

Archived Information

NASA Educator Astronaut Program

Goal Area: Engaging the Public

Summary:

Education is a core mission at NASA. To fulfill this mission, NASA is recruiting K-12 educators to become permanent members of the Astronaut Corps to perform all the jobs and responsibilities of Mission Specialist Astronauts assigned to multiple spaceflight missions. Educator Astronauts will lead NASA's efforts with their unique skills as educators to create new ways to connect space exploration with the classroom and to inspire the next generation of explorers.

NASA is partnering with other federal, state and local government organizations as well as industry to engage educators, students and the public. The Educator Astronaut Program offers everyone an opportunity to participate - from the educators who will fly into space to the educators who later learn from their experiences. The program also offers students, parents and community members the opportunity to nominate educators and follow them through training and spaceflight missions.

Educator Astronaut Program Mission:

- Motivate students and educators to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Attract more people to the teaching profession.
- Enable leading educators to reach beyond their local community and affect a larger, national audience.

Educator Astronaut Program Objectives:

- Select teachers who will create revolutionary ways to share the space experience with students and other educators.
- Provide educators in the United States with NASA's vast reservoir of resources to advance the nation's achievements in science, technology and exploration.
- Construct a network of educators to mentor colleagues in teaching math and science in innovative ways to advance student achievement.
- Build awareness in students of the diverse range of career opportunities related to NASA's missions.

Accomplishments:

- Launched the Educator Astronaut Program on Jan. 21
- Developed a website for students and educators
- Coordinated a national recruitment campaign
- Developed an electronic gallery highlighting careers
- Total nominations to date: 4941
- Total nominees to date: 2791
- Total Earth Crew members: 5731
- Resumes Submitted: 531

<http://edspace.nasa.gov>