



SUMMER of INNOVATION

in the Rio Grande Valley

The Summer of Innovation program in the Rio Grande Valley has been a tremendous partnership between the Rio Grande Valley Science Association, Texas Space Grant Consortium, and The University of Texas at Austin and Pan American. This program allows us to provide training and resources to teachers in counties of south Texas that border Mexico to prepare them to implement NASA-themed camps for middle school youth.



HOW SUCCESSFUL WERE WE?

In the four years of the program, we have trained over 530 teachers and informal educators. They have implemented camps in 9 school districts and in Boys and Girls Clubs to 10,075 youth. All students are on free or reduced lunch. Teachers received training, not only on what would be taught during the summer camp, but also in NASA curriculum that they can use in their classrooms. Staff members in Boys and Girls Clubs in south Texas received training on Sol activities and conducted these STEM lessons during summer programs.

"The greatest camp that I've ever been to other than robotics. This is awesome. If I could come again, I would."



During the four years of the grant, camp themes ranged from 3, 2, 1, Blast Off – Rockets, Let's Engineer It, Solar System Adventures, Girls in Science focusing on Life Science and Light and Optics, Living in Space, Underwater Robotics, and Trekking in Space. The results have been amazing. We have hundreds of testimonials from the teachers who received the training and the students who participated.



girls in science
Beyond the Limits!

**SOLAR SYSTEM
ADVENTURES**



3, 2, 1 BLAST OFF
SUMMER ROCKETRY CAMP



"It was great! I now want to be an engineer."

In 2013 we added Sol Kick Off/Recruitment Events. **1,750** attended. Due to reduced funding, we selected two districts to host Kick Off events in 2014. **353** attended.



In 2013 we initiated a Student Recognition Event at the culmination of the camps. Parents and guests were invited to come to the schools to view projects, see students receive their certificates, and participate in a STEM activity. In 2013, 750 attended and in 2014, 587 attended.



"Always reach for the stars."

