

Principal Media Contact: Caroline Reppert
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
803-952-8367
caroline.reppert@srs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Introduce a Girl to Engineering” day showcases how engineering can be fun, rewarding

Middle school girls from the CSRA explore hands-on activities and learn from professionals at SRNS and Ruth Patrick Science Education Center

AIKEN, S.C. (May 5, 2016) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), in partnership with the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center and the Society of Women Engineering, hosted 55 students from 27 middle schools throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area for “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.”

Volunteer engineers presented interactive demonstrations, such as freezing flowers and marshmallows with liquid nitrogen, and placing Mentos into a two-liter diet soda so that the bottle erupted into a geyser.

“I would recommend this to any girl who lives in Georgia or South Carolina,” said Carly Burgess, eighth grade student, St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic School. “Today, I’ve learned more about engineering as a whole and some of the jobs you can have with a degree in engineering or science.”

Some of the hands-on activities that topped the agenda included building “puff mobiles” made from hard candy and paper, and racing to construct the tallest tower with only a single piece of newspaper.



SRNS employee Yara Soto-Toledo (left) measures a tower designed and built by Kelly Rios-Perez from Leavelle McCampbell Middle School and Christina Brown from Westminster Schools of Augusta during “Introduce a Girl to Engineering” day at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center in Aiken, S.C. During this tower-building activity, students raced to build the tallest structure using a single sheet of newspaper, without glue, tape, paperclips or staples.

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“Before this event, these young women may not be aware that certain career paths in engineering exist,” said Candice Dermody, Manager, SRNS Talent Management and Education Outreach. “In a few hours, they can interact with dozens of engineers from different areas of expertise, which may help inspire these middle school students to pursue a career in engineering. Every year, I look forward to seeing the enthusiasm the students have for trying out activities and watching demonstrations.”

The day concluded with a visit to USC Aiken’s planetarium within the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, where students learned about the International Space Station.

Female students who have shown an interest in engineering were invited from schools in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Edgefield counties in South Carolina and Columbia and Richmond counties in Georgia.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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