SCHOOL AND YOUTH



Photos by Anita Weier

Amayah Carter shows how to make toothpaste at the Science Fair at Warner Park.



Valerie Richardson shows what she learned this summer about fishing in Wisconsin.

Teen program provides work experience and knowledge

By Anita Weier
Northside News

A Science Fair at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center in August was just one result of a summer-long internship program for Northside and Eastside high school students.

The program, run by the nonprofit Sustain Dane, was funded with a $30,000 grant from Madison's Community Development Division and $40,000 from the National League of Cities. Alder Charles Myadze helped get the program going.

The main goal of the program was to teach students about possible work in the "green economy" and give them initial experience in that field. They were paid $18 an hour.

Northside students showing their work at the Science Fair included Valerie Richardson and Amyah Carter.

Richardson, who will be a junior at East High during the 2023-24 school year, presented an exhibit at the Science Fair regarding fishing in Wisconsin. "One of our field trips was to a lake where the Department of Natural Resources taught us about fish," she explained. She offered a wealth of reference materials for visitors regarding the type of fish found in Wisconsin and fishing regulations. She plans to attend college but is not certain yet what her major will be.

Carter, 15, presented an exhibit about "Elephant Toothpaste," though she has not tested it on an elephant. She did, however, learn how to make the toothpaste, thanks to a visit to Madison College during the summer internship. Carter said an important purpose of the program was to let the students know about different career paths, whether they attend college or not.

Other field trip locations included the Dane County Landfill, where students learned the importance of placing waste materials in the correct garbage or recycling containers.

Dyamond Overstreet, co-director of the summer program for Sustain Dane, stressed that all seven students completed the program, even though some sections had to be delayed because of weather. The students received half a credit from the Madison Metropolitan School District for participating in the program.

Hugh Wing of the city's Community Development Division said the program provided a great opportunity for students to learn about careers and the environment. "The Northside has been underserved in past years," he said, "so it was nice to see Sustain Dane target an area where we like to see more services."