

Kid-Friendly Expo Showcases STEM to Kick Off Sea-Air-Space 2022



(Left to right) Trisha Anand, 8, and Mary Bodoh, 9, enjoy playing with bubbles after a science experiment at STEM Expo 2022. *SOLARES PHOTOGRAPHY*

The 2022 STEM Expo, which kicked off Sea-Air-Space 2022 April 3, marked the largest crowd yet for the science- and fun-focused event, geared to students in the fifth to 12th grades.

The popular expo featured hands-on “mad science” demonstrations with dry ice, electricity, chemical reactions, robots, military animals and more, including nearly two dozen exhibits.

A performance by the U.S. Coast Guard Drill Team led the event, which also included a large and very popular version of the game Battleship; a nitrogen ice cream station, an edible

version of some of the mad science experiments; and a unique building event with Tinker Man, who builds large, complex structures from children's toys.

"It is great to see so much attention at the booth," said Heather Deagle, a member of HII's STEM team. "These kids are the future. It is their talent and contributions that will have an impact on shaping future technologies – and being part of this STEM event is a great opportunity to display our commitment to the education of these future generations."

The expo encourages students to pursue coursework and careers in STEM and reaches underserved communities to promote STEM education.

The "champion" sponsor for the event was HII, whose booth included everything from a 3D printer to a REMUS unmanned underwater vehicle. Sponsors included CACI, L3Harris, Raytheon Technologies and Lockheed Martin.

Through the years, HII has made numerous investments in STEM education programs; partnerships with local high schools, community colleges and technical schools to develop trade-based curriculum; summer internships for both students and teachers; and industry-leading apprentice schools at the company's two shipyards.