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UF hosts 8th annual Science Quest program *Tenth graders gather for week of college research*

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Talented 10th-grade students from all over the state are coming to the University of Florida to learn more about the college experience. From July 12-25, 48 students will take part in the Science Quest program offered by UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training, known as CPET.

According to Erin Kelso, the head of the program, the goal of the program is for the kids to enjoy themselves on the UF campus while learning about the different ways science can be exciting.

“The idea is to make science fun through hands-on, cool activities,” she said.

There are two week-long, identical sessions with 24 students each. The kids will study physical sciences including engineering, geology and physics. They will investigate biological sciences such as entomology, microbiology and zoology. They will also explore the molecular sciences, with an emphasis on biomedical, forensic and environmental applications.

Participants will live in a residence hall on campus for the week in order to more closely experience life as a college student. They will tour laboratories, perform a few experiments and go on field trips, including an outing to study caves firsthand. Students conclude their week with a tubing trip to the Ichetucknee River.

Kelso said the best part of the program is the ability to interact with kids by showing them things they have never seen or done before. Not only is it fun to do new things together, it also opens the students’ minds to the possibilities of science.

The Science Quest program immerses rising 10th grade students in various scientific disciplines to stimulate interest and appreciation for the range of college and career opportunities available in science.

For more information, please contact Erin Kelso at 352-392-2310, or e-mail her at ekelso@cpet.ufl.edu. The UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training can be found online at <http://cpet.ufl.edu>.

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The UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training (UF-CPET) is a university-wide organization dedicated to fostering educational enrichment and forging research and Florida school partnerships by identifying, coordinating, extending or creating outreach programs that link secondary school teachers and students with UF in science, mathematics and technology.

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