



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE
FOUNDATION, INC.

YMWIC Annual St. Vincent College Retreat



During the four-day summer camp at Saint Vincent College, YMWIC rising 7th and 8th grade Scholars participated in a variety of engaging STEM activities that introduced them to different areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while also providing opportunities for recreation and team building. It was a fun and engaging week for our Scholars, and we are grateful for our close and longstanding partnership with Saint Vincent College.

Day One

The first day was primarily a travel day, allowing Scholars to settle into campus. Recreational activities included swimming, spending time in the game room, and playing card games together, giving Scholars an opportunity to socialize and build friendships before beginning the academic portion of the camp.





Day Two

The second day of the trip began with a visit to a local stream where Scholars observed aquatic wildlife and learned how nearby mine drainage treatment ponds help improve water quality and restore the surrounding ecosystem. Scholars also received a tour of the planetarium and safely viewed the sun using solar glasses, allowing them to observe sunspots. Afterwards, Scholars completed a blood typing laboratory, identifying the blood types of multiple samples including a mystery sample. In mathematics, they learned and applied strategic thinking by playing Nim, a mathematical strategy game. The day concluded with a cybersecurity lesson introducing encryption keys and the fundamentals of cryptography.



Day Three

Scholars began their third day using virtual machines to create a simple computer game as an introduction to programming in a secure computing environment.

They then completed baseline concussion testing similar to assessments used by professional athletes. During a forensic science activity, Scholars learned about different fingerprint patterns and worked together to identify the owner of a mysterious fingerprint. They also explored renewable energy concepts by learning about solar panels, voltage, and electrical current.

Later, the group toured the Saint Vincent Basilica, learning about its history and construction. The evening concluded with a campfire where Scholars enjoyed making s'mores together.





Day Four

Before departing, Scholars participated in several final STEM activities. They conducted a chromatography experiment to separate the individual components found in Kool-Aid, demonstrating how mixtures can be analyzed.



Next, they completed mobility assessments to evaluate flexibility and movement patterns. The final activity focused on anatomy and physiology. Scholars explored the cardiovascular system, nervous system, brain, and other body systems using an Anatomage table, an advanced 3D virtual anatomy platform.

Overall, the summer retreat provided Scholars with valuable hands-on experiences across multiple STEM disciplines while encouraging critical thinking, teamwork, and curiosity in an engaging learning environment.