

Oklahoma Students to attend SWOSU ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp

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While many middle school aged students are spending their summer days at the local pool, those participating in the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford are escaping the heat by diving into a fun, two-week adventure in math and science.

Former astronaut and camp founder Dr. Bernard Harris and ExxonMobil have partnered since 2006 to provide the two-week residential camp free of charge to underserved middle school students at 30 college campuses across the United States, including SWOSU.

The camp will be held July 11-23. Harris will actually be at SWOSU on opening day when he addresses campers, family members and press this Sunday, July 11, at 7 p.m. in Stafford Center Room 104. The public is invited to attend.

Wayne Trail, director of the camp at SWOSU, said about 50 campers from across Oklahoma will delve into relevant topics such as sustainability, energy, clean water and robotics as they learn about exciting career opportunities available to them through science, technology, engineering and math.

"ExxonMobil is committed to engaging the next generation of creative minds, thinkers and developers who will keep the United States competitive," said Suzanne McCarron, president of ExxonMobil Foundation. "By partnering with Dr. Harris, we are able to reach talented students and provide them with an experience that could lead them to pursue a career in math, science, engineering or technology."

Campers are taught by university faculty, attend daily classes in natural science, engineering, mathematics and technology and enjoy activities including classroom study, experiments, individual and team projects, weekly field excursions and inspirational guest speakers. As part of their educational experience, the campers also work side by side with engineers and other professionals who are accomplished in their chosen technology related careers.

"SWOSU is honored to once again host the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp," Trail said. "Not only are we providing these students with two fun-filled weeks on our campus and offering many students the unique opportunity to experience a college campus for the first time, we are investing in our community by encouraging the next generation of innovative problem solvers."

Campers will also participate in an "ExxonMobil Media Day," which will be held Thursday, July 22, at 10:30 a.m. in the SWOSU Conference Center, located at the corner of Seventh and Davis Streets in Weatherford. The public and press are also invited to the event.

For more information, please visit the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp website, www.theharrisfoundation.org