

South Carolina Cadets hold a Model Rocketry Weekend

Written by 1Lt Ger Button

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Five SC squadrons got together to help their cadets complete the Model Rocketry Program requirements. The Richland Cadet Squadron hosted the event as 1Lt Ger Button (AE/ Project Officer) demonstrated his expertise in aerospace education. There were 19 cadets including three (3) other senior members: Major Lavonne Adams (Richland Cadet), Capt Tom Reid (Murrells Inlet Cadet), and SM Glenn Booker (Sumter Composite) who assisted the cadets. Cadets from Blue Ridge and Low Country Composite Squadrons also participated.

C/CMSgts Ty Button and Jim Bradley (Richland) previously earned their rocketry badges and used their experience to mentor the other cadets. C/SrA Ashton Byrne (cadet DDRO for Low Country) conducted the Drug Demand Reduction activity for the weekend.

The weekend was very successful at lowering the cost by creating rockets built from scrap paper. The cadets learned how to use common cardboard mailing envelopes and packages to create their rockets. More than 50 rockets were launched and 10 cadets completed the requirements for the Model Rocketry Program. Two cadets were awarded high altitude recognition prizes: C/Lt Col Joshua Cunningham for his two stage D powered rocket and C/Amn Danielle Booker for her payload rocket.

The cadets arrived on Friday night and set up tents in the dark while pausing to warm up because the temperature was dropping to 28! They spent Saturday and Sunday studying each of the three stages, taking the written tests, completing the hands on activities and launching rockets.

Sunday afternoon everyone headed home with a feeling of accomplishment after having learned new hands on skills.

The Richland Cadet Squadron has been experimenting with inexpensive techniques using FedEx, UPS and US Post Office packaging materials and plastic shopping bags to reduce the cost of earning the rocketry badge.

The goal of sharing experiences and building camaraderie among the cadet/senior members throughout the SC Wing has proven to be AWESOME!