



## 2016 Texas 4-H Impact Report

# Texas Navy STEAM Camp

### The Problem

The Navy has identified that their youth need an improved sense of community, teamwork and communication. They also need exposure to the sciences, preparation for college, and an introduction to content based in traditional 4-H.

### The Plan

A nine day camp for Navy high school youth that provides opportunities to learn about college life, science and engineering employment, and the culture of Austin Texas. The camp also provided friendship making opportunities as youth completed challenging activities.

### The Response

Youth travelled from 2 installations in New Jersey and Washington. They gained knowledge in leadership, career opportunities and educational options. Every night the youth recorded their experiences in journals. They lived in the dorms, visited Texas A&M, Texas State, and the University of Texas campuses, learning about how to apply, explored natural caverns, visited an observatory, painted on canvas, attended a musical, experienced indoor sky diving, a science museum, and 4-H projects in rocketry, food and nutrition, and clothing and textiles.



These camps were supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Institute of Food and Agriculture, 4-H National headquarters in partnership with U.S. Navy Child and Youth Programs under Kansas State University Special Project Number 2012-48749-20178.

### The Results

The youth gained knowledge and skills in STEAM, 4-H and community activities throughout the nine days.

**Impact of the Texas Navy STEAM Camp**

Basic Knowledge of:	Percent with strong knowledge Before:	Percent with strong knowledge After:
What college life is like	10%	90%
Projects Available in 4-H	10%	100%
Aerodynamics	5%	80%
How to apply to college	15%	85%

The camp provided a series of lessons and activities to help youth gain knowledge in STEAM, college readiness, team-building and 4-H opportunities. Some of the objectives met through the series of activities youth participated in were:

- Youth can teach others from the skills they learned
- Youth can better explain to others what college life is like and prepare for their college experience
- Youth learned to face their fears and try new things outside their comfort zones
- Youth learned about teamwork through activities and working together on community service projects
- Youth learned how to be a leader by working with 4-H teen leaders and in team activities
- Youth learned how to journal and the value of recording thoughts and experiences from the day
- Youth learned about 4-H and what projects are available to them
- Camp created a positive youth environment

### Comments from Camp Staff and Youth

- Residence host: Once again you wowed us with your efficient team and great efforts with this wonderful group of young folk.
- Chaperone: You are a great role model for our teens and staff alike. Your kindness, respect, humor and care really influenced most of us and I am grateful our paths crossed.
- Camper: You opened my mind and filled it with more ideas and more experiences for college. Now I will be more prepared for a college life if I choose it.
- Park Ranger LBJ Ranch: This is a great group of kids and they seem genuinely interested. Two received Jr. Ranger badges!
- Camper: I love how active we were. With the different places we went and the experiences we got, it was exciting to learn what's out there when it comes to college.
- Camper: I liked how everyone was so friendly and caring and all the experiences that got us actively hands on learning.

Educational programs of the Texas A&MAgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

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