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High school students with hearing loss to gain vital work experience at unique camp

TUSCALOOSA – High school students who are deaf or hard of hearing will explore different lucrative careers at a camp taking place July 9-15 on the University of Alabama’s campus.

Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), Base Camp is a week-long work preparatory camp specifically designed to provide work experience, training and information to students with hearing loss in grades 9-12 to better prepare them for life after high school.

“It is important for students who are deaf or hard of hearing to be exposed to various career opportunities early,” said Bedarius Bell, state coordinator of deaf and hard of hearing services for ADRS. “ADRS Base Camp provides vital information to students with hearing loss on a wide range of exciting career opportunities, including several in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) field.”

Each day of the camp will provide a different work experience to participants. In addition to receiving hands-on experience in the STEM fields of robotics, computers, welding and more on Monday, participants will also gain valuable work experiences throughout the week by job shadowing area employers, including the University of Alabama Arboretum, the Black Warrior Riverkeepers and Temporary Emergency Services based in Tuscaloosa.

The career exploration at the camp is further reinforced by various classroom activities to build communication skills and empower the students with necessary skills such as self-advocacy. Following each day’s work experience, the students will spend time with an ADRS deaf support specialist to answer any questions about the activities of the day.

ADRS Base Camp is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama’s children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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