



Summary Report for Science Squad Sunday Playday – Mar 25, 2012

Cascades Science Center Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to inspire enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering and mathematics through hands-on science education. Thank you for getting involved with the foundation by making your child part of the Science Squad. We would like to give special thanks to **Lee Bodin**, one of the parents to help with the session on Sunday. If there is any feedback your child would like to give to us, please send it to me so we can incorporate that in our future sessions. Next session is on **Sunday, Apr 1, 2012!**

Hands-on Experience

Physical Science – Density

Lead: John Hormaechea



Kids participated in experiment called “Layers of Liquids” to explore density of different types of liquids including water, oil, alcohol and detergent. Different substances have different densities. At home, expose the kids to different examples of density. Here is a fun experiment to try with the kids. Get a can of diet coke and a can of regular coke. Fill the sink to the top with water. Which can will sink and which one will float? Why?

Kodu - Introduction

Lead: Sara Beckwith



After Kids downloaded and installed Microsoft Research’s Kodu on their computers, they followed the tutorials to explore different functions of the Kodu programming language. Kids were experimenting with adding different characters on the terrain. Most of the kids enjoyed adding a cannon or missile on the surface! This was the first session to get the kids exposed to language, so they can start building their own game beginning next week.

Learn

Laser Cutter

Lead: Tyler Menezes

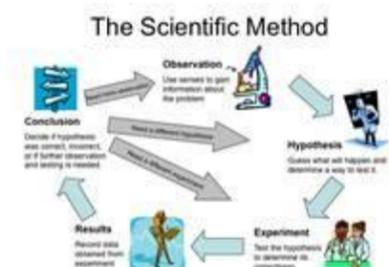


Laser cutting works by directing the output of a high-power laser, by computer, at the material to be cut or engraved. The material then burns leaving an edge with a high-quality surface finish. We used StudentRND’s laser cutter to demonstrate the functionality. The kids designed their own engravings by drawing or typing into a computer and then instructed the laser to cut the wood board. There are two basic types of actions we performed – **vector cut**, meaning letting the laser cut all the way and **raster cut**, which put engravings on the surface. Laser cutter is typically used in many industrial applications that require precision cutting, example granite countertops for your next kitchen remodel.

Apply

Scientific Method

Lead: Sonu Arora



The kids learnt how they can use Scientific Method to create their science projects. Scientific method starts with an observation and finishes with a conclusion that is then shared with everyone. Kids will follow these steps for creating their STEM projects beginning next week. The students will work in teams, brainstorm ideas about topic of their STEM project, submit their project and then work on these projects for demo at the end of the spring session.