



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OPERATION PEACE PARTICIPATED IN STEM SUMMER ROBOTICS COMPETITION

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - July 7, 2014 Operation P.E.A.C.E, a non-profit based in the Old Fourth Ward that offers youth academic enrichment programs was selected to participate in Zero Robotics, an exciting summer STEM curriculum for middle school students. During this 5-week program, 12 middle school students will learn about programming, robotics and space engineering, stated Catherine Foster-Rowell, Executive Director of Operation PEACE. Students gain hands-on experience building and programming Synchronized Position Held, Engage, Reorient, Experimental Satellites (SPHERES) -- bowling-ball sized spherical satellites used inside the International Space Station. The program culminates in a tournament where each team's SPHERE satellite will "battle" for a spot to operate on the International Space Station.

Zero Robotics is led by MIT's Space Systems Laboratory, which originally designed the SPHERES, with partners Top Coder, the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership, and Aurora Flight Sciences. The Zero Robotics Summer SPHERES Program is a continuation of the programming made available in 2010 through NASA's Summer of Innovation Grant Program. Four years ago the pilot took place in the Boston area, in partnership with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has since grown to locations around the country, including Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Ohio, and Texas.

Operation PEACE is one of four summer programs competitively selected as part of the 2014 grant program administered by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN). All four teams participated in a hands-on STEM field day hosted by Georgia Tech on June 16th," and Operation PEACE took second place in the Drone Competition. The day included learning about and interacting with robots, and strategizing for the upcoming Zero Robotics Competition, as well as a campus tour.

For more information on Operation P.E.A.C.E, please visit our website at www.operationpeace.org

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Operation P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is a non-profit multi-service, neighborhood development organization serving the Village of Bedford Pines and surrounding metro Atlanta area.

Our mission is to develop the community by empowering families to be self-sufficient through literacy, vocational and technical skills programs for adults; nurturing entrepreneurial and leadership skills in youth; and reaching out to and encouraging seniors to be active and remain a vital part of the community.