

# 2020 COSAM OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT



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## DEAR SCIENCES AND MATH ENTHUSIASTS,

No one expected the Auburn University campus not to resume normal operations after spring break of 2020. Covid-19 greatly impacted the world and tested our idea of a typical learning environment. The COSAM Outreach office faced the challenge head on and developed clever solutions to expose and excite K-12 students about the sciences and mathematics in untraditional ways. Our impact numbers may not be as large for 2020, but COSAM Outreach was still able to provide innovative scientific encounters for children and adults. Many of the discoveries made during this challenging year will be the memories shared with future generations of children and grandchildren. This introspective period of learning and growth will mark a special page in the history books.

Best,



Mary Lou Ewald

Director COSAM Outreach

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## OUR MISSION

The College of Sciences and Mathematics at Auburn University aims to promote scientific and mathematic literacy and interest among K-12 students, teachers, and communities in our region, our state, and our nation.

***“We should not teach kids the sciences but give them a taste for them.”***

***-Jean Jacques Rosseau***



# 2020 AT A GLANCE

## HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED

**653**

## AGES IMPACTED








**All**

## EVENT HOURS

**553**



## PROGRAMS

Middle School AMP'd, 1/21/2020		64 households
EmpowerHER, 2/11/2020		120 households
Gearsef Junior Division, 3/5/2020		129
Gearsef Senior Division, 3/6/2020		71
MaSTErMinds Science Kits		43 households
Science Cafes (various)		126
Geocaching Challenge		100

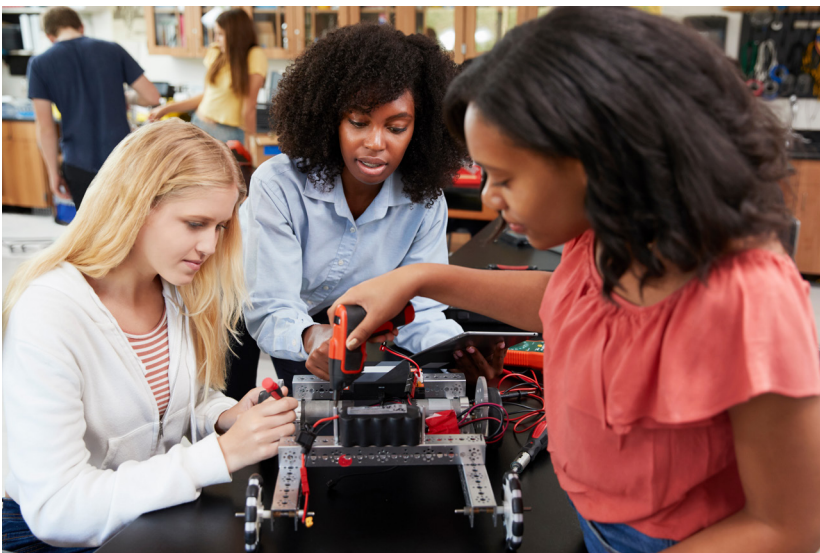
# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

## EMPOWHER

EmpowHER is a mini-conference for 8-11th grade girls interested in pursuing STEM majors and/or careers. Students hear from women in STEM about issues they have faced in their careers, their research, and the opportunities STEM has opened up for them in breakout sessions, table exhibits, and panel discussions. EmpowHER was held at Auburn University Student Center on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. February 11 is the International Day for Women and Girls in Science. A total of 180 female students came from 12 total middle and high schools in the region attended the event.

*“I have realized the deep-rooted passion that can come with science, and it gives me hope to achieve that passion as I choose my future career path.”*

*- EmpowerHER student participant 2020*



## ADAPTING TO A NEW WORLD

While the world shut down in 2020, COSAM Outreach initiated and revitalized some new and old programs. Spending time with family outside and in was a key takeaway during the COVID 19 pandemic and a .

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### GEOCACHING CHALLENGE

The geocaching challenge was developed to get families thinking outside. The experience allowed participants to find hidden treasures in several locations within the beautiful botanical gardens at the heart of the Auburn University campus. Using GPS coordinates and navigation skills, a series of five hidden treasure chests (caches) were found in each challenge. Participants had to solve math and science problems and answer questions along the way to find the next location and were rewarded with a unique “coin” as a souvenir.



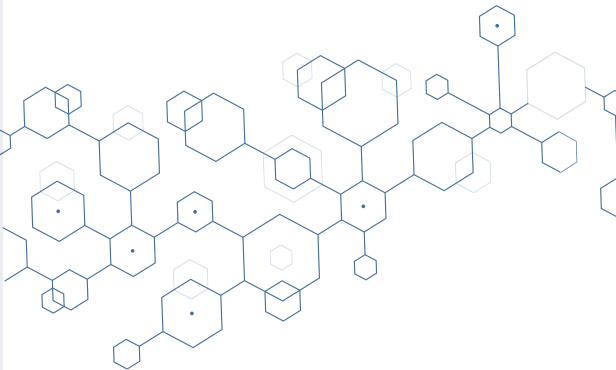
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### MASTERMINDS KITS

These theme-based science kits are an inexpensive way for kids of all ages to complete fun and engaging scientific learning activities at home. Some popular maSTErMinds topics included viruses, the water cycle, solar power, and chemistry.

## REIMAGINING HOW WE LEARN

COVID-19 led us to develop new ways to learn. We turned to online resources more than ever and learned we don't always need to be face-to-face in a classroom setting to connect and learn about our world. We also reconnected with our families in ways that brought us together over the simple things that have often been forgotten. A walk in the woods or seeing the wonder of nature as it grows and evolves in the world around us.



*“I loved being able to explore the outdoors while we were in quarantine. I watched baby birds hatch and grow on my front porch, and played in the creek near my house. I liked spending time getting a little messy with my family.”*

*- Claire Jackson, age 8*

## THANK YOU

Thank you to our countless employees, mentors, donors, and volunteers during the 2020 year. We would not have accomplished the successes we were able to without your support. Your commitment to meaningful exposure to the sciences and mathematics enabled our youth to learn and explore during unique circumstances.



AUBURN

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