

DECEMBER 2023

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Toys for Tots

Site employees work together to fill local children's Christmas wish lists



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

H Canyon reaches milestone • United Way campaign exceeds goal • Donations to multiple charities



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

At the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots pick up event, Savannah River Site (SRS) employees loaded over 20,000 toys onto trucks for distribution to local Salvation Army agencies.

Welcome

to the December 2023 edition of

SRNS Today

The old year passes, and a new one begins. This past year at SRNS has been filled with so many accomplishments, and we finished on a strong note once again.

We continued to showcase our commitment to local communities through multiple charities. Together with Battelle Savannah River Alliance and Savannah River Mission Completion, we donated over 20,000 toys during the annual Toys for Tots campaign, and we adopted over 600 children through the Angel Tree Program. In addition, the Site raised over \$35,000, surpassing our goal by \$10,000. I couldn't be prouder of our employees who have always stepped up to help out those in need, especially at this time of the year.

Our H Canyon Chemical Separations Facility reached a new milestone in support of their Fast Critical Assembly (FCA) disposal mission, dissolving non-radioactive dummy containers similar to those housing FCA material. H Canyon is now one step closer to meeting the goals of disposition of FCA fuel and the National Nuclear Security Administration's nonproliferation mission.

We also recently welcomed 12th grade students from Richmond County Technical Career Magnet for a unique field trip opportunity through the SRS Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP).

I truly hope you enjoy the December edition of SRNS Today.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)

H Canyon reaches new milestone in Fast Critical Assembly mission

The SRS H Canyon Chemical Separations Facility has reached a new milestone in support of the disposal of Fast Critical Assembly (FCA) nuclear material by dissolving “dummy cans,” non-radioactive stainless steel containers similar to what holds actual FCA plutonium.

“This milestone is pushing H Canyon one step closer to dissolving nuclear material in support of the disposition of FCA fuel and the NNSA nonproliferation mission,” said Kevin Moeller, Deputy Facility Manager for SRNS. “The work we accomplish is making the world safer, and we are excited to see advancements in this mission.”

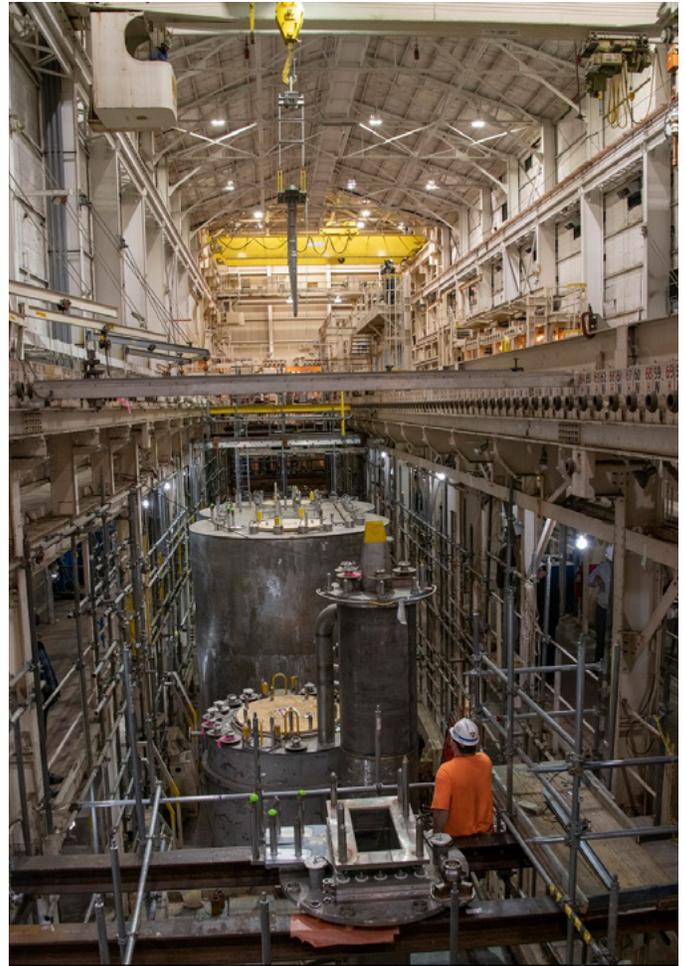
Since 2019, the FCA mission has involved extensive planning from employees in SRS’ H Canyon Chemical Separations Facility after NNSA made the decision to send the FCA fuel to H Canyon to be dissolved and discarded as waste at SRS.

“The FCA fuel is different than the other material we have most recently been dissolving in H Canyon because it is coated in stainless steel cladding, rather than aluminum,” Moeller said. “The current dissolvers in the canyon are chemical dissolvers that use nitric acid to process the fuel; however, nitric acid alone doesn’t work on stainless steel. H Canyon had to replace a no-longer-in-service dissolver and install an electrolytic dissolver in its place.”

