



CONTACT:

Angela Hemingway, 208.332.1726, angela.hemingway@STEM.idaho.gov

Tony Harrison, 208.880.9814, tony@COMMposition.biz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dutch Bros, AAUW, STEM Action Center treating kids to STEM camps

BOISE, Idaho (Nov. 2, 2018) — The Idaho STEM Action Center recently helped Dutch Bros and the Boise-area branch of the American Association of University Women raise a spooky amount of money — nearly \$50,000 — to fund scholarships to youth camps next summer that explore science, technology, engineering, and math concepts.

As part of its Buck 4 Kids giveback day, Dutch Bros and its Love Abounds Foundation donated \$1 from each of the 17,989 beverages its Boise, Garden City, and Meridian locations sold on National Coffee Day Sept. 29 to Reuseum Educational Inc. The Idaho STEM Action Center Foundation matched the Dutch Bros donation 50 cents on the dollar, dedicating \$8,994.50 to the effort and bringing the total gift to \$26,983.50.

Reuseum Educational is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides learning opportunities to enhance children's knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math, and the donations will be used to offer no- and low-cost STEM-based workshops for youths.

Meanwhile, AAUW's Boise branch and the STEM Action Center gave Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council \$18,183.16 to fund STEM camps, too. The AAUW chapter raised \$8,783.16 at an auction in May for scholarships to Girl Scouts of Silver Sage STEM camps, and the STEM Action Center matched and donated \$9,400. The AAUW-Girl Scouts scholarship recipients will attend STEM camp sessions at Camp Alice Pittenger in McCall.

The AAUW chapter and the STEM Action Center also gave the ACE Academy (short for Aerospace Career Exploration) \$1,200 to create opportunities for girls to fly. The AAUW chapter raised \$600 at its May auction and the STEM Action Center matched the donation. Hosted by the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, the ACE Academy is a summer program staged in several locations statewide for youth promoting STEM learning through the lens of aviation.

With assistance from Idaho First Lady Lori Otter, local Dutch Bros owners, officers from the local AAUW chapter, and STEM Action Center staff presented representatives from Reuseum Educational and Girls Scouts of Silver Sage Council with their checks at the Governor's Office Wednesday. Representatives from ACE Academy were unable to attend.

“It’s my honor to help recognize the partnership and collaboration between the STEM Action Center and these amazing groups,” Otter said. “I love it when the community comes together and takes a small idea with the right resources and connects the right people to make a big impact. Everybody should be educated in STEM — that’s the world we live in right now. The funds Dutch Bros, the American Association of University Women, and the STEM Action Center raised will give many kids resources they otherwise might not have to explore science, technology, engineering, and math and help create the next generation of STEM professionals”

Brian Wight, owner of Dutch Bros Boise, concurs. “We believe encouraging kids to learn everything they can about science, technology, engineering, and math is important for both their growth and the growth of the community,” he said. “We’re honored this year’s Buck for Kids event will support the efforts being made by the STEM Action Center Foundation.”

“Kids are near and dear to my heart, our education system doesn’t always get the financial support it needs, teachers don’t get paid enough, and many schools have not yet embraced STEM education, so finding an organization like Reuseum Educational is like gold to me,” Meridian Dutch Bros owner Jeff Yarnall added. “By supporting Re:Ed, donations go directly to helping kids and nothing else. The Reuseum’s retail space takes care of the overhead so that every dollar donated — which the STEM Action Center Foundation graciously matches — goes directly to creating and offering STEM camps and workshops to kids for little or no cost to them.”

Re:Ed executive director Steve Rodoletz is thrilled to receive the attention and assistance. “Everyone at Reuseum Educational is very appreciative for our local Dutch Bros owners and their staff and the wonderful people at the STEM Action Center and its foundation,” he said. “I’d like to thank them and the First Lady for helping bring science, technology, engineering, and math education into the lives of underprivileged and underserved children.”

AAUW Idaho co-president Sylvia Chariton said her organization also seeks to strengthen science, technology, engineering, and math education — especially for girls and other underrepresented populations.

