Space Camp is Phenomenal!

As long as I can remember, outer space and anything related has always been one of my favorite subjects. The thought of traveling to the International Space Station on the SpaceDev Dream Chaser gives me goose bumps. In 2013, I was selected to participate in the space camp program, fewer moments in that year compare to what I experienced in space camp; furthermore, the fun moments and knowledge I acquired will be with me for a lifetime.

One memorable moment of space camp was when my team (Goddard) was given the opportunity to zip line off a 30-foot wooden post while we were visiting Area 51. I learned a lot about teamwork while in the process of preparing to zip line. One of the principles I learned was that teamwork is essential to getting to the top of any obstacle you have. First, before anyone could began climbing the 30 foot wooden post, we all had to make sure that our harnesses were checked by the Area 51 helpers and secured to at least three other people before we could began climbing the wooden post.

When it was my turn to climb the wooden post, the helper–like he had done many other times–secured my harness to three other teammates and made sure that my harness was tightly locked. After all the precautions were accounted for, I began to climb. Climbing up the side of the wooden structure was a lot easier than I thought it would be; however, once I got to the very top I truly realized how high 30 feet actually was. When I was through climbing, one of the helpers lent me his hand and pulled me over the edge, on to the floor of the wooden post, from there a different helper took off the rope attached to my harness and secured the zip line. The helper by the name of John told me to sit down on a red box that had been drawn at the edge of the floor. He then said, “go ahead when you’re ready.” When I eventually slid off the edge I felt like a superman, the feeling of zip lining was completely unparalleled by anything I had previously experienced. Additionally, I was given the chance to work on a team to design and fly a rocket, even though our team’s rocket did not work properly, I had never done anything in rocketry before this and it was an enriching experience.

If I’m invited back to space camp, I will be sure to bring a camera to capture some of the wonderful moments during the camp, so I can share them with all my friends and family. I wish every student could have the phenomenal space camp experience. Space camp is so revolutionary in its approach to learning, and is a shining example of how a camp should be done! This is why I want to go to Space Camp.