

**Interdisciplinary National Science Project
Incorporating Research and Education Experience
(INSPIRE)**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Interdisciplinary National Science Project Incorporating Research and Education Experience, or INSPIRE, is a multi-tiered student pipeline project for students in grades 9th through freshman year of college and their parent or legal guardian. INSPIRE is designed to provide grade appropriate NASA-related resources and experiences to encourage and reinforce student's aspirations to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. The project also provides resources and information for parents to help them better champion their student's goals. INSPIRE provides participants a rich online community, as well as opportunities to compete to participate in NASA/STEM Experiences. INSPIRE participants will be matched to one of the 10 NASA facilities, based on the participant's place of residence and the NASA facility Area of Service. See the NASA facility table below for the definition of each facility's Area of Service.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

Online Community: The online community will provide resources, activities and educational modules, as well as the mechanism for the students and parents to interact, ask questions and share knowledge, building a community of practice. The activities will provide grade-appropriate NASA content to add relevancy to courses being taught in school. INSPIRE students will also have the opportunity to participate in video teleconferences with the 10 NASA facilities during the year. These video teleconferences will provide direct connection to NASA and feature additional NASA-unique content, as well as speakers and role models. INSPIRE students will be required to mentor to lower-grade students ("near-peer" mentoring). Participation in community service and educational activities offered by other organizations will be encouraged to further enhance the student's knowledge and experience.

Tier 1 Experience (NASA Explorers): Rising 10th-grade students and their legal guardian compete to be awarded a summer visit to the NASA facility which services their state for a one-day VIP Tour and Workshops. If participants live outside the 50 mile radius of the NASA facility, NASA will pay and arrange:

- Lodging at an appropriate facility close to the NASA facility
- A meal allowance for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Transportation from the place of residence to the lodging facility, to and from the NASA facility, and return to the place of residence
- It is anticipated this would span three days: a day to travel to the NASA facility, a complete day for the NASA facility VIP Tour and Workshop, and a day to return to the participants' place of residence. However, the travel duration can be shortened to meet the participant's needs.

Note: The Tier 1 Experience is not available in 2008.

Tier 2A (Collegiate Experience): Rising 11th-grade students compete to participate in a summer two-week, on-campus residential experience at a selected college or university. The experience exposes them to college life, encourages them to pursue careers in engineering, enhances study skills, and provides contact with engineers, professors and STEM students who serve as positive role models and mentors to build and enhance positive self-esteem. Once the student arrives on campus, the college or university will provide 24 hour supervision of students during this experience. NASA will provide \$500 for transportation expenses to students residing over 100 miles from the academic institution. The academic institution will provide lodging, meals, residential staff and activities for this experience.

Tier 2B (Residential Internship): Rising 12th-grade students who will be at least 16 years of age at the start of the internship compete for participation in an eight-week, paid summer internship at the NASA facility which services your state. Students gain valuable on-the-job experience by working directly with NASA scientists and engineers, as well as participating in enriching after-work educational and cultural activities. During the internship, students will receive:

- A small stipend based on minimum wage for the state the NASA facility is located. Stipends will be paid in three installments, at the beginning, midway, and at the end of the experience, providing all requirements have been met.
- Lodging: Students will be housed together at a location within commuting distance from the NASA facility.

- Meals: During weekends, three nutritious meals will be provided. During work days, students will receive breakfast and dinner and an allowance for lunch.
- Transportation: Transportation to and from work and any after-work project activities will be provided.
- On-site supervision and structured enrichment activities.

All students and their parent/legal guardian are required to sign an agreement committing to the entire 8-week experience as well as permission and release forms. Students should not apply for consideration if they have other plans for the summer that would conflict with the internship.

Students within a 50-mile radius of the NASA facility can opt out of the residential component (lodging, meals and transportation) by having their legal guardian sign a waiver. However, students opting out of the residential component shall be required to participate in all after-work and weekend educational and cultural experiences. Students who opt out will not be provided meals (except for the lunch allowance) unless it is part of a required event. Students opting out will also be responsible for their transportation to and from work. Transportation to required after work activities may be provided if the students make prior arrangements with the staff.

During non work hours students will interact with highly motivated, qualified and experienced professional educators in STEM related fields of study. These individuals are selected because of their interest in encouraging and supporting high school students' pursuit of STEM education and careers.

