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Duke Energy Hosts Hands-On Expedition for Science-Minded Girls

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. July 11, 2018 — Although women fill nearly half of all jobs in the U.S., they hold less than 25% of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. A nonprofit camp in Charlotte is working to close this gender gap with help from local companies like Duke Energy.

Project Scientist, a STEM learning camp for girls ages 4-12, took an expedition to Duke Energy's Water Quality and Science Labs in Huntersville, N.C. on Wednesday, July 11. The camp meets daily at Johnson & Wales University or the University of North Carolina, Charlotte and ventures out for on-site expeditions related to the learning theme of each week.

"Power Your World" was the theme for July 9-13, and the Environmental Services team at Duke Energy was happy to not only host Project Scientist, but also present them with a \$30,000 donation from the Duke Energy Foundation.

"Project Scientist exposes girls to the limitless career possibilities in STEM, and we're proud to support their great work," said David Fountain, Duke Energy's North Carolina president. "By fostering a growing student interest in STEM fields, our communities will continue to develop skilled workers who bring new thinking and innovation to our region."

The labs, located at McGuire Nuclear Station on Lake Norman, were the ideal spot for the Project Scientist campers to collect water samples, analyze them alongside Duke Energy water quality scientists, and learn about the invertebrates living in the water. The campers also learned about hydro and nuclear electricity and visited the Benthic and Fish Labs where they learned about fisheries resources and osprey.

"It's one thing to see pictures in a book or on a screen, but these expeditions bring STEM learning to another level," said Project Scientist Founder and CEO Sandy Marshall. "The girls get the chance to immerse themselves in their favorite topics and meet women who are working in science and technology fields."

To register or learn more about Project Scientist visit projectscientist.org.

About Project Scientist

Project Scientist is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, coaching and advocating for girls and women with a passion, aptitude and talent for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Core programs include Project Scientist Academy, a six-week summer science intensive for girls ages 4-12 held on university campuses in North Carolina and California. All programs are research-based and 40% of services are scholarship-based. More information is available at www.projectscientist.org.



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About Duke Energy

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK) is one of the largest energy holding companies in the U.S., with approximately 29,000 employees and a generating capacity of 49,500 megawatts. The company is transforming its customers' experience, modernizing its energy grid, generating cleaner energy and expanding its natural gas infrastructure to create a smarter energy future for the people and communities it serves.

The company's Electric Utilities and Infrastructure unit serves approximately 7.6 million retail electric customers in six states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. Its Gas Utilities and Infrastructure unit distributes natural gas to approximately 1.6 million customers in five states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. Its Commercial Renewables unit operates a growing renewable energy portfolio across the U.S.

A Fortune 125 company, Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2018 "World's Most Admired Companies" list and Forbes' 2018 "America's Best Employers" list.

More information about the company is available at duke-energy.com. The Duke Energy News Center includes news releases, fact sheets, photos, videos and other materials. Duke Energy's illumination features stories about people, innovations, community topics and environmental issues. Follow Duke Energy on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

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