



Stoll coordinates science camp on USD campus

By Travis Gulbrandson

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Crime scene investigation for middle-schoolers?

That was the theme of the 2013 Lawrence Brothers Science Camp, which took place on the campus of the University of South Dakota last week.

"We've done a lot of activities related to CSI," said camp coordinator Sally Stoll before the closing ceremony Friday. "First we tell them what it is, because it's not what they see on TV."

CSI is one of three rotating themes of the camp, the other two being Light and Vision, and Science and Sports.

From July 7-12, 45 campers from multiple states came to take part in CSI-related sessions and activities presented by USD professors, students and local police and sheriff's department members.

"They have a wide variety of topics that they cover," Stoll said. "They looked at bones and tried to identify them, and they learned what kinds of things bones can tell them about ... what happened. They look at blood and how to gather evidence. They did a thing with luminol to see how they detect blood."

"There is a very wide array of things that they did," she said.

Carson Lee, 12, of Vermillion, said the chemistry session was his favorite.

"There were a lot of different things that we got to test," he said. "We got to learn about a chemical that makes bloodstains glow in the dark, and we got to look under microscopes and look at polarized light. It was fun."

Ronae Koein, 14, said she liked the presentation on bones the most.

"It was a lot of fun," she said. "We learned a lot of



The attendees, counselors and coordinator of the 2013 Lawrence Brothers Science Camp.

(Courtesy photo)

stuff about criminal investigation and forensic anthropology."

The counselors seemed to have enjoyed the experience just as much as the campers.

"I really loved the kids, and hopefully I can come back next year, because it was awesome," said Sabrina Schnack, first-time counselor.

The camp is named for E.O. and John Lawrence, who were born in Canton, SD, and whose families provided the funds to establish the camp.

E.O. Lawrence is most famous as the inventor of the cyclotron, and for having an element - Lawrencium - named after him, while John Lawrence, a pioneer in using radiation in cancer treatments.

Stoll said this year was the most highly attended in the camp's 12-year history. Prior to this, the highest attendance rate was 34.

"We really grew a lot this year," she said. "We had about 12 or 13 sessions,

and there were about 22 people per group."

Each attendee has to go through the same application process.

"They have to want to come, and basically like science," Stoll said. "There aren't any requirements as far as financial, grades at school or recommendations from anybody. If they want to come to this camp and they apply, they can come."

For the students who need them, scholarships are available through the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network, she added.

Schnack said the camp provides the students with a unique and beneficial opportunity.

"I noticed that all of them are very, very intelligent, and very eager to ask questions and learn in a hands-on setting," she said.

For more information, visit <http://orgs.usd.edu/brin/LBC.html>.

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