All residential staff supervising students outside of work hours are required to successfully complete a background investigation. Students will be supervised from their arrival to start the internship to departure back to their residence, excluding internship work hours. While at work students will be supervised by scientists and engineers at the NASA facility. Students opting out of the residential component shall be supervised during participation in all after work and weekend educational and cultural experiences.

Tier 3 (Collegiate Internship): Rising college freshmen who will be at least 16 years of age at the start of the internship compete for participation in an eight-week, paid summer internship at one of the 10 NASA facilities. Applicants for this experience must have been accepted at a college or university and have declared a STEM major. This experience provides valuable on-the-job training and introduces the students to other education and employment opportunities. Lodging, meals, transportation and after work activities is the responsibility of the participant. NASA will pay the student a stipend of \$5,000 to be paid in three installments, at the beginning, midway, and at the end of the experience, providing all requirements have been met. All students and their parent/legal guardian are required to sign an agreement committing to the entire 8-week experience as well as permission and release forms. Students should not apply for consideration if they have other plans for the summer that would conflict with the internship.

ELIGIBILITY:

To apply for entry into INSPIRE, students must be a U.S. citizen, be in the appropriate grade at the start of the project (9th through freshman college student), and have at least an overall 2.5 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale (unweighted).

Once selected to participate in INSPIRE, students would then be allowed to compete for the NASA/STEM Experiences listed below. To be considered, students must have achieved a minimum of an overall 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (unweighted). NASA will evaluate applicants and make selections based on the student's academic achievement and participation in INSPIRE activities.

APPLICATION:

As NASA initiates this new project, components will be phased in. The requirement to first be accepted to the INSPIRE project before competing for the NASA/STEM Experiences will be waived for 2008. NASA will only be providing the Tiers 2 and 3 NASA/STEM Experiences (Collegiate Experience, Residential Internship, and Collegiate Internship) in 2008. These NASA/STEM Experiences still require a minimum of 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (unweighted). Number of participants selected will be dependent on funding and may vary for each NASA facility.

Applications for Tiers 2 and 3 NASA/STEM Experiences are open through March 15, 2008. Interested students must submit a complete application package consisting of the application, personal essay, parent certification and permission form, 2 recommendations and a current official transcript.

Before submitting an application package, you and your parent/legal guardian should read and understand the project's description and participation requirements thoroughly. Attention should also be given to eligibility requirements, dates, and deadlines. You are encouraged to keep a copy of your completed application package, as we are unable to return any application materials submitted for the program.

Please make sure the application you submit is complete and is postmarked no later than March 15, 2008. Applications that are faxed or emailed will not be accepted. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Mail application packages to:

Mr. Steve Chance
 INSPIRE Project Manager
 Mail Code: XA-D
 NASA/John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

To expedite processing of your application and allow you to check the status, we encourage you to submit your information on-line in addition to mailing the complete package. NOTE: Students are not required to submit their application information on-line. To provide your application information on-line please visit:

<https://secureworkgroups.grc.nasa.gov/INSPIRE>

To access this website, you will need to provide your email account and the following application community password:

INSPIRE Application Community Password: INSPIRE (All capital letters)

You will be asked for information to set up your account and establish your unique user name and password before joining the INSPIRE community. Only items marked with an asterisk are required for account set up. The account user name and password you establish will allow you to check the status of your application in the future.

If you have any questions or need this application in a language other than English, please contact the appropriate INSPIRE contact at the NASA facility for your service area as defined below.

NASA FACILITY SERVICE AREA:

NASA FACILITY	LOCATION	AREA OF SERVICE	INSPIRE CONTACT
Ames Research Center www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/home/index.html	Moffett Field, California	Alaska, Northern California (southernmost counties of Inyo, Kings, Monterey, Tulare), Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	Tom Clausen Ames Research Center Mail Code 226-8 Moffett Field, CA 94035 Phone: 650-604-5544 Email: Thomas.B.Clausen@nasa.gov
Dryden Research Center www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/home/index.html	Edwards AFB, California	Arizona, Southern California (northernmost counties of Kern, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo)	Michelle Davis Dryden Flight Research Center P.O. Box 273 Edwards, CA 93523 Phone: 661-276-2445 Email: Michelle.R.Davis@nasa.gov

NASA FACILITY SERVICE AREA (CONTINUED):