This is not the first time H Canyon has performed electrolytic dissolution. From 1969 to 1980, H Canyon utilized this method for dissolution of fuel clad in stainless steel and zirconium. The process involves lowering the fuel into a nitric acid solution, and, in the case of electrolytic dissolver, using electricity as part of the chemical dissolution process. This produces a liquid that is stored and prepared in H Canyon to be moved through the Site’s liquid waste facilities for eventual vitrification, or made into glass, and safely stored on-site until a federal repository is identified. Preparations at the canyon began in Jan. 2021 with the excess of unusable equipment and the installation of the new dissolver.

According to Technical Support Engineer and Dissolving Subject Matter Expert Nina Vinci, the team heading the initiative also installed a new rectifier, which directs electrical current to power the dissolver. They also installed a large storage tank in addition to the new dissolver in preparation for the dummy cans’ dissolution milestone and future operations.

“Our team is incredibly proud of this achievement that proves the electrolytic dissolver operates smoothly with only minor hiccups detected,” said Vinci. “We plan to continue all start-up-related



In January 2021, H Canyon’s electrolytic dissolver was installed, to dissolve nuclear material and support the nonproliferation mission. Before installation in the canyon, test runs were done in a clean mock-up facility.

tasks and implement all new requirements to start dissolving the FCA fuel by February 2024.”

Moeller believes the years of preparation from all key players ensured the success of the dummy can dissolution process and further development of the FCA mission.

“This new milestone could not have been reached without the collaborative effort from organizations across SRS,” said Moeller. “With any new mission, you are bound to run into challenges along the way, but this team determined resolutions quickly and efficiently to remain on-time and delivering top results.”

Japan’s Atomic Energy Agency sent the FCA fuel to SRS in 2016, fulfilling the joint pledge between Japan and the United States to remove all separated plutonium and highly enriched uranium from the FCA Reactor in Japan. The fuel is currently stored on-site and will be transferred to the canyon for processing upon the completion of all preparation tasks. After the FCA campaign, the electrolytic dissolver can be used for dissolution of other non-aluminum based spent fuels, helping advance DOE’s mission of nonproliferation.

Excess Express reduces, repurposes \$11M in assets



SRNS Excess Express Material Processors Michelle Pierce, Kevin Miles, Hunter Glover and Tyrone Walker organize pallets of excessed material. In FY23, over 480 pallets were successfully excessed from the Site.

said Joe Welch, First Line Operations Lead, Excess Express Services. “By taking on these tasks, our team is a huge benefit to this Site and continues to be good stewards of government assets and taxpayer money while employees dedicate their time and energy into what they do best.”

DOE-Savannah River Organizational Property Management Officer Sam Brantley considers the Excess and Salvage Program to be the best of the best and a widely known organization throughout the DOE complex.

“Millions of dollars’ worth of excess equipment and materials are trusted in the hands of this team,” said Brantley. “On behalf of Site tenants, Site contractors, local universities and surrounding communities, we are so grateful for your contributions and dedication to this program.”

Excess equipment can be reused by SRS workers, off-site state and federal government agencies, and nearby community organizations and programs, such as the Laboratory Equipment Donation Program (LEDP) and the SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO). LEDP grants surplus and available used laboratory equipment to college and universities to be used for educational programs. SRSCRO helps technology-based startups, business expansion and new ventures across the CSRA through excessed essential items and donations.

“I’ll never forget when Craig came to me to donate excess stationary equipment to an impoverished community in Allendale, South Carolina,” Brantley said. “We were able to process those items correctly through the program and donate over \$1,000 worth of equipment to students to further their education. It is a wonderful feeling when this team can repurpose unusable materials to benefit low income or disadvantaged populations in our surrounding communities.”

Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Vice President, Contracts and Supply Chain Management, was amazed by the performance of Excess Express in FY23.

“This team executes daily tasks safely and securely with a high level of performance and quality of excellence that we are looking for throughout the entire supply chain and company,” said Johnson.

On Oct. 24, the SRNS Property Management’s Excess Express Services celebrated the processing, disposal and reutilization of nearly \$11 million in government assets from SRS during fiscal year (FY) 2023.

“Our team surpassed the FY22 record by 45%, with \$10.9M in government asset property excessed off-site,” said Craig Martin, SRNS Manager, Excess and Salvage Programs. “This team models top level customer service, asset protection, expedited processes and unwavering commitment to our missions at the Savannah River Site. We are constantly looking for ways to benefit the government and local communities through this turnkey operation.”

Established in 2016, Excess Express is an all-inclusive resource that ensures all Site customers safely and securely dispose or reutilize government property. The excess process — which includes the inspection, separation, demarking, inventory, preparation and staging of all items — impacts thousands of employees.

“The standard routine for excessing items can be quite time consuming and challenging for our customers to do alone,”



The SRNS Property Management’s Excess Express team processed, disposed of and reutilized nearly \$11 million in government assets to off-site locations.

Supply Chain Procurement celebrates record year

The SRNS Supply Chain Procurement (SCP) group is celebrating a successful year of achievements, particularly in the areas of on-time delivery (OTD), procurement commitments, and cost savings — all while delivering improved supply chain solutions to reduce supplier risk at SRS.

