



Space Academy Homeschool Enrichment Program

Student Handbook

Introduction

Space Academy prepares homeschool middle and high school students with the skills, knowledge and abilities required to succeed in the new era of space exploration through STEM hands-on, space-related projects. We have chosen the Cubes in Space Program for the 2025-2026 academic year to engage students in the fascinating world of high-altitude balloon and sounding rocket flights. This program is not for students to sit and watch, it is for students to be immersed in the program, to live the program and make it possible, from design, build and test their unique payload, to present design reviews, to fly and recover their payload, to analyze the data measured by their experiment. This is a unique, year-long endeavor for you to practice new skills, enter the space exploration era, be an important part of a high-achieving team, and let yourself shine!

Students do not need to have previous experience in space projects, or coding, or NASA guidelines, advanced mathematics or aerospace industry standards. This program is a step-by-step training to guide you through the skills and abilities needed to succeed in a rigorous space exploration program. You and your team will practice technical and leadership skills, will learn how to prepare documentation, how to present your ideas and implement feedback, and most importantly, how to develop technology to advance space exploration and science. It may seem like an overwhelming task for young students like you, but by combining strengths in a team, it is achievable, enjoyable and possible.

This handbook was prepared to provide basic information about what to expect, however, if you still have questions, please reach out to staff or the Program Director, we will be happy to discuss any concern with you.

Notes for Parents

Thank you for choosing Space Academy for your child(ren). We are confident they will have a great time working towards achieving unbelievable things. This program is all about building self-confidence and motivation, and we need your support to achieve these goals. Please read the expectations below and let us know if you have any question or concern.

- Classes run from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Drop-off and pick-up is expected to take 10 min each, so there will be staff in the premises from 8:20 am to 3:40 pm. Please ensure students arrive and leave on time.
- Lunch break is scheduled from 12:00 to 12:30 pm. Other breaks will be scheduled during the day between activities. Parents are welcome to join their student during lunch time.
- Students can drive themselves if the family chooses so.
- Classes are mixed age, and so are teams, with students ranging from 10 to 18 years old. This reflects the workplace more accurately than traditional same-age classrooms. Older students will be encouraged to act as mentors and role models for younger ones, but in general, all students, regardless of age, will be treated as equal, for all individuals have the ability to learn new skills and be successful in teamwork.
- We will communicate with parents via email, so please make sure we have your correct email address.
- Please communicate with us as soon as you have questions or concerns, we welcome your feedback and expect to improve our offerings based on such feedback.
- You will also receive a parent satisfaction survey once per semester. Please offer your honest feedback so we can keep growing.
- You are required to submit a notice of intent with a school district to declare homeschooling for your student(s), please let us know if you need support to comply with this requirement.
- Each student can only enroll in one state-funded homeschool enrichment program during the school year. Please let us know if you need help determining if your student(s) is/are already enrolled in a state-funded program.
- Space Academy will offer classes during the Academic Year and will also offer optional Summer Sessions. The Academic Year is state-funded and therefore, tuition-free. Summer sessions are not state-funded but we will do our best to secure sponsorships and scholarships.
- Students will choose the platform for their experiment as a team, either to build a payload for a sounding rocket or a high-altitude balloon. We will respect such decision and ask that you do too, for this is an important step in their training.
- Attendance to the sounding rocket launch or the high-altitude balloon launch is optional. Travel expenses must be covered by families unless the team has a sponsor paying for the trip. Payloads will be shipped in advance and teams are not required to be present during launch, however, if there is interest on attending flight day and the associated activities, staff will travel with the student team. Families can help with fundraising activities during the year in support of such trips.

Student Expectations

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- Lunch break is scheduled from 12:00 to 12:30 pm. Other breaks will be scheduled during the day between activities.
- Students can drive themselves if the family chooses so.
- Classes are mixed age, and so are teams, with students ranging from 10 to 18 years old. This reflects the workplace more accurately than traditional same-age classrooms. Be ready to collaborate and support others. All students, regardless of age, will be treated as equal, for all individuals have the ability to learn new skills and be successful in teamwork.
- Each class will offer opportunities for you to learn, practice and challenge yourself. Please come with a can-do attitude and willingness to try new things. We expect that you show your innovative, inquisitive and creative side here!
- Embrace our core values: **respect, integrity, responsibility, compassion, and perseverance**. You will have plenty of time to practice them throughout the year.
- Embrace yourself. You are coming to this program with unique strengths and experiences. This is very valuable, and you need to be ready to contribute to the success of your team and classmates. Be ready to show off the amazing things you can accomplish when you have the space, time and support you need to shine!
- Follow the instructions closely and always maintain a safe environment. You will be handling laboratory equipment, so you need to be careful, mindful and alert.
- Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required when soldering and handling heavy pieces of equipment.
- Dress appropriately for a school environment, no pajamas are allowed.
- You will be required to wear professional attire during design reviews.
- You may be asked to dress in a specific way during field trips to ensure safety.

IMPORTANT!

If you start feeling frustrated or overwhelmed during an activity, this is the procedure you need to follow:

1. Stop what you are doing and take a deep breath. Turn off tools, such as a soldering iron.
2. Take a walk around the classroom or outside, or do some stretching.
3. Take the time to try relaxation techniques that work for you, like listening to music, playing with Legos or eating a chocolate.
4. Remember that learning a new skill takes time, and this is not a race.
5. When you feel better and ready, return to the activity and try again.

What is not allowed at Space Academy Homeschool Enrichment Program

The following is not allowed; however, it is not an exhaustive and full list. We expect that you will try your best to keep a positive environment conducive of learning and growth. However, we understand not every day is the same. Let us know when the day is not going great for you and we will try some accommodations for you to feel better.

The following behaviors will cause your removal from the class and/or the program.

- Bullying is not allowed, or any form of disrespect.
- Violence is not allowed, or any form of damage to people or property.
- Smoking, vapes, drugs are not allowed, or any paraphernalia relating to them.
- Use of cell phones, tablets and video games is not allowed.
- Taking pictures or video of sessions or classmates is not allowed, unless staff announces otherwise in specific occasions.
- Sharing information, pictures or videos of sessions or classmates in social media is not allowed, unless staff announces otherwise in specific occasions.
- Pornography is not allowed, either printed or online.
- Access to unappropriated websites when using the internet is not allowed. This includes adult content, betting sites, websites showing sensitive, censored or violence content.
- Weapons of any kind are not allowed, not even toy weapons.