

## A PLACE TO BECOME... AN ENGINEER.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Saline County believes in dreaming big and working hard. We believe that if you can dream it, no matter who you are you can achieve it. However, at our Club it's not magic that makes dreams come true; it's the support and safety that is provided to our youth every day by our staff. Our Club is more than just a place to dream. It's a place to belong. A place to have fun and learn. It's a place to grow. Our Club is **a place to become...** your greatest self.

It takes a special person to become an engineer, which is why 14-year-old Sam Krallman believes it would be a great career for him to pursue. Sam is going into the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Benton High School. Some of the classes he is enrolled in are Honors Geometry and Pre-AP Biology. Now that he is in high school, long-time Club member Sam is already taking steps to help him achieve his dream of becoming an engineer. One of those steps is visiting Mr. Joe Stout, an engineer/owner at Handling Systems & Conveyors. To prepare Sam for his job shadow visit, our staff sat down for an exclusive interview with Sam.

**Q:** Why do you want to be an engineer when you grow up?

**A:** "I think differently from everyone else, and it seems like an interesting thing to do."

**Q:** What would be the most exciting part about being an engineer?

**A:** "Traveling around the world and working at different locations."

**Q:** What would be the most difficult part about being an engineer?



**A:** *"Trying to solve different problems that have yet to occur."*

**Q:** *What do you hope to get out of job shadowing an engineer?*

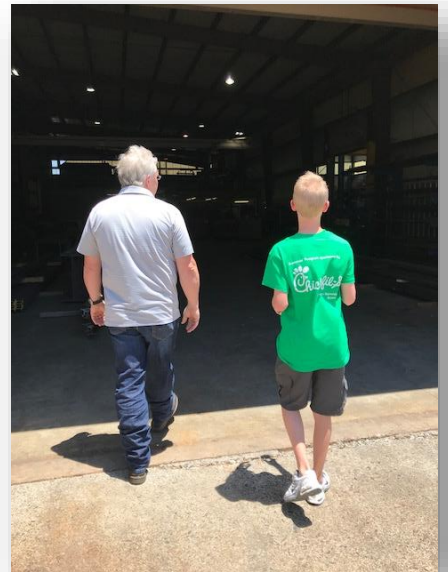
**A:** *"I hope to figure out if he truly wants to be an engineer, and if so what kind."*



On July 26 Sam and staff from our Riverside Club paid a visit to Handling Systems & Conveyors in Mabelvale. Upon their arrival, Joe Stout greeted them and walked them to the company's meeting room. Joe first explained to Sam what exactly it was that he and his company did. Joe is a mechanical engineer, and what his company does is they build custom devices that move an object from "point A to point B." Sam seemed to understand the mechanical language, however the staff stood smiling yet slightly confused.

Joe showed Sam some of the designs and devices that they have built, which included cranes, monorails, skid systems and so much more. In fact, Joe and his crew built the 1<sup>st</sup> moving assembly line for Boeing Aircraft in Long Beach, California. All of these images were taken on location across the United States, which really excited Sam because he has dreams of traveling one day.

Before moving on to the warehouse, Joe discussed college a little bit with Sam. He told Sam it takes most people five years to get their engineering degree, however "it can be done in four". He then went on to tell Sam the different colleges in Arkansas that offer an engineering program and compared each colleges program to one another. This was really useful for Sam, since college is already on this young man's mind!



Next, Joe took Sam and the staff into his warehouse, which is where all the machinery is built! Sam was able to see multiple cranes of all shapes, sizes and colors being built. Sam even got to see Joe's invention, the "Trailblazer." The Trailblazer can be attached to a four-wheeler, golf cart, etc., and then is used to cut down anything in its path. Joe created this invention because he was tired of giant bushes down on his deer lease, so he decided to do something about it. This resonated well with Sam, because Sam likes to think outside the box too.





To wrap up the trip, Joe took Sam upstairs where all the engineers work and introduced him to everyone. Joe told Sam he truly believes he can become an engineer if he “puts his head down and works hard.” He also told Sam that if he decides to become an engineer he will “never have to look hard for a job.” Joe gave Sam a little background on the different types of engineering but said if he likes to work with his hands and solve problems, then mechanical engineering is for him.

Sam had a really great visit with Joe and he said he learned a lot. He still is not sure exactly what kind of engineer he wants to be, but he said he plans on shadowing plenty other engineers within the next few years to help him decide. With an attitude like his, and with help from friends like the Boys & Girls Club, Sam has a bright future and can become whatever he puts his mind to.

