

# News Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC 29808

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SRS Education Outreach Impacts Tens of Thousands Each Year

**AIKEN, S.C.**, August 1, 2022 – During the 2021/2022 school year, Savannah River Nuclear Solution's (SRNS) provided education outreach to more than 60,000 students and educators.

"Elementary school through college, the statistics over the years validate the importance of SRNS support for a quality education throughout the region," said Kim Mitchell, with SRNS Education Outreach Programs. "By providing access to site resources, offering academic programs and through grant funding, we strengthen the education workforce."

SRNS has been sharing its diverse science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) outreach program with local public and private schools since 2008, when it became the site's management and operations contractor.

To date, SRNS has provided more than \$5 million for education outreach, supporting more than 300,000 students and teachers throughout seven counties near SRS.

"We value the transformative community partnerships we have with organizations like Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, and the 12 outreach programs they provide that directly impact our faculty and students," said King Laurence, Aiken County Public Schools Superintendent. "Whether it's \$1,000 mini-grants for teachers or dozens of scientists and engineers visiting our schools, we look forward to years of continued success with SRNS."

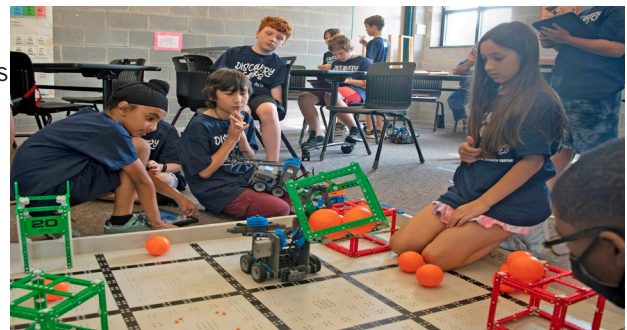
The COVID-19 pandemic prompted SRNS to develop innovative methods and incorporate cutting-edge technology to reach students and educators, creating multiple virtual platforms for that audience.

"We're confident that virtual technology and web-based platforms will strongly and positively impact students and teachers," Mitchell said. "And in time, when we return to business as usual, these tools will continue to reach a much broader group throughout the region than we've documented in the past."

SRS virtual field trips showcase science lessons about the site, targeting students with educational content specific to their grade levels. Some of the field trip lessons help participants determine the health of a pond, or assist endangered species, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker. Students can also explore the inner workings of a mass spectrometer in a site laboratory. A highly sensitive piece of equipment allows laboratory personnel to separate individual components of a substance, resulting in the exact identification of each component and the amount present in the substance being tested.

"Feedback from educators and administrators affirm that the SRNS Education Outreach Program has been highly successful, significantly impacting school systems throughout South Carolina and the greater Augusta, Georgia area," said Mitchell.

The SRNS STEM-intensive offerings traditionally include a traveling science program, workshops, tours, talks,



*More than 60,000 students and educators were impacted by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions education outreach from 2021 to 2022.*

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demonstrations and other content.

Some programs test the depth of students' knowledge and experience. They include the South Carolina Regional Science Fair, DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl and the Regional Future City Competition.

SRNS also offers annual mini-grants to financially support special projects for area teachers through corporate funding. To date, SRNS has contributed more than \$825,000 to educators in the region.

To reach local adults pursuing higher education degrees, SRNS has signed memorandums of understanding with local technical colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and other four-year degree institutions such as the University of South Carolina Aiken.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site located near Aiken, South Carolina.