On August 8, 2013, Reggie Carter, the Director of the Suffolk Boys and Girls Club, invited summer intern Samson Worrell, ARC tech Brandt Robertson, and Lab Manager Amy Wilkerson to spend the day at the Boys and Girls Club of Suffolk with approximately 80 children.

The main purpose of the visit was to introduce the kids to material science and let them learn about and operate optical light microscopes. They also hoped they would be able to let the children see and remotely operate the Phenom Scanning Electron Microscope. They were successfully able to remote into the system at the ARC, however, due to a weak wifi signal at the club, they were not able to operate it properly. They plan to work on a faster connection for a future visit. They were also able to log into one of the ARC camera’s and the researchers in the lab waved at the children. The younger ones were adorable, frantically waving back, but they didn’t have two way communications. Next time, Amy plans to Skype the lab, so the techs and researchers can communicate and the kids can ask questions and see the equipment. All the children got a chance to operate the portable microscopes that were brought.
The children were separated and brought into the classroom in various groups; elementary, middle, and high school age. By the time they did their presentation to the high school students, Samson was able to take over the demonstration. He did a great job and the children were very impressed with him.

One of the reasons we picked the Boys and Girls Club of Suffolk is because Samson has been a member of that club since he was 8 years old. He knew many of the high school students and he set a wonderful example for the kids.

Special thanks goes out to the many departments that donated giveaways for the kids. Tish Lyte, WM Senior Assistant Dean of Admission; Sandra Prior, WM EH&S Director; Brad Meirs, WM Fire Safety Officer; Jacob Joseph, Assistant Director for the STEM Education Alliance; Michelle Lechman, Jefferson Lab Public Affairs Associate.