

Participate in hands-on science exploring the world of space!



Students ages 9-14
Must be 9 by May 4, 2014

A chance to go to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL for a week of astronaut training May 2014. Experience the simulators real NASA astronauts use, see actual rockets and take part in a mission.

RFTS Informational Meeting for Parents & Students
Thursday, October 24th 7-8pm
Matthews Park Community Center
2309 28th Ave S

For more information:
Contact Board Member and Space Camp parent
Karen.L.Backes@gmail.com or
www.reachuplink.org

An opportunity to attend local monthly meetings to learn about flying and space. Build gliders, hot air balloons and rockets. Launch them all in the Spring and see how high they go!

What is RFTS? Launched in 1996, Reach for the Stars (RFTS) is a group of interested parents, teachers, and community members seeking to promote math and science in Minneapolis schools. We do this by providing informal, inquiry-based, hands-on educational experiences for elementary and middle-school-aged youth.

What is the program? Each spring, Reach for the Stars sends a group of youth from several Minneapolis area schools to Space Camp/Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) in Huntsville, Alabama. There the students will participate in a six-day camp in which they will experience astronaut training activities and simulated space shuttle and space station missions. The purpose of exposing young people to these technologies is to spark their imaginations and stimulate their curiosity. We believe they will return with ideas and interests that will enrich their study of math and science throughout their academic careers. In order to prepare the group for this experience, RFTS provides monthly courses on rocketry and related science to prepare the students for the week at the USSRC.

What is the process? RFTS will conduct an informational meeting for interested students and their families. A short DVD documentary of an earlier expedition to Space Camp will be shown followed by a short briefing on the process of application and acceptance, the cost of the program and how Reach for the Stars will work with the participants and families to raise the funds. It is important that parents and students are made aware of the commitment that will be asked before deciding to participate.

Students interested in going to Space Camp will fill out a five part application which includes two essays. Each student will solicit two teacher recommendations.

Those accepted to go to Space Camp will be required to attend all the monthly meetings which include participants, their parents, the teachers and the Reach for the Stars Board starting in December. These meetings take place one Saturday per month and are where the participants from the different schools meet and begin working with each other and the teachers. The Space Camp/Academy experience is team oriented. The first official activity in Huntsville will be team assignments. Student activities and missions are done as a team. The monthly meeting activities include learning team building skills.

While the students are working on team building at the monthly meetings, the parents have the opportunity to get caught up on the business of raising the funds, getting caught up on forms and preparing for the process of sending their children off for a week.