

Messages from Campers and Parents 2017

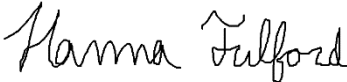
=====USMC STEM Camp=====

Dear Coastal Carolina Post,

Thank you for sponsoring me for the 2017 USMC SAME camp! I loved every minute of it. While at the camp, I learned so much about both engineering and myself. Before coming to the camp, I had very limited construction experience. That meant that everyday I was able to learn and try something completely new. I loved waking up every morning to a different challenge ahead. Though it's hard to choose my favorite engineering and construction activities because I loved all of them, I would say that the top two were probably the AAV and the concrete beam. I loved all of the variables my squad was able to play with while designing the AAV and concrete beam. The testing of both of them was also the most fun to participate in and watch. After having completed the camp, I feel like I could design and build any one of the things we did during the week. The camp also made me realize how much I love being part of a team. I participate in a lot of activities where I am part of a team, but never have I been part of such a diverse team from all over the United States. Each person on the team had a different strength, and working together we were able to accomplish tasks to a level that no one person on the team could have achieved alone.

Not only were all of the other campers I was interacting with very talented, but the mentors and squad leaders were also great to work with. They always treated us with respect, and guided us throughout the camp. From the mentors, I found out so much about different types of engineering, both military and civilian. Being able to talk to someone with experience was definitely helpful to me. The ability to ask questions to a person I know and trust helped me way more than any research online could have. In addition to being very knowledgeable, the mentors and squad leaders were also very personable.

Overall, this camp provided me with an experience that I would otherwise never have been able to get. From engineering, to teamwork, to silkes, everything I learned and experienced will give me a leg up on all of my other classmates when it comes time to apply for college and jobs. Not only that, but I was also able to network with many people that are in a field which I will likely enter in the future. The world is about networking, and the camp helped me build mine. And even though I was only with the other campers and the staff for a week, by the end of the week the camp felt like a second home. It was a safe and fun environment where I was able to learn and grow. Again, thank you for sponsoring me and providing me with the opportunity to experience a camp that I will always remember.

Sincerely,  Hanna Fulford

Camp was amazing! I am so glad that I had this experience. I learned so much that I couldn't have learned anywhere else. It included aspects of engineering and military life and just the right amount of both. There was a total of 50 kids from all over the United States. We were divided into 5 squads of 10 kids each. The squad leaders were Marines from the Camp LeJeune Base. All of the counselors had backgrounds in engineering related or military related careers, or both. I was in the Echo squad. Each day we did a new project/activity and a professional skilled in each field of study talked to us about constraints and gave us information to help lead us in the right direction.

It was fun meeting kids from all over the United States. I plan to remain in touch with several of them. I would have liked camp to have been a little bit longer! We learned about core Marine Corps values such as being motivated, disciplined, and hard-working individuals. I would love to go to a camp like this again :)

Sincerely, Molly Stamets

=====USAFA STEM Camp 2017=====

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the SAME Engineering and Construction Camp. I can honestly say it was one of the best camps I have been to and I learned so much.



Thanks again! Sage Lindsay

Sage Lindsay, class of 2018, is a member of the school rodeo team, speak out service club, and choir including elite jazz choir.

Thank you so much for all the help with applying to the SAME camp. It was a great experience and I'm very glad I went. It was nice getting a little taste of the civil engineering field as well as touring the academic facilities to learn about other fields. I enjoyed having Cadet Ryan Schwartzkopf around to answer questions I had about life at the Academy and to tell his own stories. Overall it was a fun week and I appreciate everything you did to help me and to help the camp as a whole. It was nice meeting you this week.

Also, I am currently editing a video of the week. I will send you the link as soon as I finish it and post it on youtube.



Grady Gills, class of 2018, is a member of National Honor Society, United Methodist Youth Foundation, and is a tutor with the Academic Student Council.

My son, Zach, came home a changed person. In awe of Colorado's beauty, impressed with the strong friendships he made and inspired by the possibilities of engineering.



Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

What an incredible experience for these young men and women!

