

Girl Guides of Canada

WWEST Partners funding supported STEM activities at the BC Girl Guides' Spirit of Adventure Rendezvous (SOAR) 2011 Camp held in Agassiz, BC. This camp offered seven Environment programs, with eight STEM activities that engaged Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers (girls aged 9-17) in hands-on science, engineering, technology and math activities. The objective was to provide fun and safe experiences for the girls to learn, think, and work as teams.

The eight STEM activities were:

1. Inspector Gadget – engineering a successful and strong structure, plus force and energy (catapults, bridges)
2. Physics Playground – simple machines, force and motion (marble mazes, slow races)
3. Fabulous Forensics – in conjunction with Genome BC, DNA extraction experiments
4. Crazy Chemists – basic chemistry experiments (white powders, bath bombs, gloop)
5. Mindbending Spy Games – cryptology, codes, Fibonacci's sequence, links to math
6. Rockin' Robots – building and working with mini bristle bots and larger hydraulic robots
7. Dairy Divas – learning about a working dairy farm, research, and related scientific careers (with strong cooperation from UBC, BC Dairy Foundation, and Agriculture Canada)
8. Camp Communicators – creating and contributing to a camp blog, photo uploading, learning about safe use of the internet

All program areas had very strong positive feedback, with only minor variations proposed for future offerings. The program was considered a fantastic success, and 100% met the program objectives.

Quotes from participants include:

- I think I would like to work here [UBC Farm / BC Dairy Foundation] when I get older.
- I lost my marbles! [Physics Playground slow marble race]
- "Why does the DNA look like snot?" [Fabulous Forensics]

