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A.M.E. Church to host Aspire Conference

Jul 28, 2020

The Seventh and Twelfth Episcopal Districts of the African Methodist Episcopal Church covering South Carolina, Oklahoma and Arkansas will host the annual ASPIRE conference virtually July 29 - Aug. 1 featuring a STEM youth camp.

“Our annual conference is always an opportunity to prepare, educate and equip our members to be global disciples of Christ, and this year’s conference - while virtual - is no exception to that,” said Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Bishop of the Seventh Episcopal District of the AME Church. “Because our young people have been out of the classroom for so long in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to include an element just for them that will not only teach them skills that are in high demand but also keep their brilliant young minds active. We’re excited to partner with Camp EDMO and Project SYNCERE for this venture.”

The Seventh and Twelfth Districts are partnering with Camp EDMO to provide STEM classes for students (grades K-8) attending the virtual conference. Black-owned engineering group Project SYNCERE will also contribute to the project, providing live classes and videos on-demand.



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Camp EDMO will be leading live, virtual, hands-on Coding and Design Challenge sessions for K-8th grade students. Based in California, Camp EDMO has run camps for up to 10,000 students annually and has served students across 43 states and 7 countries.

For information or to sign up for the conference, visit ame7.church/aspire2020.

About the African Methodist Episcopal Church:

The Mission of the AME Church is to minister to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people.

About Camp EDMO:

Camp EDMO® has created an interactive, online learning experience for Pre-K-8th grade kids designed completely on the Honor System. Real campy humans teach science experiments, coding, DIY Maker, dynamic mindfulness, kindness projects, hula dancing, Spanish, drawing, Minecraft, Roblox and much more. Daily Drop-in sessions are running right now from 12:30pm-8:30pm EDT. You can also enroll now for week-long Half-Day/Full-Day Camps that run until August 14. They will also host online school day and afterschool programs in the Fall. Group sizes are limited to 10-15 kids per Instructor so kids get individual attention. Many sessions only require a smartphone and a connection. Tech sessions require at least a Chromebook or a computer. EDMO® serves any family, on any budget, anywhere in the country. Apply a 50% or 80% off Honor Code posted right next to the price on their site for instant financial aid. Visit: www.campedmo.org.

About Project SYNCERE:

Project SYNCERE (Supporting Youth's Needs with Core Engineering Research Experiments) is a Chicago-based non-profit organization designed to create opportunities for underrepresented students grades 3-12 to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields.

Founded in 2008 by three African American men who recognized the lack of diversity in the fields of engineering, Project SYNCERE helps students discover a pathway to post-secondary STEM education opportunities while improving student's critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

For more information visit <http://www.projectsincere.org>.

In addition to the coding and design challenges, Camp EDMO also organized a panel of inspirational speakers to be interviewed by high school youth and their families:

- Top Chef Season 15 Finalist: Chef Chris Scott
- Civil Rights Lawyer: DeWitt Lacey
- Lecturer at Stanford d.School/Amazon Business Developer: Brandon Middleton
- Virus and bacteria researcher: Adrienne Kambouris
- Author of a STEM career children's book: Tiffani Teachey
- Entrepreneur and founder of African Women in Tech startup platform: Ani Akpe
- Engineer who founded an agency to place and retain women of Color in STEM: Michele Heyward.

All of Camp EDMO's programs feature Honor System Pricing where families choose if they can afford the full price or if they need to use a 50% or 80% off Honor Code that is publicly posted next to the price.

The Seventh and Twelfth Episcopal Districts of the African Methodist Episcopal Church are accepting private and public partners to support the STEM programming for youth. Interested partners may contact Rev. Sam Green at sgreen@ame7.church.