“Going into fiscal year (FY) 2023, the SCP leadership team built a comprehensive plan to improve processes and systems, invest in our talent, and overdrive results,” said Dave Dietz, SRNS Senior Procurement Director of Supply Chain. “It’s been a record year with outstanding outcomes for the entire department.”

OTD is the supplier’s delivery of material to support the Site’s projects and missions. According to Lisa Tanner, SRNS Senior Manager of Supply Chain Excellence and Small Business Liaison Officer, the SCP OTD averaged 84.2% prior to FY23.

“This OTD score was ‘good enough,’ as it met the requirements of our customer which is a minimum of 84%, but we decided to take it a step further for our customers’ benefit and increased our internal goal to 90% OTD,” said Tanner. “By the end of FY23, our team reached our goal of 90%, the highest performance SRS has seen in more than a decade.”

Tanner believes these ambitious goals are especially important for supporting DOE missions. “An agile, reliable supply base that delivers exceptional on-time delivery is key to supporting missions of national importance,” Tanner said. “OTD is one of the many ways the SCP group supports the future of SRS.”

The SRNS SCP team continued to reach record-setting performance levels through new procurement commitments. SCP awarded \$1.2 billion in new commitments, an increase of over \$600 million (92%) from FY22. Breaking all previous records, SRNS committed \$732 million (59%) of its subcontracted work to small business. These new commitments achieved key milestones deadlines for all 50 critical procurements supporting performance-based incentives for Environmental Management (EM) missions.

“The key to SRNS expansion and economic growth has always been to support our surrounding community and small businesses,” said Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Vice President, Contracts and SCM. “We consistently look for ways to maximize their capabilities and impact at SRS so that we can further DOE missions.”

Two major improvement initiatives, the Supplier Risk Assessment (SRA) and ‘Project Revolution’, were rolled out by SCP in FY23 to reduce supplier risk, accelerate procurement, identify gaps and remove barriers to success.

“The Risk Management group revamped the SRA process to better evaluate supplier risk and overall viability,” said Tanner. “SRA is a compilation of a supplier’s financial health, corporate linkages, import history, counterfeit indicators and labor practices. By using this new tool, we can continuously monitor key suppliers and analyze the data to assess SRNS’ risk when doing business with a supplier. This is a huge breakthrough in not only tremendously reducing risk but saving us a lot of time in the process.”

Despite facing global supply chain shortages and an increase in



The SRNS Supplier Risk Management team reviews the workflow design of the new supplier risk and viability program.

scope, the SCP Policy and Compliance Assurance group led a grassroots effort, allowing the workforce to identify opportunities for improvement to streamline SRNS acquisition processes. After one year of development, the ‘Project Revolution’ initiative was established to remove unnecessary steps and processes to accelerate mission-critical acquisitions.

“To accomplish Project Revolution, SCP senior leaders analyzed six core processes with the goal of accelerating procurement, identifying gaps and removing barriers to success,” said Elizabeth Wooten, SRNS Manager, Policy and Compliance Assurance. “Over 80 improvement ideas were identified with a specific resolution assigned to each, which dramatically reduced implementation time for changes in policy, procedures and requirements.”

Leading cost-savings initiatives across all DOE-EM sites, the SRNS SCP team far exceeded the savings goal of \$12 million. At the end of FY23, the team reached a total of \$27.6 million in cost-savings — money that can be returned to many programs that support DOE objectives.

“One key factor in securing this amount of savings was through the onboarding and training of over 40 procurement professionals in this year alone,” said Jess Robson, SRNS SCM Training Program Manager. “We offered guided development and multi-faceted training programs tailored to meet the needs of our new buyers short- and long-term goals.”

In 2022, the SCP team provided in-person training for buyers to better understand the Supply Chain Management Center (SCMC) portal, which offers pre-negotiated quantity discounts and agreements. SRNS monitored the buyer’s use of the SCMC platform to ensure the best procurement method was being utilized throughout the year. Nearly 60% of the SCMC agreements were issued to small businesses, exceeding the FY23 goal.

“We celebrate and recognize the records set by SRNS Procurement in FY23, but we must tap into that momentum to go even farther in 2024,” Dietz continued. “Our focus will remain on strong project execution while we shift gears to expand in early project planning, collaborations with our customers and project teams, and the number of trainings offered for critical skill development.”

Career fair attracts 160 potential applicants



A prospective candidate shakes hands with Terri Williams, SRNS Project Controls Manager, during the Project Controls Career Fair.

SRNS recently held a Project Controls Recruitment Fair at the North Augusta Community Center to meet staffing demands for mission critical projects and to provide job opportunities to the local community.

“After analyzing numerous resumes and connecting with 160 career-seekers, 17 qualified candidates received contingent, on-the-spot job offers by the day’s end,” said Shannan Lucero, SRNS Director of Project Controls. “It is so important for us to reach the best quality candidates to support our missions and projects. This in-person opportunity was incredibly beneficial to the growth and progression of Project Controls.”

The hiring team highlighted open positions ranging from entry to senior level, which included work scopes in earned value management systems, planning, scheduling, estimating and cost-control. In addition to 17 on-the-spot job offers, additional applicants are still being reviewed for other positions.

