Space has a great inspirational impact on children. This phenomenon provides a great opportunity for educators to motivate students to perform academically. Teachers have successfully used this fascination with space as an educational tool across virtually all grade levels and subjects.

World Space Week, October 4-10 annually, is the ideal time for teachers to use space in the classroom. Declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, World Space Week today is the largest annual public space event on Earth, celebrated in some 50 nations via both public and school programs.

To excite students about learning math and science, the UN encourages all teachers to use space in the classroom during World Space Week. Space-themed activities have been developed and distributed on an experimental basis to assist teachers in this regard. Competitions have been held to increase awareness of World Space Week by teachers and students alike.

Spaceweek International Association, which supports the UN in the global coordination of World Space Week, is striving to expand the educational impacts of this annual event. To this end, it wishes to collaborate with educational organizations at all levels, including international, national, state, and local, to expand the use of space as a learning tool.

Specifically, collaboration is sought in the following areas:

- Evaluation and improvement of existing space-themed K-12 teacher materials designed for use by teachers during World Space Week
- Informing educators about World Space Week and how to use it to promote student interest
- Distribution of World Space Week materials to schools
- Competitions to recognize teacher excellence in using space as a learning tool

For more information and to explore collaborative opportunities, please contact Dennis Stone, Volunteer President, Spaceweek International Association, phone 281-333-3627 or email dstone@spaceweek.org. For information on World Space Week, please visit www.spaceweek.org.