Sincerely, Susan Dickson USAFA '92

Zachary Dickson, class of 2019, is active in soccer as the team captain, AP Academy, and Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society.



I owe you a huge thank you for all your help involved in the SAME Camp this summer. It was such a great experience and I'm so glad I went. I learned a lot, made some friends, and I now I'm positive I would like to pursue an Academy and the engineering field. And I have you to thank for choosing me and getting me all the information I needed along the way. So thank you, for everything.

Sincerely,

Grant Engel, class of 2018, does volunteer work with church, plays baseball, and is on the math team.

My name is Reagan Hajjar and I was in Delta flight. I just wanted to thank you for organizing the SAME Engineering and Construction camp. Throughout the week I learned how to communicate, apply engineering concepts, and have fun while working hard. My flight and I bonded during the projects and I am grateful we did. It was amazing to learn about everyone and where they come from. I now have friends across the country ranging from Hawaii to Florida! How amazing is that?! Ever since graduation, we have talked every single day. We are already making plans to see each other over winter break. This past week I attended an



engineering camp in Troy, New York (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and it was nothing compared to the USAFA's hands on and team affiliated camp. The projects we were tasked to do were challenging, fun, and effective. I learned a lot from the different speakers that came in and from the past Alumni from the different academies. Not only did the camp solidify that I want to become an engineer, but it also cemented my decision to seek nomination to the Academy. I can't thank you enough for this experience!

Reagan Hajjar, class of 2019, is active in cross country and track & field, is the regional champion and national qualifier in 2016 and 2017 for Forensics (Speech League) and is the sophomore class VP.



Even on our way home, Nate was also stating that he was looking at things "like and engineer". This SAME camp experience has definitely impacted our son and I am sure all of the campers.

Have a Happy Independence Day and thank you for your service!

Darline and Dave Miner

Nathaniel Miner, class of 2019, is active in concert/jazz band as the trumpet section leader and all state selection 2017, a state finalist at the science fair, and plays football as an offensive/defensive lineman



Thank you for all your efforts to coordinate and set up the Engineering Camp at USAFA. My son, Caleb, had a great time and shared lots of stories from the week. I think he learned a lot in all of the activities, and has mentioned looking into computer engineering as a college major based on conversations he had mentor/presenter at the camp. You guys did a great job. Thanks for your time and efforts.

Sincerely, Ben Morgan, P.E.

Caleb Morgan, class of 2019, is a beta club officer, charity leader (youth group), and football team captain.



Simply fantastic! My daughter was all smiles when she returned from SAME. Thank you for all your hard work, making it such an incredible experience.

Cheers,

Lauryn Spinetta, class of 2018,

has been selected for the Olympic Development Soccer Team in North and South Dakota and South Texas, is a member of Student Council, and is in flight school.



Thanks for hosting us at camp! I enjoyed myself, meeting the others who also like science and the opportunity to learn. I think the mountain sentry is pretty original.

Best wishes for an awesome 4th of July! Thanks again for everything!!

Vr, Robert Foglesong

Robert Foglesong, class of 2019, is active in BSA, JROTC, and varsity rifle team, varsity track, and club soccer.



Thank you again for the great experience I had at the camp. It was fun and I learned a lot.

Thank you again! Jason Phillips, Alpha Flight

Jason Phillips, class of 2019, is active in Student Council as the VP, varsity tennis, and does volunteer work with his church.



I had a great time at the SAME USAFA Camp. It was awesome! It was a fun way to learn about engineering and construction. Thank you so much for selecting me for the camp and for all the hard work you and the SAME team did for the camp. (Her sister Abby was a camper in 2015 and is now a Plebe at USNA)

V/R, Claire

Claire Richardson, class of 2019, is active in cross country, basketball, lacrosse, sea cadets, and is VP of Rotary Interact, a military family babysitter service project.

