

Final Report of project launched by

Society of Physics Students

at

Texas State University San Marcos

funded by Marsh W. White Award

## **Constructing Models for Austin Science Fun Day**

The event's name has been changed from Austin Science Fun Day to Discover Nature this year. The project chosen was Bridge Building. The 5th graders of Ms Brenda Butler from Hernandez Intermediate School in the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District were assisted in building bridges of their own design with materials such as popsicle sticks, wooden blocks, strings and glue. They were given opportunities to try, retry and refine while being imparted physical concepts at various points. After completion of their models, each group of students prepared a presentation on PowerPoint, where the procedure of their experimentation, underlying physical concepts, related social factors, and conclusion were discussed.

The event took place in Austin, TX on March 24, 2007. Policies have been changed this year; there were no prizes to be given to any participant. The comment I was told about was, "They were the hit of the event!" (Last year, the 6th graders of Ms Butler whom SPS had assisted won second place in the same event; they tied with the 5th grade physics group of the same teacher. Ms Butler's life science group won fourth place.) To recognize the children for their efforts this year, we decided to purchase certificates of achievement to present to them.

Since there was an excess of funds, we asked for permission to use it on another outreach project. (Evidence in terms of e-mail correspondence is provided below.) After being approved, we launched the project, Making Nitrogen Ice-Cream, at Bowie Elementary School in the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District. Physical concepts were imparted after the 2nd graders made ice-cream with nitrogen.





