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Video: Available for viewing.



RALEIGH—You may be impressed by 9-year-old Nathaniel Smith's range.

"I want to be an astro physicist when i grow up and I'm going to try and get into Princeton," Smith said.

That's a few years down the road—today is a building block for that future.

Smith is working with other bright minds at a robotics summer camp.

"I enjoy the robotics because I don't have this stuff at home and I've done a Lego camp but it wasn't robotics it had beta mechanisms. This is way better because you get to program it and I've always loved robots and stuff," Smith said.

This is one of the many camps offered by STEM for kids, a Raleigh based organization founded by Moni Singh.

Singh leads a team of educators engineers and experts to make stem fun for kids with a focus on what she calls the 3 C's, communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills.

"It's about making STEM real for children we try to address the so what so there's science there's math but so what? Why should children care about it," Singh said.

Today, bringing that real world perspective to the kids means going out of this world.

"The future lies with the children to see a room full of children so excited about space and about science and engineering and robotics is really encouraging," NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Marc Fuso said.

After building their own robotic rovers, the campers are learning how NASA is actually using them in space exploration.

"What is out there? Is there life on other planets? And robots is how we are going to figure it out," Smith said.

For now the question is how to get more young minds envisioning a stem related future, whether it leads these kids to a future in this world or beyond.

Source: [http://www.twcnews.com/archives/nc/triangle-sandhills/2013/10/5/stem-camps-inspires-long-term-goals-for-students-NC\\_700211.old.html](http://www.twcnews.com/archives/nc/triangle-sandhills/2013/10/5/stem-camps-inspires-long-term-goals-for-students-NC_700211.old.html)