I just wanted to take the time to thank you for everything you did with the SAME Camp. It was an exciting week, I made some great friends, and I know it helped me gain some much needed experience, both in the engineering field and in getting a small taste of the Military lifestyle. After this camp, I'm positive I would love to attend the Academy and major in some kind of engineering. You are a big reason why that is, so thank you very much. I'll let you know my college path as soon as I find out myself.
Sincerely, Grant Engel

TJ was so jazzed up after the camp and in love with the Academy that he said he was considering applying to USAFA and USNA (because of everything he heard from others) as well as USCGA. I reminded him if his goal is to drive ships then the Air Force might not be the right fit for ship handling. He has agreed to open his mind to the Navy as well and will be pursuing that route too. This was a kid who was adamant it was the coast guard all the way. He said he



loved interacting with the military guys and really loved the PT in the morning when they got a small taste of what basic will be like. He thought it was hilarious when Alex was being a drill sergeant. "its fun!" something tells me that it wont' be quite so much fun when it's the real deal! Thanks for expanding my kid's mind and making him even more excited about pursuing the military. It will be great when he does his admissions briefing at USCGA . I'm sure he'll be doing a lot of comparisons to USAFA.

Erin Ingersoll, CMP (Erin is our camp Registrar, her son TJ was 4 when she started her job)

TJ Ingersoll, class of 2019, is active in student leadership as the 9th grade class president, 10th grade class treasurer, and ASB council for a new high school. He also runs cross country and track.

I want to pass on some good news. I was accepted to the AFA, and I owe it to you who got the ball rolling by accepting me to the SAME engineering camp. I really appreciate that opportunity, and I look forward to going to the AFA.

Best regards,
Andrew Lemke

Good morning. Nicholas Preece, my son, attended this event with you last week. I just wanted to let you know that he had a great experience at the SAME Construction and Engineering Camp and at the USAFA in general. When he returned home late last night (11:30pm here on the east coast) I was very tired, but Nick got off that airplane all charged up! He chatted all the way home about the experience and hasn't stopped talking about it!

I want to personally thank you for your time and effort and investment in our future engineers! And thank you for the updates and pictures as well.

Mike Preece



This is Shannon and I went to the STEM Camp at USAFA; I was in Charlie Flight and honestly that was one of my best experiences to date and I still stay in touch with my whole flight-in fact I've visited two of them in their respective states! I can honestly say the SAME STEM camp impacted me as a person, gave me lifelong friendships, and reinforced my desire to go into the military on top of all the time I've spent over the last 3 years as a participant of the SAME DMP Engineer

Explorer Program. Next year I'll be at Montana State University (in Bozeman) majoring in mechanical engineering as well as interdisciplinary physics (at least that's the plan as of now!). I'll also be a part of their AFROTC detachment, as I have a scholarship and plans for the military. Thank you for making my experience so enjoyable, honestly it changed my life and that's not even an exaggeration. I hope you're having a wonderful day and I've attached one of my senior pictures for the piece. Again, thank you, I look forward to my future in STEM and the military.

Best regards,
Shannon



☺A little work never hurts... He is showing his coin off to everyone... Thank you for mentoring him. He says " ... He really looked up to your team This experience is going to last him a lifetime... I can't thank you and everyone that was involved enough... Thank you Jacob's Mom

Jaco Whiteley, Jr, class of 2019, is a member of rifle team, team captain

of the golf team, football and leader of the ROTC Service Learning program.

...Here's a great SAME NCO leadership story: Alex Kirchoff, a seven-time mentor, and recent recipient of the SAME RVP medal and former camper (2003), was with a group of 11 stranded returning campers stuck in Chicago due to flight delays, along with a few other mentors. Alex and Capt Hernandez, corralled the kids and took them to the USO. He was able to talk his way in to the USO, with the kids, offering his SAME coin and the patch off of his Army uniform. Alex is an E5 in the Army Reserves. Alex kept families posted throughout the evening as to the welfare of the kids.

Parent were very appreciative of the commitment of one of our SAME young mentors.

Hooah

... Thanks for all you and the team do/did for our "campers". Enjoyed being with you and them. You are leaving a legacy!