“We had a very diverse crowd of applicants representing job seekers looking to make a career change, recent college graduates in search of their first professional opportunity and seasoned professionals who wanted a career with SRNS,” continued Lucero. “We had several applicants who traveled several hours and hundreds of miles to meet with our team — one of which received a contingent offer.”

Two former SRNS Project Controls interns, Daniel Gibson and James Davis, attended the career fair in order to learn more about open full-time positions.

“It was the best summer of my life, working at the Site as an intern,” said Gibson. “SRS is extremely stable, and the work-life balance is something I look for in my transition from student to full-service employee. It’s not every day you get to work around like-minded individuals, and today was the perfect opportunity to re-connect with industry leaders I learned from all summer.”

“The Project Controls group felt like a family during my intern experience,” said Davis. “I spent the summer understanding the culture and safety aspects of the Site and decided to attend the career fair to get more face-to-face time with the team to see what entry-level positions could interest me after graduation. The professionalism and passion seen today makes me that much more excited to pursue a career at SRS.”

Project Controls serves many areas of the Site, including the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF). SRS is tasked with repurposing an F Area facility as part of the SRPPF project, which allows NNSA to meet its nuclear stockpile requirements of producing 50 war reserve plutonium pits per year.

SRNS Talent Acquisition Senior Recruiter William “Mac” McCord stated, “Many of our projects are reaching a turning point where we must staff up and backfill positions. The SRPPF pit project is one area where we need a lot of resources that are committed to a fast-paced environment and missions of national importance. Many do not realize how positions in project controls keep the Site running optimally and safely.”

Lucero, a third generation SRS employee with over 30 years of experience, believes career fairs are one way the Site can give back and support the community.

“SRS has such a great reputation in the community, so we aimed to highlight opportunities for career growth on special projects, career longevity, and skills for self-development,” continued Lucero. “SRS has always held a special place in my heart, so it is incredibly important to me that we offer job opportunities to hard working and dedicated local individuals who are interested in a rewarding career that supports national safety and security.”



Over 160 candidates filled the North Augusta Community Center in search of Project Controls career opportunities at the Site.



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www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/careers/careers.htm



SRS Apprenticeship School Lead Program Manager David Jackson, of SRNS, provides information to local high school students at the recent CSRA College Night event.

Workforce Plan focuses on pit staffing needs

As construction plans continue at the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF), located at SRS, efforts to staff the Plutonium (Pu) Modernization Program, which will develop and train the workforce prior to SRPPF project completion and startup, are progressing.

The NNSA recently granted SRNS approval of the SRPPF Workforce Development Program Plan, allowing scholarships to be used to fund training and education expenses for students at colleges and universities identified to help address SRPPF workforce needs.

“SRNS has recognized the need to engage in workforce planning for the plutonium pit production mission and has taken steps to address workforce development needs,” said Jason Ashe, Pu Modernization Program Manager. “We are actively engaging local colleges and universities in developing programs to recruit, train and retain skilled and knowledgeable employees needed to produce plutonium pits.”

Ashe led an effort in 2022 to establish relationships with eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in South Carolina. He and his team are continuing to establish similar relationships with other educational institutions in the region through programs such as internships and apprenticeships.

Once SRPPF is fully operational, approximately 2,000 employees will be needed in a variety of areas, including engineering, maintenance, operations, security and information technology. SRS has been tasked with modernizing the nuclear weapon stockpile, an area identified as a national priority.

“We are committed to recruiting and retaining an innovative, talented and diverse workforce to support the Site’s pit production mission,” said Angela Martin, Human Resources Manager, NNSA Pu Programs/Projects. “The recent NNSA approvals provide a path for improving our funding capabilities related to training incoming employees.”

The Pu Modernization Program is an enduring mission projected to be in operation for a minimum of 50 years, once SRPPF construction is completed.

Recipients of 5-Star Green Electronics award

SRS and its contract partner SRNS recently received the Five-Star 2023 Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Purchaser Awards for excellence in the procurement of sustainable electronics.

This national recognition by the Green Electronics Council (GEC) emphasized the environmental benefits and energy-related savings obtained by SRS during 2022, due to their use of 8,178 EPEAT registered electronics purchased by SRNS.

Use of EPEAT-qualified equipment during 2022 resulted in:

- a reduction of 487,095 kilograms of CO₂ equivalents;
- a savings of 1,806,282 kilowatt-hours of electricity;
- the elimination of 34,774 kilograms of solid waste;
- a savings of 3,451,959 liters of water; and
- a monetary savings of \$84,660.

In a letter from William “Ike” White, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management, he stated, “We recognize the team’s outstanding achievements in support of this important and voluntary program. This achievement demonstrates a commitment to excellence, reflecting well on the Department, EM, SRS and SRNS.”

EPEAT registered products and SRS guidelines seek to minimize levels of toxic components, ensure the highest level of energy efficiency, incorporate recycled content, facilitate end-of-life recycling, and reduce unnecessary packaging. The recognition highlights excellence in procurement and sustainable electronics to promote green information technology.

