



THE HERMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

"The crew of Inspiration4 is eager to use our mission to help make a better future for those who will launch in the years and decades to come." — Jared Isaacman

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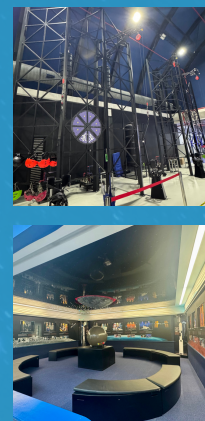
A Look Inside Space Camp Turkiye

Did you know there are two official Space Camps in the world? The majority of Americans know about the original Space Camp USA in Huntsville, Alabama, but few have heard of Space Camp Turkiye.

The camp was inspired by a vision from retired NASA engineer Ismail Akbay and realized by Turkish-American businessman Kaya Tuncer. It was officially organized and developed by NASA astronaut Scott Carpenter. In June of 2000, it opened its doors in the Aegean Free Zone of Izmir, Turkiye through a licensing agreement with the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Designed not only to advance education in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) but also to foster international diplomacy, the camp has brought together over 250,000 youth from more than 60 countries, purposefully uniting diverse cultures into shared simulation flight crews to promote global friendship and teamwork.

Here are a few photos from Rosana "Zen" Sotile's recent visit:





Member Spotlight!

Ethan "Trade" Atwell



Growing up in western Kansas during the post-Apollo era, Trade's only real connection to space was TV and cinema. He was raised in a rural environment with the distinct narrative that college simply was not in his future and spent decades drifting through the traditional workforce, believing that planetary exploration was reserved for a select few. However, in 2019, a chance meeting with former NASA astronaut John Herrington sparked a profound shift deep within him. Soon after, listening to astronauts Nick Hague and Jessica Meir speak from the International Space Station, Trade re-examined his trajectory. He realized the astronauts were similar in age to him and that Hague shared a remarkably similar farmtown background. It was not too late to rewrite his story. At 45 years old, Trade shattered his old assumptions and stepped into a classroom, determined to forge a pathway to higher education and see how far he could go.

Trade's journey is living proof that the practical, hands-on skills of a tradesperson are inherently space-relevant. Before actively entering academia as a non-traditional student, his career spanned a diverse set of industries, including food service, warehousing, public library operations, telecom field work, and mechanical drafting. Under the hood, these roles built the exact essential and technical troubleshooting capabilities required by astronauts living and working in extreme environments.



Since pivoting, he has continuously stacked specialized credentials, graduating summa cum laude with an Associate in Applied Technologies/Technical Studies and completing vocational programs in CAD, machining, energy systems, and product development. He also expanded into aerospace-specific training, earning a university certificate through the FAA-recognized CHaSE Class 2 Spacesuit Training course via the University of Arizona, and completing professional development tracks like SpaceKind and Interstellar Performance Labs' Launch Pad to STAR.

In 2022, Trade was selected as a crew engineer for an analog mission at HI-SEAS. While the mission was unfortunately scrubbed due to the pandemic, it broke critical barriers by selecting a tradesperson without a degree for analog astronaut research. It also opened doors for him to join the steering committee for the Analog Astronaut Conference, where he remains continually involved.

Today, Trade works in his first aerospace job as the materials and equipment receiving specialist for an electronics manufacturer specializing in defense and human spaceflight systems, some of which have flown on the Shuttle, ISS, Artemis, and commercial vehicles.

As he looks ahead, Trade is savoring his hard-earned landing and returning to creative outlets like building guitars, writing music, and spending time with family and friends. Analog research remains his primary frontier as he advocates for skilled trades inclusion in space exploration. He continues to find inspiration within community—in the people who make others' dreams a priority alongside their own journey. By paying that support forward, Trade hopes to prove that space belongs to anyone determined enough to build a pathway there.





I24 News

It's Our Anniversary!

September 15, 2026 will mark the 5th anniversary of the Inspiration 4 mission and The Inspired 24.

I24 would like to celebrate our 5th anniversary by highlighting you, our amazing members!

If you would like to be part of our celebration, please record a video (vertical please) telling the world what I24 means to you. Any length is acceptable.

Please email your unedited video to titan@theinspired24.com or zen@theinspired24.com. We will add the I24 logo and present it via our social media platforms.

Join in the celebration and send us your video ASAP!

Inspired 2 Space 4 All!



Affiliate News

Frank is Back!

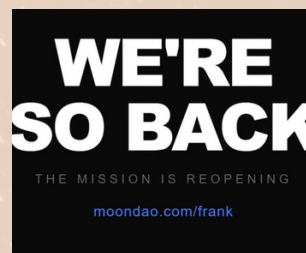
[MoonDAO](#) has raised enough money to send Frank White on a stratospheric balloon flight. And the campaign for a suborbital, or even orbital, flight is back on!

The fundraiser is very close to securing a second seat, and it could be YOU!

Donate to the campaign and cast your vote!

<http://moondao.com/overview>

*if you have issues donating or signing up to become a MoonDao Citizen, please reach out to Titan (titan@theinspired24.com) or Ryan (ryan@moondao.com).



MOONDAO



The next cohort of SpaceKind Training begins September, 23, 2026. It will be led by SpaceKind Founder, [Loretta Hidalgo Whitesides](#). This non-traditional learning course will invite you to open your heart, define your dreams, and share your life vision. You will use Loretta's book [The New Right Stuff](#) as a text book for exercises that help you navigate your own hero's journey and come out the other end ready to make your unique contribution to the cosmos. Virtual sessions will be held on Wednesdays 12:00 pm Pacific for 8 weeks. [Click HERE to register!](#)



[CLICK HERE FOR I24 MERCH!](#)



We now have I24 pins,
patches, name tags, &
engraved drinkware!



Get the latest I24 committee
updates and news!

[CLICK HERE to watch the replay of
August's All-Hands Meeting!!](#)

About The Inspired 24

"Inspired 2 Space 4 All"

We, The Inspired 24, are an inclusive group of like-minded, space positive people dedicated to promoting the access to space for all.

Our mission objectives are:

Network with organizations that support inclusive participation in space exploration.

Collaborate to create opportunities to experience the overview effect.

Train for space flights and provide space-ready individuals for future missions.

Support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's mission and give back to the community.

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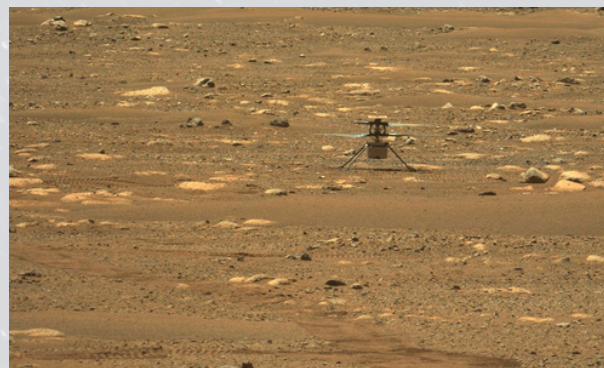
NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

(August 2026)

Radamés Jomuel
Valentín Reyes
John Michael
Espinosa Duran
Prakhar
Vishwakarma

Christopher Cogger-
Alexander
Riddhita Dastidar
Oleksii Padun
Kaden Spencer
Jennifer Mitchell
Joseef Canon

Just for fun!



Since reaching Mars, how much time has NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter spent in flight?

- A. 15 minutes
 - B. 48 minutes
 - C. 2 hours, 8 minutes
 - D. 3 hours, 26 minutes
- (see below for answer)

Trivia answer: C

[Click HERE to learn more from JPL](#)