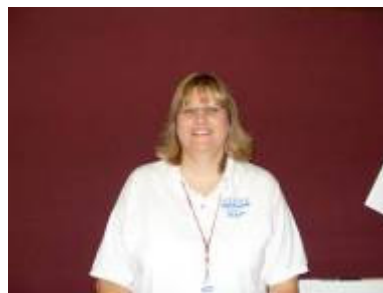
Chris Sassak



Allison Epple



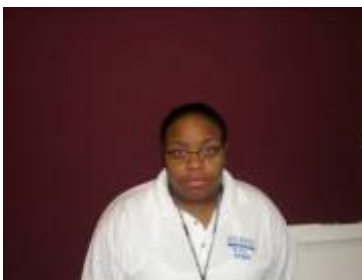
Peter Guenther



Deb May



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Karla Northern



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