

5-8-17

Today's Presentation

Program: STEM Scouts

Speaker: Spencer Waldman, Coed STEM Scout Program, Central Indiana; Assistant, Julianna Sutter

Introduced by: Steve Springer

Attendance: 96

Guests: Mick Keller, Greg McCauley, Patricia Keener, Todd Stockwell

Scribe: Jerry Kurlander

Editor: Bonnie Carter

The STEM Scouts' primary mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes, instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The secondary mission of STEM Scouts is to foster an appreciation of science, engineering, technology and mathematics.

The Scouts meet weekly for 90 minutes. There are 12 to 18 participants per group. Girls and boys meet together, from grades 3 to 5, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12. The programs are 30 to 32 weeks in duration. This is broken down into 4 to 6 week modules costing \$200 per year per youth. Volunteers lead the group with a trained adult leader who receives \$25.

The meetings start with the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath and Scout Law. These are followed by a five-minute safety moment. Then the project is discussed, followed by the experimentation time, further discussion and the wrap up.

Projects in the elementary grades include robotics, bubble-ology, how things work and urban ecology. In high school pneumatics, nanotechnology, water quality and safety, etc. are included.

Stem Scouts allows individual learning modules and open-ended exploration. There are opportunities for publication in peer-reviewed journals reviewed by experts from the University of West Virginia. Programs are located all over Marion County but so far not in the Indianapolis Public Schools. There are additional programs in Indiana beyond Marion County.

There are opportunities for volunteering in the Stem Scouts program. In addition, individuals and organizations may participate by sponsoring a lab session at \$150 each.

Spencer Waldman may be contacted

at swaldman@crossroadsbsa.org or stemscoutsindy@scouting.org

At the completion of Spencer's talk we were all invited to tour the very interesting Science Bus where there was a microscope, several computers and, most interestingly, a 3D printer in operation.



(L) Spencer Waldman, (R) Julianna Sutter