

4-H Gateway Academy expands learning

Tomahawk High School was among the sites around the state to host the 2010 4-H Gateway Academy, a science and technology summer camp for middle school students.

Twelve middle school youths took part in Tomahawk's Academy the week of June 14 to 18. They were Nicholas Boos, Andrew Cummings, Sheldon Dennis, Nathan Goshe, Dakota Houtt, Alex Johnson, Parker Knipfer, Madison Kundo, Jacob McGuire, Katie Reiter, Mariah Wittman, and Tyler Wittman. The Academy was conducted by Tomahawk staff members Ryan Huseby, Jim Norman and Roy Olson along with Debbie Moellendorf, 4-H Youth Development Educator with Lincoln County UW-Extension.

The academy is designed to inspire middle school students to explore science, technology, engineering and math and consider career opportunities in these important fields. During the Tomahawk Academy, participants created shelters out of newspaper, designed a toy for children ages 4 to 7 in a disaster relief shelter using common supplies you would find in this situation, used the West Point Bridge Builder website to learn about and then built a bridge using the principles they learned, and built a rocket out of a liter soda bottle.

Throughout the week participants also participated in team building exercises and explored a variety of computer programs. To learn about local businesses and possible careers where science, technology, engineering and math are used, the group toured Tomahawk Log Homes and Daigle Brothers on the final day of the academy. In their post program survey, all of the participants indicated that they would recommend the 4-H Gateway Academy to their friends.

We are grateful to the Kern Family Foundation of Wausau for partnering with the University of Wisconsin-Extension on this venture. Additional partners for the 4-H Gateway Academy, a program of UW-Extension's Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development, include the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation and local school districts.

For more information about the 4-H Gateway Academy program, contact Ryan Huseby at Tomahawk High School, huseby@tomahawk.k12.wi.us or call 715-453-2106 or Debbie Moellendorf, Lincoln County UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension, dmoellendorf@ces.uwex.edu or call 715-539-1072.

Debbie Moellendorf is department head for 4-H Youth Development at Lincoln County UW-Extension.



Debbie Moellendorf



Alex Johnson, left, works with Andrew Cummings to build the bridge they designed as a team.



Team members Mariah Wittman, front from left, Jacob McGuire, Tyler Wittman and, back, Parker Knipfer show off the structure they created using playing cards.



Andrew Cummings, seated, shows Ryan Huseby the bridge he designed on the West Point Bridge Builder website.



Steve Daigle explains to the youth participants a new product they have designed and are now marketing for patching asphalt. During the tour, Steve explained how various employees were involved in designing and now producing the product.

Merrill Focus

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