What do design, DIY, robotics, engineering, and music all have in common? They all combine to create the successful ingredients for ICAT’s first ever MAKEr camp! On July 30, 2012, ICAT studio heads, researchers, and graduate students welcomed nearly thirty middle and high school-aged students to a week long camp designed to harness students’ creativity and encourage them to act on their curiosity. Campers experimented with sensors, circuitry, robotics, rapid prototyping, and the Pd-L2Ork K12 software as they used the design process to create custom musical instruments that responded to motion, sound, and touch sensors.

Why MAKEr camp? The MAKEr movement is driven by individuals who share a passion for exploring, innovating, and questioning how to create the objects of their passion using the resources available. Since there is no age restriction for being a MAKEr, examples of products range from high-tech robots to banjos made from shoeboxes. The power of making is that the process teaches us to question, explore, build, and test our ideas – all crucial components of critical and creative thinking.

Participants: Middle school students

Staff: Ben Knapp, Liesl Baum, Ico Bukvic, Dane Webster, Sam Blanchard, Brennon Bortz, Blake Sawyer, Jason Forsyth, Taylor O’Connor, Teri Wagner

Type: Educational workshop

Date: July 30 - August 3, 2012