Dear Coastal Carolina Post,

Thank you for sponsoring me for the 2017 USMC SAME camp! I loved every minute of it. While at the camp, I learned so much about both engineering and myself. Before coming to the camp, I had very limited construction experience. That meant that every day I was able to learn and try something completely new. I loved waking up every morning to a different challenge ahead. Though it’s hard to choose my favorite engineering and construction activities because I loved all of them, I would say that the top two were probably the AAV and the concrete beam. I loved all of the variables my squad was able to play with while designing the AAV and concrete beam. The testing of both of them was also the most fun to participate in and watch. After having completed the camp, I feel like I could design and build any one of the things we did during the week. The camp also made me realize how much I love being part of a team. I participate in a lot of activities where I am part of a team, but never have I been a part of such a diverse team from all over the United States. Each person on the team had a different strength, and working together we were able to accomplish tasks to a level that no one person on the team could have achieved alone.

Not only were all of the other campers I was interacting with very talented, but the mentors and squad leaders were also great to work with. They always treated us with respect, and guided us throughout the camp. From the mentors, I found out so much about different types of engineering, both military and civilian. Being able to talk to someone with experience was definitely helpful to me. The ability to ask questions to a person I know and trust helped me way more than any research online could have. In addition to being very knowledgeable, the mentors and squad leaders were also very personable.

Overall, this camp provided me with an experience that I would otherwise never have been able to get. From engineering, to teamwork, to silkes, everything I learned and experienced will give me a leg up on all of my other classmates when it comes time to apply for college and jobs. Not only that, but I was also able to network with many people that are in a field which I will likely enter in the future. The world is about networking, and the camp helped me build mine. And even though I was only with the other campers and the staff for a week, by the end of the week the camp felt like a second home. It was a safe and fun environment where I was able to learn and grow. Again, thank you for sponsoring me and providing me with the opportunity to experience a camp that I will always remember.

Sincerely,

Hanna Fulford