“Rather than always focusing on the financial shortcomings of Idaho public schools, a more sensible approach to the problem will be increasing accountability for the entire process of public education,” Chariton said. “We all own a piece of it. For girls, we must go beyond our formal public school system to include fun, interesting, and exciting community learning opportunities such as the Girl Scouts’ Real Life Wonder Women Summer STEM camp in McCall and ACE Aviation’s introduction to space and flying. Only after collaborations like these have taken place — and after we learn how to work synergistically with government, the private sector, and philanthropic organizations — will the future of Idaho public education really evolve.”

Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council CEO Patricia Pyke offered up some tangible results. “This year because of the STEM Action Center and AAUW we were able to provide camps and programs for more than 1,100 girls,” she said. “From solving forensic mysteries up at Camp Alice Pittenger to our Tech Tuesday camps here in Boise this summer where we had girls of all ages — even kindergarteners and first through third graders — coding and programming robots, these girls are reaching their potential and learning about STEM careers and discovering that’s what they want to be very early. Thank you all so much for believing that girls are the future STEM professionals that Idaho needs.”

Dr. Hemingway said opportunities like the Reuseum, Girl Scouts and ACE Academy camps are important to the future of Idaho, because STEM learning happens everywhere, not just inside the classroom.

“Idaho youth spend as much as 80 percent of their time outside of a traditional classroom,” Dr. Hemingway said. “Providing students with the opportunity to attend high quality STEM camps allows them to extend their learning of STEM concepts that will benefit them in the classroom and beyond. STEM jobs in Idaho are abundant, and participation in STEM camps helps students increase their technical knowledge of STEM while also improving their critical and creative thinking skills along with practicing teamwork and collaboration.”

About the Idaho STEM Action Center

The Idaho STEM Action Center was created in 2015 because Idaho citizens are not entering the STEM pipeline fast enough to meet current and future Idaho workforce needs. Its goals are to coordinate and facilitate implementation of STEM programs, align education and workforce needs, and increase awareness of STEM throughout Idaho. The organization is working with industry, government, educators, and students to develop new resources and support high-quality teacher professional-development opportunities to foster a STEM-educated workforce that ensures Idaho’s continued economic prosperity. Visit STEM.idaho.gov for more information.

About Dutch Bros Coffee

Dutch Bros Coffee is the country’s largest privately held drive-thru coffee company, with more than 315 locations and 9,000 employees in seven states. The company is headquartered in Grants Pass, Ore., where it was founded in 1992 by Dane and Travis Boersma. Dutch Bros serves specialty coffee, smoothies, freezes, teas, a private-label Dutch Bros Blue Rebel energy drink, and nitrogen-infused cold brew coffee. Its rich, proprietary coffee blend is handcrafted from start to finish. In addition to its mission of speed, quality, and service, Dutch Bros is committed to giving back to the communities it serves. Through its Love Abounds Foundation and local franchisees, Dutch Bros donates more than \$5.8 million each year to causes across the country. Visit dutchbros.com for more information.

About AAUW and its Boise branch

The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Education in STEM is one of its major initiatives locally and nationally. AAUW is a nationwide network of more than 170,000 members and supporters, 1,000 branches, and 800 college and university institution partners. Since 1881, its members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. The Boise-area branch has been active in the community since 1909. Visit <http://boise-id.aauw.net> for more information.

About Re:Ed

Reuseum Educational Inc. is the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arm of The Reuseum, a Treasure Valley scientific, industrial, and government surplus equipment store that's become a Shangri-La for techies like engineers, students, hobbyists, and artists. Re:Ed provides materials and expertise in the support of scientific and technology education. In addition to sourcing materials, equipment, and supplies for educators, Reuseum Educational stages electronics, technology, and sustainability classes at The Reuseum at 3131 W. Chinden Blvd. in Garden City. Visit reuseum.com or educate.reuseum.org for more information.

About Girl Scouts of Silver Sage

Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council is a girl-led youth organization that serves more than 4,000 girls throughout southern Idaho and in parts of Northern Nevada and Eastern Oregon. The council, along with a team of 2,300 local volunteers, delivers educational leadership programs that build girls of courage, confidence, and character who positively impact the communities in which they live. Visit www.girlscouts-ssc.org for more information.

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