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Immediate Release

SRNS Offers Ecological Learning Opportunities for Summer Students

The Science and Technology Enrichment Program at the Savannah River Site offers opportunities for students participating in summer programs.

AIKEN, S.C. – June 8, 2010 – To some, summer means a break from school and classes, but to the high school students participating in an Agricultural Program at South Carolina State University and those middle school students selected from South Carolina's Barnwell County, District 19, summer means opportunity.

Recent field trips by these groups to the Savannah River Site included demonstrations and presentations involving ecology, potential biofuels, nature walks and an aquatic study of a beaver pond all in a unique summer classroom. The purpose of the Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP) is to enhance mathematics, science, and technology by providing a hands-on experience using the environment as teaching tool.

"With science, nothing seems to capture the attention of a student more than the opportunity to experience it firsthand," said Kim Mitchell, STEP Program Coordinator, Education Outreach, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS). "This program allows us to partner with the teacher and show that learning can be fun and exciting."

With the upcoming 2010-11 school year, hundreds of local students will "STEP" into science at the Savannah River Site. The Science and Technology Enrichment Program is a cooperative effort between DOE-Savannah River, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, the National Audubon Society and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service-Savannah River. Limited field trip openings are still available.

“The students talked about their experience all the way back to school,” said Shirley Jones, Administrative Assistant/Resource Teacher, Blackville-Hilda Junior High. “They truly enjoyed it. We look forward to coming again.”

Interested teachers can learn more at <http://rpsec.usca.edu/step/>

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-Daniel Partnership comprised of Fluor, Northrop Grumman and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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