

Edmund Reisser

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Reflection Paper 2

For the next fifty hours of my internship at Brooks Crossing I-Lab, I have spent a vast majority of my time working with the other interns and project leaders on field trips. These field trips consisted of K-12 students coming into the lab itself learning how to do an assortment of new things, such as building windmills, rubber-band racers, and learning how to design in Canva and Tinkercad to create laser engravings and 3D printed items. Through my time helping with these field trips, I had also learned how to better work with these design programs. Before having the opportunity to intern here, I had never used these programs before. The learning curve behind the different design programs was not that difficult luckily, but it still took a bit of time to understand the different in's and out's of the software. After gaining the required knowledge to be able to help the students, I was able to help the students design and 3D print their own name tags, to which they could then take home after they were completed. Along with designing their own name tag, the students also had the ability to laser engrave their own nameplates. My favorite activity, however, had to have been the windmill building. While it may have been my favorite, it was an entirely different challenge trying to teach fourth graders. The students themselves were a rambunctious group and while it did hold their interests, it was a struggle to let them figure it out and not point them entirely in the right direction.

As well as the field trips, I had the opportunity to help with a community event with home schoolers and their parents. In this event, while we did also help the group create, design,

and 3D print their own name tags, we also worked with them to create their own phone stands. This was a very interesting idea, as I had never thought about laser engraving wood to create objects, much less anything quite like a phone stand.

If I had not accepted this opportunity at the Brooks Crossing I-Lab, I would have never had the opportunity to learn and work with the community in the same ways I have been for the past one hundred or so hours I have been here.