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December 4, 2024

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Greetings to All,

E3 Camp (Empowering Excellence thru Exploration) had its 7th Annual three week camp from July 8th thru 27th at Chapel of the Cross. This free camp provided 27 African-American middle/high school students the opportunity to explore 28 different topics in the Art and STEM fields. Campers experienced 7 educational field trips, hands-on activities and 28 onsite presenters, which were experts in their respective fields.

E3 Camp Board Members want to Thank You - Grape Arbor Development Corporation - for providing \$5,000 to assist with an educational field trip to the United States Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Funds assisted with admission tickets and meals for campers, and transportation for the visit. Each student was given a clipboard that had a Gallery Scavenger Hunt for Civics Worksheet. Students discovered facts about the history of the airborne and special operations forces of the United States Army. There were a total of 15 questions - answers were located as each person walked through the museum. One question the students had to learn about Triple Nickles, the first African-American paratroopers as time went on these soldiers became the first African-Americans to fight forest fires.

After the museum visit, the group went to the historic Market Place, which was built in 1838. This site is located downtown Fayetteville, where 4 streets connect. Market Place was the location where slaves were bought and sold. Students were given the task to imagine - their ancestors being examined as livestock to their buyer. Ears, mouths, and body parts pulled apart to make sure they were getting "a property" that was healthy and strong. As a group we stood in for a moment of silence. Also, we discussed how protesters tried to burn down the Market Place in 2020 after the murder of Fayetteville Native George Floyd by the hands of a police officer.

Last spot on this educational field was Fuller's Barbecue Restaurant, which is owned by a Lumbee Indian Family. Everyone enjoyed their buffet meal.

E3 Camp wants to show gratitude to Grape Arbor for this educational field trip aligning with our mission of giving youth the opportunities to better themselves.

Sincerely,

Anissa C. McLendon  
Founder of E3 Camp

E3 Camp Board Members  
e3camp.com