

LITTLE HAITI

Kids get a kick out of energy camp

■ Kids in Little Haiti learned about renewable energy at a summer camp organized by the Miami Science Museum.

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Farrah Saturne just wanted to dance.

But her dance teacher, Nancy St. Leger, insisted that the 10-year old also sign up for a science camp at Miami's Little Haiti Cultural Center.

She did. And thanks to the Energy Jam Camp, she has learned to build prototypes that create renewable energy.

Farrah said she misses dancing, but will stick around for the next science topic — Robotics.

"I liked it a little bit," Farrah admitted.

During the third week of camp, Farrah will go back to St. Leger's Haitian folklore dance group, while other kids will be learning about papermaking.

The three-week Energy Jam Camp was organized by the Miami Science Museum to teach children about energy and get them thinking about using renewable resources in the future.

"It's super important because they are the ones who are going to live with the consequences of the decisions that have been made by people before them," said Paul Orselli, who taught the kids about energy use.

Farrah's group showed their ingenuity by building two devices.

One of the devices, a water wheel, creates energy by using the force created by free-flowing water.

To demonstrate, Farrah poured water out of cup onto one of the paddles, causing the wheel to spin. An energy meter measured the amount of power created by the wheel.

Farrah's other prototype used solar panels to power Christmas lights, to turn on music and to spin two cut-out paper stars, which were glued to a motor.



RENEWABLE FUTURE: A wind turbine was among the prototypes made by participants at the Miami Science Museum's Energy Jam Camp.

"I like the design part," Farrah said, referring to the colorful decorations on the prototype.

"They did a good job," Orselli said. "It's impressive what they've developed."

Orselli said at the beginning of the week some of the kids were hesitant to join the camp because they didn't enjoy science.

The museum will be displaying the kids' projects as a component of *Energy Tracker*, an exhibit that teaches visitors about the future of energy.

"It's very rewarding to see the outcome, especially to see how hard they've applied themselves," said Sean Duran, vice president of exhibitions and programs at the museum who was on hand to watch the children show off their prototypes.

"This is inquiry-based education. There's no right or wrong answers," Duran said. "The outcome is from their inside."

For Jovany Traversiere, 12, the camp was exciting. His creation, a wind turbine that powered a heater, took him almost four days to complete. On Friday afternoon the turbine was still because there was no breeze to make it spin.

"It kind of works," said Traversiere, who is looking forward to robotics week the most. "I decided to join because its summer and sitting at home and watching TV doesn't help."



PHOTOS BY DANIEL BOCK/FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

WHEELING: Camper Farrah Saturne, 10, demonstrates a water wheel she helped create at the Little Haiti Cultural Center.