According to Tracy Padgett, SRNS Requisition Security Review Coordinator and Supply Chain Risk Management Team Coordinator, one of the key factors in this significant achievement is the Preferred Hardware List (PHL) that helps expedite the buying process for common supplies and standardizes technology to reduce overall risk.

“The PHL allows end users to choose a product model that is not only energy efficient and least impactful to the environment but one that has been approved by Counterintelligence and Security,” said Padgett. “Choosing common purchases like printers and monitors from the PHL is an efficiency that also reduces risk to the Site.”

“This was a huge collaborative effort between Governance, Cyber Security, Technical Security, and Counterintelligence to be awarded the Five-Star Award for the third consecutive year,” said Bruce Page, SRNS Management and Operations Chief Information Officer. “I am proud of this team and the entire Site for the use of EPEAT products listed on the PHL to help fulfill our mission to protect the environment for future generations.”

Spreading holiday cheer



SRNS employees Lana Patterson, Kvonne Bryant, Kaylee Brown, Sanquetta Jackson, Deb Solomon, April Masterson, Sam Mason and Stormi Adams volunteer at the annual Tots for Tots pick up day.



Dennis Carr, Angel Tree and Toys for Tots Vice Chair Sarah Prosser and SRS Angel Tree and Toys for Tots Chair Megan Corbin present a check to Salvation Army of Augusta representative Robert Deal.

SRS employees donate thousands of toys to area kids

Site contractors supported the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots and Salvation Army Tree Program campaigns to help provide toys and clothing to less fortunate children in the local community during the holidays.

Employees from SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion, Battelle Savannah River Alliance and Centerra donated more than 20,000 toys and adopted over 600 children for the Angel Tree Program during this year's campaign.

In addition to the toys collected, over \$35,000 was raised, which surpassed the Site's original goal of \$25,000.

During the annual celebration, Dennis Carr presented checks to the Salvation Army of Aiken, Aiken Marine Toys for Tots, Salvation Army of Augusta, and Augusta Marine Toys for Tots.

"We are incredibly grateful to our amazing employees for their outstanding efforts in our Toys for Tots and Angel Tree campaign," said Carr. "Thanks to their hard work and dedication, we were able to collect an incredible number of toys and exceed our monetary goal of \$25,000. This will have a tremendous impact on the children of the local community."

Since 1991, Site employees have donated more than 400,000 toys to the SRS Toys for Tots and Angel Tree campaigns.

"There is so much need in our local community," said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality and SRNS Campaign Executive Sponsor. "Our employees are always willing to step up and help make a difference."



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Rick Sprague,
Senior Vice President,
Environment, Safety, Health and Quality
and SRNS Campaign Executive Sponsor



At the close of the celebration, employees helped load local agency trucks with toys and bikes to be delivered to multiple Salvation Army locations across the CSRA.

"I am immensely proud of our team for coming together and making this such a successful campaign," said SRS Angel Tree and Toys for Tots Chair Megan Corbin. "Together, we have surpassed our goal, bringing smiles and happiness to the faces of countless children in the local community."

The Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program in Augusta, Georgia, service the following areas: Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, Wilkes and Wrens.

The Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program in Aiken, South Carolina, serves the following communities: Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, North Augusta, Beech Island, Belvedere, Williston, Salley and Coughton.

20,000

Toys collected
from SRS

\$35,000

Raised in addition to
toys collected

400,000

Toys donated
since 1991

Students STEP into the Site's forests

In November, 12th grade students from Richmond County Technical Career Magnet (RCTCM) School in Augusta, Georgia, experienced a unique hands-on field trip through the SRS forests, to practice environmental stewardship and learn about a variety of career opportunities.

The Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP) at SRS is a long-standing, cooperative effort between SRNS Education Outreach and Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (RPSEC). Lessons correlate to academic curriculum for grades three through 12 and use real-world investigations to spark interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

"The Savannah River Site has so much to offer with miles of trails, ponds and a variety of protected wildlife," said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. "It is so important for local students to experience this opportunity to spark their interest in STEM."

The Advanced Placement Environmental Science class from RCTCM completed a watershed activity to address human impact on healthy ecosystems and studied the biotic factors of healthy ponds and macroinvertebrates.

"In a world where electronics and virtual instruction rule, it is important for our future generation to get outside and experience hands-on learning activities from industry leaders," said RCTCM Science Department Chair Nathalie Pace. "Many of my students are still deciding what they want to be or what career path to follow, and this experience is very impactful on their decision."

Pace finds the program to be like no other, with many students expressing thanks for the exposure to new opportunities.

"Field trips are incredibly beneficial and special to students that do not always have the means or transportation to connect with their communities outside of school," Pace continued. "As a science educator, I will continue to work with SRNS and RPSEC to make this happen for my students."

STEP continues to create remarkable experiences for students visiting the Site, which is home to many rare and endangered species. Students delve into topics such as preserving the nesting habitat of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, constructing watersheds, analyzing manmade pollution, and identifying freshwater macroinvertebrates in ponds and streams.

