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New York City Mission Society Power Academy Campers Show Off their Smarts in “Cranium Crunch” on Tuesday, August 15



- Hundreds of kids participate in afternoon of fun, educational activities at annual celebration -

(New York, N.Y.) – After exploring various careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields this summer—as part of the theme “Through the Magnifying Glass”—Summer Power Academy campers participated in a “Cranium Crunch” showcase on Tuesday, August 15th.

At the event, hundreds of participants from Mission Society Power Academy programs took part in an engineering challenge, a trivia competition, performances, and science fair style presentations.

“Cranium Crunch is truly special because it is one of the only days we get to have multiple sites gathered together in the same space,” said Elsie McCabe Thompson, President of the New York City Mission Society. “It is one of our favorite days of the program because you get to see first-hand how much they have learned from the lessons. It is a very special time.”

Throughout the summer, Summer Power Academy participants became botanists, ecologists, zoologists, marine biologists, engineers, and architects. Each week, students participated in hands-on STEM activities and experiences such as planting herbs and vegetables, creating a mural of ocean habitats that included the animals that live in each zone, and building a marble run. The program included trips to urban farms, botanic

gardens, ecology centers, zoos, aquariums, The Museum of Natural History, and the Skyscraper Museum.

The Harlem-based nonprofit, which serves children and youth, has strengthened its Power Academy program in recent years to bolster STEM skills, such as critical thinking, analysis, and problem-solving, in an effort to spur students' interests in those fields. Experts predict that science and engineering occupations will grow by 26% from 2010-2020, twice as fast as the overall job market during that period. Yet, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, while Black and Hispanics account for 11% and 14% of the overall U.S. employment, they comprise only 6% of STEM workers.

About Power Academy Summer Camp

The Mission Society's Power Academy program has been the cornerstone of our mission to offer disadvantaged youth the highest quality educational support and enrichment. Operating at six New York City public elementary and middle school sites, Power Academy and Power Academy Summer Day Camp provide more than 800 children with academic support, cultural enrichment, and healthy recreational activities year-round. Power Academy is supported by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, the Rose M. Badgeley Trust, the Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation, the Cleveland Dodge Foundation and Verizon.

About New York City Mission Society

The New York City Mission Society has been on the frontlines of the war on poverty for more than 200 years. Today, our educational, restorative justice, cultural enrichment, and workforce development programs make a positive, long-term impact on youth in the City's most underserved communities by promoting academic achievement, preventing recidivism, and providing career opportunities. Each year, we serve more than 13,000 children and families throughout New York City with our programs, supportive services, and community events. Learn more at www.nycmissionsociety.org

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