

Kid's KOrner

Kids Discover Science Camp Fun

BETH WHITMAN PITZER
Cumberland Co. Correspondent

NEWVILLE (Cumberland Co.) One week in July was a very special week for 18 youth in Newville. It was Science Camp Week! Cumberland County 4-H staff and Newville Elementary School worked together to create a new, progressive way to reach a new audience of 4-H youngsters. The children had fun participating in all kinds of activities from making landfill replicas, to creating and launching rockets, to taking a hike to Dublin Gap and learning more about streams and water.

Here were some of the comments about the week-long program from the youth. Shawn Weaver, age 12, shared that at first she "didn't know what (it) would be

like and was scared." Now she thinks it's "really exciting and wishes (she) could do it again but is going into 6th grade." Shawn thought that the best part was going to the landfill, making the landfill model, and making the rockets. When asked what she thought of the camp, Shawn bubbled, "It's really fun, I like it."

David Weaver, another participant, shared that he liked building the landfill models so much that he even made one at home!

Science Camp Week was a result of the cooperation of the elementary school, many Extension professionals, and many organizations and businesses who gave donations. Shawn Arnold, a student at Mansfield University majoring in geography, worked



Jeremy Martin, Jeremy Hartman, and Lonnie Walker show their "Hartman Landfill". The model depicts an old landfill without a liner and one that is already filled.



Jamie Monosmith, age 9, glues a fin onto her rocket. She hopes the rocket will shoot "past the trees"!



Donnie Hoover proudly shows his landfill project. He explains where he saw pipes at the landfill they visited. He has used straws to replicate that in his model.

with the youth all week as part of her job as a student intern. She planned a stream walk and study of water with the youngsters. She teaches a "bug dance." A bug dance is a surprise method for getting bugs out of the bottom of the stream. She explained the difference between types of bugs and how to tell if water is clean or dirty. This is part of her summer program working with Tom McCarty, Cumberland County Water Quality Specialist.

Anthony Betonte coordinated the program and taught the children to make rockets, which was quite a complex project. The children learned many things about rockets as they assembled their own model, step-by-step. The children were quite excited about completing their own model and seeing if it would take the test of flight. Anthony had planned another fun test for the children. They were to participate in a cooperative obstacle course. Children would be paired in teams and learn to climb a wall, work together in rope events, and help others go through tires.

Mary Laeger-Hagemeister, extension agent, was in charge of team building and activities to enhance self-esteem for the program. She planned many fun and educational activities for the kids including making a human knot, a web of friendship, and a "you" mobile that the children created to hang up in their room. They even made tacos to promote team-building and learn to plan a balanced meal. Mary trained four team leaders for the group of children to help lead them during the week. All of the activities were designed to help the children draw on their own strengths and to show what makes them unique.

A big reward was planned for the children at the end of the program. The program ended with a picnic at Colonel Denning State Park for parents and family of the new 4-H'ers. It gave the children an opportunity to share the science activities they learned for the week.



Shawn Weaver, age 12, helps Clinton Barrick with his rocket. The streamer they are using helps "slow the rocket and helps you find it" because of its bright color.



Shawn Arnold, student intern, helps Kelli Velasquez and Carrie Roush work on putting their second fin on their rockets.

Did You Know?

It goes without saying that there's a special flavor of ice cream for everyone. But, did you know that jalapeno pepper, prickly pear and sweet potato flavors are available? There's even a breakfast ice cream—it includes eggs, cereal and granola.

To give milk extra-special kid appeal, add a drop of food coloring to create Yellow Moon Milk, Blue Jungle Juice or a Green Dinosaur Delight.