"We always aim to build excitement and curiosity around the environment and STEM careers through these activities," said Beth Eberhard, the center's student program specialist. "After working for this program for eight years, I truly enjoy seeing the excitement on students' faces as they get outside, explore and make unique observations."

RCTCM senior Monica Burns would recommend this program to other students who are interested in the Site.

"The watershed activity impacted the way I viewed my daily actions and helped me understand the importance of being conscious and conservative to protect the environments that surround me every day," said Burns.

SRS will continue to grow its 40-year partnership with RPSEC by bringing STEP field trips to local students. For more information about STEP field trips, contact Taylor Rice at taylor.rice@srs.gov.



During the SRS STEP field trip, two Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School students build a watershed model to see how humans impact the water supply and how to mitigate harmful actions.



James Therrell, hunting guide and SRNS employee, accompanies Robbie Farmer, disabled veteran and SRNS employee, during the 23rd Annual SRS Deer Hunt.

Site hosts deer hunts for wounded and disabled military

SRS contractors recently hosted the 23rd annual SRS Deer Hunt for mobility impaired and wounded military veterans. Twenty-five disabled hunters enjoyed a morning and afternoon deer hunt, as well as a savory meal with fellow disabled and wounded veterans.

SRNS Deer Hunt Program Coordinator Joe Solesby has led the program ever since he began working at the Site in 2014. According to Solesby, this event requires extensive planning and preparation. Months before the hunt, Solesby scouts for deer and identifies designated hunting locations for the hunters.

Closer to the hunt, volunteers set up ground blinds that accommodate veterans' disabilities.

"The morning of the hunt begins with a safety briefing, followed by the hunters being taken to their designated hunting blinds. Each hunter is assigned an escort, to ensure their safety and assistance as needed," said Solesby.

SRNS employee James Therrell has been an event escort for six years. Each year, he enjoys spending time outdoors and developing friendships with the hunters he meets.

"It's always an honor to share a day in the woods with these folks who have given so much of themselves in support of our freedom," said Therrell. "It's a day filled with comradery and stories. If it ends with a successful harvest, that's just a bonus."

Robbie Farmer, SRNS employee and disabled veteran, succeeded in his hunt, harvesting a buck shortly after getting into his blind.

"Taking part in the hunt was an amazing experience," said Farmer. "Spending time in the woods and enjoying the company of fellow veterans created an unforgettable experience. Harvesting a deer was the icing on the cake."

Since 1965, SRS has provided optimal deer hunt opportunities for thousands of sportsmen. Harvesting deer has proven to be the safest and most effective manner to control the SRS deer population and lower the number of animal-vehicle collisions on the Site.

Young professionals LEAP into conference

Nearly 80 SRNS employees gathered for an annual Professional Development Conference hosted by Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) at the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library. The purpose of this event is to inspire future leaders through thoughtful discussions on how to take initiative, problem solve and influence others.

Guest speakers included SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Sean Alford, SRNS Senior Vice President, Workforce Services and Talent Management Francine Burroughs and SRNS Principal Talent Management Specialist Anitra McManus.

"At professional development conferences like this, employees not only learn to navigate their own career growth but also inspire and lead others, fostering a culture of innovation and success within the organization," said Burroughs.

Attending career development conferences equips emerging leaders with tools needed to inspire their teams and foster a culture of positivity that extends far beyond their immediate responsibilities. Investing in such events not only nurtures individual growth, but also cultivates a workforce ready to propel corporations toward progressive change and unparalleled achievements.

Arizona Garza, Salt Waste Processing Facility Cognizant System Engineer and LEAP Vice President of Marketing stated, "The LEAP Professional Development Conference is always a big event and I'm happy with this year's turnout. The speakers all encouraged us to be leaders in the positions we are in now, which is so applicable to fellow LEAP members. It is so important that we start our futures now and I hope the conference empowered everyone there to believe that."

LEAP is a peer-led organization that serves as the voice for early-career professionals within SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion and Battelle Savannah River Alliance. Promoting professional networking, enhanced business awareness and community involvement, LEAP is a unique career development resource. Through this organization, members have the chance to positively impact the future of their companies, their careers and their neighborhoods.



Anitra McManus, SRNS Principal Talent Management Specialist, speaks to LEAP conference attendees.

SRNS donates lifesaving devices to nonprofit

SRNS recently donated two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS) to improve safety for their volunteers and customers at their Aiken operations facility and their Graniteville, South Carolina, Resale Store.

“ACTS relies on a team of more than 400 volunteers to help deliver our services to our neighbors in need across Aiken County,” said Suzanne Jackson, Executive Director of ACTS. “The majority of our volunteers are over 65 years of age, and for some time we have recognized the need for AEDs in the case that one of our clients, customers or volunteers went into cardiac arrest.”

SRNS K Area Facility Manager Lee Sims, who serves as Treasurer on the ACTS Board of Directors, recognized the safety concern behind the lack of AEDs and suggested the organization ask for corporate sponsorships to help fund the expensive, but vital, devices.

