

This is Ian McGinnis, a student at Carlynton Jr. Sr. High School and a Remake Learning Days Youth Ambassador. I just attended Engineer Your Future, hosted by Commonwealth Charter Academy as part of Remake Learning Days 2025. As someone who is very interested in engineering, I was very excited to participate in this event. I really enjoy applying concepts to various tasks, forcing myself to critically think.

When I arrived at Commonwealth Charter Academy, I was excited to embark on the eight different stations set across the building. These eight stations included the following: build a boat, build a car, build a rocket, heat shield build, ship the chip, astronaut parachute, packing for space, and planetarium experience. The eight stations were all very immersive and interesting, as they all forced kids to critically think. On the different stations, kids were struggling while also remaining optimistic on their hypotheses, indicating that they were invested and having fun. My favorite station out of them all was the astronaut parachute, as I had to seriously think on how to safely simulate an astronaut landing back into the atmosphere, all without harming the astronaut. I was also timed on the amount of time required for the astronaut to touch the ground, challenging myself to increase the time after every attempt to launch the astronaut. In fact, I was so invested that I spent over 45 minutes on just one event! The other events were still really fun, as I had to practically use the assigned materials given to me in order to successfully complete my assigned task. The adults in charge of the individual stations were also very interactive to the kids, who represented a younger demographic. They were passionate about instructing the tasks to the kids, encouraging the kids to be involved and invested. The adults were also very awesome to communicate with, as they were sociable and had similar interests that I shared with them. I was at the event for about 3 hours, but with the fun and brainstorming I was having, the entire event felt extremely short!

As I was prepared to leave after being there for hours, I would certainly recommend the event to any kid interested in the field of engineering, as the stations were a subtle introduction to a career that's way more advanced. Although the event is targetted for a younger demographic from ages 8-13, I found the event very fun as someone who is slightly older. In my opinion, the events are fun regardless of age, and can ultimately spark an interest in engineering. If you

seriously want to improve your critical thinking skills and connect with others in the process, then this is definitely the event for you.

For Remake Learning Days, this is Youth Ambassador Ian McGinnis.