Blessings, Van

LTG (R) Robert Van Antwerp



===== ARMY STEM E&C Camp – Vicksburg MS 2017 =====



I can't thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to get a better outlook on the career I wish to pursue in my future. Your love for civil engineering really showed over the full week of camp and has rubbed off on me tremendously. The camp gave me a chance to really decide what I plan to do in the future. It also helped me to find a path I desire to take. Thank you again for everything.

Jalen Ray

Thank you for putting together this extraordinary camp, it was one of the best experiences I've ever had. Throughout the week as we would go from one place to another and eat freshly prepared food just about every meal, I realized just how much work went into putting this camp together and I wanted to personally thank the man that made it all happen. The other campers and counselors are all amazing people and I immediately felt comfortable with them, I hope that the connections I made with them will last a lifetime. I remember getting off the plane and being greeted by Mr and Mrs Turner, Mr. Turner told us that in a week when it was time to leave we would all be in tears, and I never thought that I could get so attached in a week but as my new brothers and sisters slowly left one by one I realized just how close we had become and when it was my time to leave my second set of parents, I couldn't hold back the tears. This camp is a hidden gem and it was an honor to have been selected to attend. Thank you again for everything.



Sincerely, Sarah Beason



This is Eddy Proietti Conti. Thank you for overseeing the SAME camp and enabling me to have one of the greatest weeks I have ever had! The SAME Army Camp opened a whole new horizon for me. Not only did I make new friends from different parts of the country, but SAME also taught me so much about engineering. Before attending the camp I had only been mildly interested in structural and mechanical engineering; however, now I am very interested in both and am considering them as a possible career choice. SAME has definitely deepened and expanded my interest in all areas of engineering, all the while affirming my life long aspiration to serve my country as a military officer.

I hope we will have the opportunity to meet again, maybe at ERDC!

Best regards, - Eddy Proietti Conti

===Exploring Engineering Academy - Atlanta 2017 [EAA] 2017 ===

Engineer Mentors - They were all very great, and I could really tell they truly loved their job, was very passionate, and wanted us to be in love with whatever we choose, because that's what we want. Very inspirational. They were cool and easy to talk to They were awesome.

General comments - STEM/Engineering Exploration Academy is a great program and I thoroughly enjoyed it, and was glad to be a participant. Don't stop. Georgia Tech STEM would be an immensely valuable experience for anyone aspiring to be an engineer. It was a very, very fun week

Georgia Aquarium - The behind the scenes tour was amazing.

Georgia Power Solar Presentation -Very interesting and informative -The presentation offered new insight to me into the world of renewal energy and it's necessity to the new world. Amazing technology was incredible to use and experience. Georgia Power was one of the highlights of my week in that the presentations and people were thorough and engaging.

Novelis - It was interactive and informative and the facilities were amazing to experience. Between the tour of the facility and the presentation on aluminum recycling, Novelis was another highlight of my experience at the stem camp

The Weather Channel - Interesting to see behind the scenes of the weather channel. - Very unique and interesting, favorite site.

GA Tech Presidential Scholars - The speakers offered critical knowledge of general college admission processes. The students had incredible stories and answers to questions. Liked hearing from students that actually go to GaTech. Presidential Scholars was the best evening session because I got to the student side of Georgia Tech.

GaTech Labs:

Architecture - That was another type of engineering that was informative and interesting. Loved Dwell coming to speak with us. I enjoyed speaking with the engineers at Dwell (architectural) after their presentation, the most.

Electrical - The lab was very interesting and offered good knowledge of EE

Structures -The presentations were engaging, and the final lab was a throwback to a typical physics lab.

Dinner with a Professional -The dinner let us have the opportunity to ask more in-depth questions about engineering with specific professionals.

Porsche USA HQs and Test Center -Favorite site after weather channel -Incredible experience with great tour.

Fernbank -The IMAX movie about engineering was fantastic.

GaTech Presidential Scholars - Answered about college life from students. This was most impactful on choosing GA Tech. We got to hear from Georgia tech students about their experiences and advice about campus life.

Six Flags - It was a blast! -Might want a little more time there. Some of the best and most fun moments of my life.