“Safety is the number one priority of SRNS, a priority shared with ACTS,” he said. “ACTS does so much for our community, providing food, clothing, medical assistance, utility assistance, transportation assistance and so much more. The staff have enough to coordinate and consider – taking away the burden of being worried about an aspect of their client and volunteer safety was one way SRNS could help them remain focused on all of the good work they are doing every day.”

Jackson explained that ACTS employees will be trained in the proper use of AEDs and then they will be ready for use.

“We hope to never have to use these devices,” she said. “But if we do, we now can, thanks to the generosity of SRNS.”



SRNS Senior Vice President Environmental Management Operations Janice Lawson and Executive Director of Area Churches Working Together Serving (ACTS) Suzanne Jackson with the AEDs recently donated to ACTS from SRNS.

SRNS mentors WORC with A.R. Johnson students

SRNS recently hosted their third Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers (WORC) WORCshop in partnership with Augusta University, A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School and Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO).

This leading educational outreach opportunity introduces students to nuclear science careers by solving real-world problems. SRNS Mentors gathered alongside students and teachers at A.R. Johnson in Augusta, Georgia, for the WORCshop final showcase event on December 8.

Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist, said, “The WORCshop provided an opportunity for A.R. Johnson students to be exposed to STEM fields, particularly engineering and information technology by working with SRNS mentors. Student teams developed projects exhibiting how these career fields impact our world.”

Throughout the year, eight volunteers from SRNS Engineering and Information Technology worked with middle and high school students from A.R. Johnson to help connect their studies in the classroom with real-world scenarios.

A team of students in Christopher Shears’ Computer Science class developed a mobile app concept called “The Panther Record” for their teachers and principals to utilize as a means of tracking student performance.

SRNS Senior Fellow Engineer Sean Bohrer, who has served as a mentor for the past three years, stated, “The most rewarding part



SRNS Education Outreach Specialist Taylor Rice (right) talks with A.R. Johnson students about their WORCshop projects.

of my experience has been seeing the enthusiasm and joy from students as they learn firsthand engineering and science concepts during their projects.”

“These professionals offer a perspective that I, as a teacher, can’t provide to my students,” said A.R. Johnson Engineering Applications teacher Justin Russell. “It is immensely transformative for our students to hear from engineers in industry who have been problem solvers for a long time and to learn the value of what is being taught in the classroom and of how it can be applied in the workforce.”



SRNS employees and United Way representatives gathered at the 2023 SRS United Way Campaign thermometer to celebrate a successful campaign.

SRNS exceeds 2023 United Way fundraising goal

SRNS employees gave back to the surrounding communities by raising \$827,317 for local United Way agencies during the 2023 SRS United Way campaign, surpassing their \$800,000 goal.

SRNS joined Savannah River Mission Completion and Battelle Savannah River Alliance for the Site's joint campaign, which contributed a total of \$1,488,038, surpassing the site-wide goal of \$1.4 million. To celebrate this accomplishment, the SRS United Way campaign committee invited the participating United Way agencies to celebrate at the Site.

During the event, SRS Campaign Chair Lewis Arthur presented donation checks to United Way agency representatives. Arthur was impressed by the strong support from employees throughout the campaign.

"Since given the privilege of working with the SRS United Way campaign, I have been continuously inspired by the passion and dedication of our employees to help those in need in our local community," said Arthur. "Whether you participated in a day of service, fundraising, area lead, or you donated monetarily, I want to extend a special thank you in appreciation of your contribution."

Dennis Carr also spoke at the event, expressing his appreciation to employees for their dedication and generous donation to the campaign.

"Our employees have shown immense generosity and unwavering commitment throughout this year's United Way campaign," said Carr. "I am always amazed by the dedication our employees have in making a positive impact to the lives of those in need in our local community. I could not be prouder of this workforce for going above and beyond in not only meeting — but exceeding — our company goal."

"The SRS United Way campaign provides much needed funding to support local community programs," said Arthur. "Through our generous donations, we have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of people we live and work with every day."

This year's campaign benefits United Way of Aiken County; United Way of the CSRA; United Way of Edgefield County; United Way McDuffie County; United Way of Midlands; United Way of Screven County; United Way of South Carolina, including Bamberg, Colleton, Hampton counties and United Way of the Lowcountry; United Way of Anderson County; and United Way of Barnwell County, including Allendale.

The 2023 United Way Campaign committee recognized stand out volunteers for their support:

Outstanding Leads

Amanda Murray, Savannah River Tritium Enterprise Material Support;
Ciroc Hanif, SRPPF Health and Safety;
Kristan Lott, Inventory Control

Volunteers of the Year

Samantha Bryant, NNSA Mission Performance;
Dylan Chavous, Tritium Outside Facilities

Chairwoman of the Year

Lindsey Daugherty, Payroll Operations and Service Center Manager

Bill Arra Award

Ethan Guidry, Mechanical and Civil Engineering

\$50K in donations shared among charities

In the spirit of giving, SRNS recently contributed \$50,000 to support five local nonprofit organizations during the holiday season.

