



Maine Navy Teen STEAM Camp

The Problem

In 2011, the Navy resurrected the Navy Teen Summer Camp Scholarship Program (SCSP) to provide Navy teens with opportunities to experience varying educational and recreational activities that would build community and provide teens with transformative opportunities.

The Plan

In a ten-day overnight camp where the natural world is the laboratory, Navy teens will build and construct submersible robots to explore the Ducktrap Watershed, and help discover the elements essential for healthy ecosystems. Having fun, making friends, and gaining practical technology and engineering skills are at the core of this camp experience which includes ample time for outdoor recreation in coastal Maine.

The Response

Teens and leaders from Navy bases in Singapore and San Diego traveled to Maine for this camp experience. After adjusting to the time zone, the teens began work on forming themselves as one community through challenge course activities. They explored the Ducktrap River, learning about its unique characteristics and why this monitoring program is so important. The group spent several days building the SeaPerch ROV's, working through skill building in engineering design principles, electrical circuitry, and teamwork before testing the ROV's out in the river. Between project time, the group hiked to nearby ponds for canoeing and bog ecology, traversed the Camden Hills between Lincolnville and Camden, Maine for a bit of local culture, and spent a day at the beach with the whole of the Tanglewood 4-H Camp community. Along the way they learned how archery is connected to physics, became immersed in the camp community through practicing mentoring younger campers, and formed bonds with teens from Maine.

The Results

24 teens gained knowledge and skills in STEAM, 4-H, employment/internship opportunities in working at youth camps and the value of community throughout their ten days in Maine.

Basic Knowledge of:	Percent with strong knowledge before:	Percent with strong knowledge after:
Programs available in 4-H:	10%	100%
Electrical circuits:	15%	90%
Land-grant colleges and 4-H connections:	5%	80%
Ecology of Atlantic Salmon:	10%	75%

This program overlapped with several other camp programs at Tanglewood, including 3 teen leadership programs. Some of the greatest moments were when all teens could share their experiences, struggles, and life stories with each other. Bringing together teens from all over the globe, led to reflective conversations on what community means and how this next generation of leaders hopes to shape the future. The cultural diversity of the camps presented opportunities for teens and staff chaperones to discuss fears, ambitions, college and internship options, and what support systems are in place to enable greatest success through discussions on mentoring and positive social development.

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