

Flight University Chronicle



Project Next Generation @ the Sparta Public

Inaugural Class of Trainees at Flight University

The Sparta Public Library was excited to host its first flight university class on Thursday, February 5 from 3:30 until 5:00 pm.

Fourteen students enrolled in the university, which will last through spring 2015, meeting every Thursday at the library.

The middle school students each received a flight badge and binder to store their University materials.



Our 2015 Flight Class

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Soaring to New Heights (Hopefully)

On February 19th, the Flight University Trainees began a new project: building motor-powered gliders. This project is quite time consuming requiring each

student to measure/cut/sand the balsa wood and then glue the frame. Once done, they'll get the chance to see them soar, hopefully, with the Kelvin Power Pole.

Check out videos of test flights on youtube by searching Kelvin Power Pole Test Flight.



Flight University



It's Electric...

The primary activity for Flight University trainees in February was exploring circuitry using snap circuit kits, made possible through the PNG Grant.

After the first week, participants were able to begin exploring/building the circuits on their own with minimal guidance.

Favorite circuits included the flying saucer, water alarms, and pretty much any activity that produced sound.

While it was a blast learning about electricity in this hands on fashion, trainees have now moved onto newer flight topics. However, the circuit kits are available for



Learning about the principles of electricity by playing with circuits.

their use during snack time.

What is PNG?

Project Next Generation (PNG) is an educational technology initiative of Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian, Jesse White, which was established to help educate students and bridge the digital divide. By providing technology training for students, PNG

empowers students to succeed academically and eventually as independent, contributing members of society.

In service of this mission, the PNG program offers grant funding to libraries for establishing after-school training pro-

grams that not only provide access to computers, software and various technology devices, but also hire mentors who are crucial to helping students develop self-confidence and pride in their newly acquired skills.

The Sparta Public Library was awarded a grant for 2015 from the Illinois State Library which funds Flight University.

Looking Ahead...

As the trainees finish up their gliders, we're looking ahead to what's in store the rest of this spring. While much scheduling is still being done and many details are being ironed out there are several oppor-

tunities in the works which the trainees are sure to enjoy including: kite building, a visit from the Civil Air Patrol, and an air port tour, tentatively scheduled for March 26th. Look for more information, as

well as consent forms, about the airport excursion soon. As the weather warms up we are looking forward to moving the educational experiences outside.

Check out our website for more pictures and updates.

Project Next Generation

Sparta Public Library
211 W. Broadway
Sparta, IL 62286

www.spartapubliclibrary.com

Phone: 618-443-5014
Fax: 618-443-2952
E-mail: spartaillinoislibrary@gmail.com.

Look Under For Young Adults—Middle Schoolers—PNG

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A Note to Parents

We're having a great time getting to know all the kids and learning about their learning styles. One thing we've noticed is that when the participants get to the library really early (e.g., over 30 minutes before the program begins) it is often much more difficult for them to remain focused and attentive throughout the entire program. Hopefully, as the weather warms up and kids are more able

to run around outside (maybe walk to the library from school?) before coming in for Flight University this will become less of an issue. Until that time, however, please make sure that your children are either 1) not being dropped off at the library way before the program begins at 3:30 or 2) are able to sit quietly in the library, if necessary.

We completely under-

stand that kids often need physical activity/movement to let out all the energy stored up from an entire school day sitting at a desk. However, in the library is not the best place to do this as there are patrons who need quiet while they make use of the library's resources.

Thanks for sharing your kids with us every week. Let us know if you ever have any comments, questions, or concerns.

The Flight University Staff

- Jillian Mayer, Jeff Colbert, & Susan Colbert

