

SAME/Seabees Engineering & Construction Camp

Forty high school students from 24 states, Germany and South Korea participated in this year's SAME/Seabees Engineering & Construction Camp at the Navy Seabee Base in Port Hueneme, Calif., from July 28 to August 4. The campers learned about designing and constructing bridges, boats and beams, experienced life on a military base and even found time for some beach volleyball and swimming in the Pacific surf.

Organized into squads of 10, campers designed and built scale model wooden truss bridges using Popsicle sticks and household glue. The bridges were then load tested to failure with scores tallied as part of an overall team competition. The teams also designed and built reinforced concrete beams that were load tested to failure on the final day of camp. Perhaps the most enjoyable design-build event for the campers was the cardboard boat race held at the base swimming pool not a dry camper departed that event.

The SAME/Seabee Engineering & Construction Camp was as great an experience for the staff and mentors as it was for the campers. In fact, three mentors and four staff members had previous camp experience and returned to renew existing friendships and establish new and lasting relationships among themselves as well as with the campers.



SAME/U.S. Army Engineering & Construction Camp

The fifth annual SAME/U.S. Army Engineering & Construction Camp was held June 10-16, 2007, at Morris Army Reserve Center in Vicksburg, Miss. Giving high school students the opportunity to experience the engineering profession, the weeklong camp provided hands-on activities in engineering, leadership, communication, flexibility and team building under the guidance and supervision of SAME Post members.

Blending fun, education and competition, students were assigned to one of four teams that participated in various challenges and activities throughout the week, vying for the title of most outstanding team. One such activity was a concrete exercise where students got down and dirty in a laboratory at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center. After a stimulating and exciting lecture the students had the opportunity to mix and cast some concrete in the lab for a strongest concrete competition.

With a vigorous schedule encompassing several disciplines within the engineering field from river engineering to structural analysis and design the goal of the camp was to expose future engineers to a broad range of possible career paths.

This camp is awesome, said David Hall, a home-schooled student from Huntsville, Ala. Both of my parents are electrical engineers and I'd like to go to University of Alabama in Huntsville to pursue engineering.

Funding for the camp is provided by SAME Posts, engineering and construction firms and local city and the business sponsors.



E&C. Camp Sponsors

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SAME/USFA Engineering & Construction Camp

The eighth annual SAME/U.S. Air Force Academy (USFA) Engineering & Construction Camp was held July 5-11, 2007, at USFA in Colorado Springs, Colo. The camp's mission is to provide information and encourage high school students to pursue a career in engineering, especially military engineering, and also to encourage enrollment at a military academy or in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at an engineering university.

Camp activities ranged from the design and construction of a wood shed with pitched roof to exercises in water purification. The campers were also treated to a tour of USFA facilities, including six of the Academy's laboratories. Guest speakers included Lt. Gen. John F. Regni, Superintendent, USFA, Brig. Gen. Greg Martin, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Northwest Division, and Capt. Bill Beary, Chief of the Engineering Division of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command.

This year's camp was attended by 60 campers and was supervised in part by 13 motivated mentors, representing industry and military services, and three talented non-commissioned officers from across the country. Campers ended the week of camp by disassembling the tents that had been their homes for the week and taking with them a better understanding of the engineering career field and the opportunities of a military academy education.

