

Students in summer ICAN programs engage in STEM activities

BY SANTAN SUN NEWS STAFF

Students in Chandler are back into the swing of school, but some were gearing up for academic challenges and classroom fun over the summer.

ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth finished its summer session, supported by the Arizona Community Foundation, on July 21.

Young people participated in activities science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), as well as art, computers, reading through ICAN's library and structured sports.

Also, 50 ICAN children went on a field trip to DPR Construction in Phoenix, where they learned about the construction industry, including the kinds of jobs in the field. The students worked in groups to build Little Libraries and toolboxes.

Girls involved in ICAN had a chance to learn about STEM careers during an Avnet STEM Camp, a weeklong event steered by Avnet volunteers.

The girls worked on coding programs. They tested their skills by using slime to code a computer and play music.

Boys in third through seventh grade participated in a "Brain Chase" event through the Valley of the Sun United Way, completing four challenges tied to academic or service-focused

subjects every week.

Besides focusing on mentally stimulating activities, youths also had a chance to get wet during a "water day" when ICAN teamed up with Opportunity 4 Kids. The children took part in water gun wars and threw water balloons.

The Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Department visited to help everyone cool down with water from its a truck.

The ICAN activities also included trips to the Microsoft store, TechShop Chandler and Folley Pool. Teens went on an overnight camping trip in the White Mountains.

ICAN is a free youth center in Chandler providing programs for children, teens, families and others in the community.

Its nationally recognized prevention programming teaches youths in need real-life skills including positive decision making, goal setting and avoiding risky behaviors that are common in the community ICAN serves.

ICAN offers evidence-based programs designed to help youths succeed personally and academically. The organization also provides parenting classes and substance abuse education. Information: icanaz.org



Top: (From left) Jamilette F., Angelica C., Natalie H., and A'nyiah C. participate in Avnet STEM Camp through an ICAN program.



Right: Tysha W. and other children involved in ICAN's programs learn about the construction industry and build projects during a visit to DPR Construction in Phoenix.

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