Area Churches Together Serving, Axis 1 Center of Barnwell, Community Ministry of North Augusta, Augusta Meals on Wheels and When Help Can't Wait of Columbia County each received \$10,000 to support their services to the local community.

These charities serve communities across the CSRA.

Augusta Meals on Wheels ensures seniors and homebound individuals in the local community have access to adequate nutrition by delivering meals directly to their homes.

"This generous donation from SRNS will help Augusta Meals on Wheels provide 1,250 meals to those who are homebound," said CSRA Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging Director Jackie Harris. "This is the best gift we could receive during the holiday season."

Brandi Underwood, When Help Can't Wait Executive Director, added that the donation will help provide 400 Christmas gifts to residents in local nursing homes as part of their annual Christmas Gifts for the Residents event.

"It's our privilege to support these local charities during the holiday season," said Dennis Carr. "SRNS and its employees believe in giving back to the communities surrounding our Site. These charities make a positive impact in our communities every



Dennis Carr presents \$10,000 checks to five charitable nonprofit organizations throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area: Augusta Meals on Wheels; Community Ministry of North Augusta; Area Churches Together Serving; Axis 1 Center of Barnwell; and When Help Can't Wait of Columbia County.

day, and we are happy to aid them during this special time of giving."

Axis 1 Center of Barnwell Executive Director Pam Rush mentioned that the holidays are a crucial time of the year for providing to those in need. The organization's partnership with SRNS is helping ensure those needs are met.

"During the holidays, we see an increase in the number of families seeking food assistance from The Well that serves as a food pantry and resource hub," said Rush. "We are grateful for this partnership that will help reduce food insecurity in Barnwell County."



Dennis Carr presents a donation of \$25,000 to Savannah River Site Retiree Association Chair Deb Shedrow.

SRSRA presented with \$25K

Dennis Carr presented the Savannah River Site Retiree Association (SRSRA) with a check for \$25,000 to assist them in meeting the needs of SRS retirees.

The SRSRA provides free service to SRS retirees who need assistance in navigating their employee benefits, including Medicare plan enrollment and retiree pensions.

The monetary donation provided by SRNS will help support maintaining services provided through the SRSRA Resource Center, a location for face-to-face appointments with retirees who do not have access to computers or have special needs.

Since 2014, the SRSRA Resource Center has conducted over 5,000 office visits and 13,000 phone consultations with SRS retirees and their families. In addition, they have transmitted greater than \$4 million in claims reimbursements, and saved more than \$3.2 million in out-of-pocket costs for Medicare plans.

Carr praised the association for their service and continued support to SRS and its retirees.

"Our retirees have given years of dedication and service to help advance our missions," said Carr. "We are grateful for this partnership that ensures our retirees are given the proper assistance in navigating their healthcare benefits."

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS



Megan Corbin
Toys for Tots Chair

Sarah Prosser
Toys for Tots Vice Chair

Megan Corbin— Radiological Protection Department First Line Manager

Megan Corbin is a Radiological Protection Department First Line Manager in H Canyon at SRNS and is in the process of transitioning into the Work Control/Planning and ALARA (As Low as Reasonably Achievable) Coordinator First Line Manager position for H Area Complex.

When asked what she enjoys most about working at SRNS, Corbin stated, “The best part of working for SRNS is the opportunity to work with a highly trained, skilled and diverse work force on a daily basis.”

This year, she served as the 2023 SRS Toys for Tots and Salvation Army Angel Tree Campaign Chair. This was her fourth year of being involved in the campaign.

“I am eagerly motivated to be involved in this program because it is such a humbling and heartwarming experience,” said Corbin. “This year SRS employees donated over 20,000 toys, bringing smiles and happiness to the faces of countless children in the local community.”

In addition to supporting the Toys for Tots and Salvation Army Angel Tree campaign, she is a part of the Local Safety Improvement Team in H Area and volunteers for the SRS United Way campaign.

Corbin currently resides in Graniteville, South Carolina. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, attending South Carolina Gamecocks sporting events and going to the beach.

Sarah Prosser — Program Manager for Packaging and Transportation Logistics

Sarah Prosser is the Program Manager for Packaging and Transportation Logistics for SRNS.

In this role, Prosser helps coordinate shipments both on- and off-site, while also processing an average of 800 or more freight invoices a month for SRNS, Battelle Savannah River Alliance and Savannah River Mission Completion.

When asked what she enjoys most about working at SRNS, Prosser stated, “The best part of working for SRNS is the people and the ability to learn and grow in my career. I get to solve new challenges daily, which helps me develop my skills professionally and personally.”

This year, Prosser served as the Vice Chair for the Toys for Tots and Salvation Army Angel Tree Campaign. “My experience as Vice Chair was amazing. I had the opportunity to see firsthand how supportive the SRS workforce is to the local community.”

Prosser has been working with SRNS for over six years. She currently resides in Aiken, South Carolina, with her husband, Zane, and two children. Outside of work she enjoys attending sporting events with her family.

We make the world **safer.**

SRNS

Developing innovative approaches to deliver on our environmental commitments and nuclear materials challenges

Supplying products and services necessary to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent

Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation

Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wastefoms



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