



CONSERVATION EDUCATION — Success Story

Camp Badger 2001

INTRODUCTION — Since the USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) first opened its doors on the University of Wisconsin (UW) campus in 1910, the two have been likely partners. Their latest collaboration was a rewarding and successful venture into the world of conservation education.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION — The “Camp Badger Exploring Engineering Program” was designed to encourage females and minorities to become interested in the fields of science and engineering.

Fifty eighth-grade students spent a week on the UW campus, and were given the opportunity to explore various engineering disciplines at many local facilities and businesses. An afternoon at the Forest Products Laboratory gave the students insight as to how science and engineering can have a positive impact on the health of our Nation’s forests.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS — Camp Badger was sponsored by the University of Wisconsin College of Engineering and the Office of Diversity. Forest Products Laboratory was happy to be a stop on the students’ adventure of exploring the fields of science and engineering.

By visiting FPL, the students were able to witness first hand the ways that research contributes to forest conservation and sustainability. They were able to participate in the following hands-on activities:

- Papermaking—Students toured FPL’s pilot scale paper plant before making their own hand-made paper from scratch.
- Wood ID—Students learned about species of wood with special characteristics that set them apart from others species. Some have particular textures, scents, and tastes that make them unique, and one species even glows blue under a UV light!

- Pressing Juniper Signs—Students learned about composites and of signs made with Juniper fiber and recycled plastic that are being tested on two National Forests.



Checking out the press in the Composites research area.

These activities, along with several other demonstrations and talks, made for a fun and successful day of learning at FPL.

The students were given time at the end of the day to discuss what they learned and write in their journals about the experiences they had at Forest Products Laboratory.

CONCLUSION — In the future, Forest Products Laboratory would like to continue this partnership with the University of Wisconsin. Expanding and continuing the outreach to middle-school aged children is also a goal for the future.

For more information contact:

Susan Paulson
USDA Forest Products Laboratory
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53726-2398
Phone: (608) 231-9249
Email: skpaulson@fs.fed.us
Website: <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us>