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Bubble Buddies

For our January Bubble Buddies meeting, we went to the San Jose Children's Discovery Museum. My favorite part of the museum was the WaterWays exhibit. I also liked the Bubbles exhibit. My favorite part was holding a bubble.

Digital Makerspace

This month, I made a reverse cypher in Python. A reverse cypher reverses the input. It is not good for encrypting things like "LOL". You edit a variable in the code to say what you want to be encrypted. I tried to edit the program so you can type in your input instead of editing the code, but it didn't work. I also started work on a Python text adventure game.

Knots and Codes

At the February Knots and Codes project meeting, we tied the figure of eight knot. It looked a lot like an eight and it's used as a "stopper knot," so it stops ropes from slipping.. We also tied the bowline knot, which is one of the most common knots. We did some challenges for the bowline knot, so in an emergency we would be able to do weird things like tying a bowline with one hand and behind your back. We learned the Yosemite tie-off for the bowline knot. The Yosemite tie-off keeps the bowline from becoming untied, so a bowline with the Yosemite tie-off is much more secure than a normal bowline. We also played a game called Codenames, where you try to guess your team's words and avoid the other team's and the neutral words. You especially try to avoid the Assassin word. After that, Felix came up with "Opposite Codenames," where you try to get the other team's words instead of your team's words.

Mushroom Madness

The Tilden Fungus Fair was held on February 3rd at Tilden Park in Berkeley. They had tables full of mushrooms to look at and touch. My favorite part was making mushrooms out of clay. I also got to help make mushroom ice cream. It didn't really taste like mushroom.



My Leap of Faith into the State Exchange Project

Have you ever felt nervous about joining a baseball team, doing your first 4-H presentation, or even riding a roller coaster for the very 1st time? After 6 months of research about bicycles, I finally felt confident about buying one. But sometimes research doesn't help, sometimes the best way to learn or experience things is to take a leap of faith and just do it.

I had heard of State Exchange before this year, but hadn't researched it, or known anyone who had done it. So when Karen Sherman from Redwood 4-H came and talked to us about the Contra Costa/Alameda County State Exchange Project, I was intrigued and decided to do it. That doesn't mean that I wasn't nervous or unsure about doing it, but our first official meeting on Sunday, Feb 10th. helped reassure me that this is going to be a great experience. If you didn't hear Mrs. Sherman at the club meeting, here's a basic overview of what State Exchange is: it is a program run by the US government where 4-H clubs send a group of members to a different state. In July 2019, our group will go to Montana, and we will each get assigned a "twin" or buddy, at whose house we stay for a week. During that week, all the California and Montana kids meet up as a group and do different activities and field trips that the Montana kids plan for us. Then, in July 2020, the Montana kids come to California and stay with their twin, and we take them on field trips and do activities, such as Alcatraz, Santa Cruz Boardwalk, museums, and other fun things. I'm excited about our partner state being Montana, mainly because I love visiting family in rural Michigan, and enjoy being outside and in the country.

In the beginning of the meeting, the parents and kids met together and discussed what State Exchange is, our responsibilities in housing, feeding and transporting our visitors as well as some of the financial obligations that might come up, such as paying for activities. Since we do not want our parents to have to pay for the group activities, we need to raise a good amount of money before July 2020 to pay for the field trips and outings when the Montana 4-H kids come to the Bay Area to stay with us. In order to raise the money, we will be doing fundraisers, such as working a crab feed which involves serving customers and set-up and clean-up. Another fund-raiser we are doing is the food booth at the Showmanship Clinic in Contra Costa County, which is like the Small Animal Field Day in Alameda. A new one this year for State Exchange is Ducks for Bucks which is normally only our club and Bayside, but the leaders liked the idea so much that they agreed to sell Ducks with us.

After that the kids and the parents split up into two groups. In the youth meeting, we introduced ourselves and got to know each other a little bit. We then discussed Officer positions, and who should be what officer. I took the Secretary position, but since we had more kids than positions, we came up with offices like Parliamentarian and Historian, which we really don't need but means everyone has an office. We somehow ended up with three Recreation Officers, two Sergeant-at-Arms officers, and two Hospitality officers. I guess we will have twice the rules and five times the fun! After that we discussed rules and expected behavior during our Montana visit. We need to try and be nice, respectful, as well as mannerly. We then talked about the dress code so we cannot wear anything inappropriate or political. And finally we need to bring a house gift to Montana, something that is only

available in California such as certain chocolates, key chains or other items like that.

Although I am still a bit nervous about going to Montana, attending this meeting and meeting the leaders and other kids in this project reassured me that this is one leap that will be worth it.

Primary Makerspace

At our February Primary Makerspace meeting, we coded Edison robots. We used Edblocks to code the Edison robots. Edblocks is a block-based programming language.



East Hills in the Newspaper!

The East Hills 4-H Kindness Project made it into the Alameda Sun Newspaper!

Here's the article!

Kids Show Kindness to Homeless

Thursday, December 20, 2018



Members of the East Hills 4H Club have a project called the "Kindness Club", based here in Alameda. Recently the children did some great community service work by gathering at Lincoln Park and making "blessing bags". Blessing bags are Ziploc gallon bags filled with personal essentials, snacks, water and a positive note to give to our homeless. This was organized by 4H leader Rosanna Diggs. The children love being part of such a simple way to show compassion.

The children also volunteered at Safeway at South Shore Center for the "Feed the Need" food drive asking people to donate money for families in need at the holiday time. "They did a terrific job raising money," said Diggs.