NASA FACILITY	LOCATION	AREA OF SERVICE	INSPIRE CONTACT
Jet Propulsion Laboratory www.nasa.gov/centers/jpl/home/index.html	Pasadena, California	TBD	David Seidel Jet Propulsion Laboratory Mail Code 180-109 4800 Oak Grove Drive Pasadena, CA 91109 Phone: 818-354-9313 Email: David.M.Seidel@jpl.nasa.gov
Glenn Research Center www.nasa.gov/centers/grc/home/index.html	Cleveland, Ohio	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin	Stephanie D Brown-Houston Glenn Research Center MS 500 - 107 21000 Brookpark Road Cleveland, OH 44135 Phone: 216-433-8006 Email: SDBrown-Houston@nasa.gov
Goddard Space Flight Center www.nasa.gov/centers/gsf/home/index.html	Greenbelt, Maryland	Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont	Bonnie McClain Goddard Space Flight Center Mail Code 130.3 8800 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, MD 20771 Phone: 301-286-7356 Email: Bonnie.McClain-1@nasa.gov
Johnson Space Center www.nasa.gov/centers/jsc/home/index.html	Houston, Texas	Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas	Janelle Holt Johnson Space Center Mailcode: AH2 2101 NASA Parkway Houston, TX 77058 Phone: 281-244-1613 Email: Janelle.Holt-1@nasa.gov
Kennedy Space Center www.nasa.gov/centers/kscc/home/index.html	Merritt Island, Florida	Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands	Lisa Valencia Kennedy Space Center Mail Code XA-D2 Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899 Phone: 321-867-4008 Email: Lisa.M.Valencia@nasa.gov
Langley Research Center www.nasa.gov/centers/lrc/home/index.html	Hampton, Virginia	Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia	Dollie McCown Langley Research Center Mail Code 400 Hampton, VA 23681 Phone: 757-864-3561 Email: Dollie.M.Mccown@nasa.gov

NASA FACILITY SERVICE AREA (CONTINUED):

NASA FACILITY	LOCATION	AREA OF SERVICE	INSPIRE CONTACT
Marshall Space Flight Center www.nasa.gov/centers/msfc/home/index.html	Huntsville, Alabama	Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee	Jennifer Simmons Marshall Space Flight Center Mail Code HS30 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812 Phone: 256.961.1525 Email: Jennifer.Simmons-1@nasa.gov

NASA FACILITY SERVICE AREA (CONTINUED):

Stennis Space Center www.nasa.gov/centers/ssc/home/index.html	near Biloxi, Mississippi	Mississippi	Joy Smith Stennis Space Center Mail Code IA20 Building 1100 Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 Phone: 228-688-2118 Email: Joy.L.Smith@nasa.gov
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2008 INSPIRE Application Package

SECTION A: PERSONAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

	Last Name:	First Name:	MI:
	Date of Birth: _____ (mm/dd/yy)		

U.S. Citizen Yes No

Note: If you are a U.S. citizen and born outside of the U.S. or Puerto Rico, you must provide the information requested below and provide documentation prior to your internship start date.

Citizenship Form: _____ Identification No: _____ Date issued: _____
(E.g. Naturalization)

MAILING ADDRESS

Street	City	State	Zip
Email Address	Telephone		

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name	City	State	Zip
Street			
Telephone Number			
School Email Address:			

