

Kids' experiment is a drag

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Museum director Stefanie Ritter inspects the parachute construction of Orion King, 5, and Matthew Sandoval-King, 12, during the Science Saturday lecture on force.

YUCCA VALLEY — Kids learned about the principals of force at the Science Saturday lecture and activity at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum.

Museum educator Crystal Mason held up a small balloon and a large one. “If we fill these two balloons with the same amount of air, which would be under the most pressure?” Several kids, including Matthew Sandoval-King, 12, called out the correct answer: “The smaller one.”

The program is recommended for school-age children, but younger kids are welcome to join their older siblings. A few of the young ones exhibited blank-stares during the lecture, but everyone enjoyed the experiment.

Mason turned the lecture to the force of drag for a hands-on project. The kids created parachutes with plastic grocery bags, string and construction paper to make an egg boat.

After all the kids completed their parachutes, everyone piled into the courtyard behind the museum for the egg drop. Hard-boiled eggs were placed in each boat and Mason dropped the parachutes from a high ladder. If the parachutes deployed well and the egg boats were well constructed, the egg hit the concrete without any cracking sound.

One of the parachutes that deployed well was made by Orion King, 5, who made an inverted cone shape for his boat. The point of the cone absorbed most of the impact and Orion's egg remained intact.