SECTION B: ACADEMIC and OTHER INFORMATION

Current Academic Level At Time Of Application																							
<input type="checkbox"/> 8th grade <input type="checkbox"/> 9th grade <input type="checkbox"/> 10th grade <input type="checkbox"/> 11th grade <input type="checkbox"/> 12th grade																							
Cumulative GPA out of 4.0 (unweighted): _____ (Eligibility minimum for 2008 is 3.0)	Expected High School Graduation Date:																						
TRANSCRIPT Please attach your current official transcript. Transcripts must include final grades for courses through the most current academic term. If you are sending your transcript directly, please mark over your social security number with a black marker if it is provided. If your school is sending your transcript separately, please check <input type="checkbox"/> . If your school is sending your transcript and your social security number is indicated, please request them to mark over your social security number with a black marker if possible.																							
SPECIALIZED SKILL AREAS <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing, i.e., Pagemaker</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Database, i.e., SQL, MS Access</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Internet Browser, i.e., Netscape</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Webpage Design, i.e., HTML</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Computer graphics, i.e., Adobe</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Programming, i.e., Java, C++</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Operating System (Linux, Unix)</td> <td colspan="2"><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing, i.e., Pagemaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Database, i.e., SQL, MS Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet Browser, i.e., Netscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Webpage Design, i.e., HTML	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer graphics, i.e., Adobe	<input type="checkbox"/> Programming, i.e., Java, C++	<input type="checkbox"/> Operating System (Linux, Unix)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____														
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<input type="checkbox"/> Operating System (Linux, Unix)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____																						
CAREER INTEREST INFORMATION Please check the field of study in which you would like to pursue. If choosing more than one discipline, indicate order of preference by numbering 1 through 3, with 1 being your first choice. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>___ Aerospace/Aeronautics Eng</td> <td>___ Life Science</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Astrophysics</td> <td>___ Materials Eng</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Biological Science</td> <td>___ Mathematics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Biomedical</td> <td>___ Metallurgy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Chemical Eng</td> <td>___ Mechanical Eng</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Chemistry</td> <td>___ Physical Science</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Civil Eng</td> <td>___ Physics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Computer Eng/Sci</td> <td>___ Space Science</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Electrical/Electronics Eng</td> <td>___ Structural Eng</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Environmental Eng/Sci</td> <td>___ Systems Eng</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ Industrial Engineering</td> <td>___ Other (be specific) _____</td> </tr> </table> Have you previously participated in a NASA program? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If no, skip to next question) If yes, please write the name of the program you participated in, the NASA facility/School affiliated with the program and year of participation. Program Name _____ NASA facility/School Name _____ Year(s) Participated _____		___ Aerospace/Aeronautics Eng	___ Life Science	___ Astrophysics	___ Materials Eng	___ Biological Science	___ Mathematics	___ Biomedical	___ Metallurgy	___ Chemical Eng	___ Mechanical Eng	___ Chemistry	___ Physical Science	___ Civil Eng	___ Physics	___ Computer Eng/Sci	___ Space Science	___ Electrical/Electronics Eng	___ Structural Eng	___ Environmental Eng/Sci	___ Systems Eng	___ Industrial Engineering	___ Other (be specific) _____
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___ Biological Science	___ Mathematics																						
___ Biomedical	___ Metallurgy																						
___ Chemical Eng	___ Mechanical Eng																						
___ Chemistry	___ Physical Science																						
___ Civil Eng	___ Physics																						
___ Computer Eng/Sci	___ Space Science																						
___ Electrical/Electronics Eng	___ Structural Eng																						
___ Environmental Eng/Sci	___ Systems Eng																						
___ Industrial Engineering	___ Other (be specific) _____																						

SECTION C: PERSONAL ESSAY

Your personal essay is an opportunity to describe your career goals, explain your special talents and skills, and tell why you wish to participate in this program. The essay must be typed on standard-sized paper (8 1/2" x 11") and be signed and dated by you, the applicant. The essay should have no more than 300 words. Submit this essay as a part of the complete INSPIRE Program Application Package.

Your essay must address the following points: (1) what you would like to achieve through your experience, (2) how both you and NASA will benefit from having you as participate; and (3) interesting facts about yourself that you would like to share as it relates to being considered for this program (leadership, extracurricular activities, hobbies, special interest, volunteer work, teamwork, past work experience or special projects, etc.).

SECTION D. CERTIFICATION, PERMISSION FORMS AND RECOMMENDATION FORMS: (Applicant and parent must sign below to be eligible. Unsigned applications will not be considered).

I affirm that all of the information on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I am a U.S. citizen and meet all eligibility requirements as specified in the application. I understand that application materials become the property of NASA and cannot be returned. I hereby authorize NASA to utilize information about my application and my likeness for public relations purposes, publicity or other educational opportunities.

Please indicate below if you are requesting consideration for the following summer INSPIRE experience:

Parent/Student VIP tour and workshop (Available to rising 10th grade students)

NOTE: Parent/Student VIP tour and workshop is not available in 2008

Tier 2A: 2 week Collegiate Experience (Available to rising 11th grade students)

Tier 2B: 8 week Residential Internship at a NASA field installation (Available to rising 12th grade students)

Tier 3: 8 week Collegiate Internship (Available to students entering their freshman year of college)

Student Signature _____ Date

Parent Signature _____ Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION FORM

I understand that _____ is applying for participation in NASA's INSPIRE program
Student's Name (please print)

As a part of the application process, I certify that:

- I am aware that the Recommendation Forms will be used as a selection factor for the INSPIRE Program.
- Permission is fully granted for school officials to report achievement and aptitude tests scores.
- I approve the release of my child's school transcript; and understand that the information gathered will be maintained in confidence
- I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the INSPIRE Program and all program related activities.
- I commit to supporting my child's participation for the entire duration of the program including the NASA/STEM experience.
- I understand family involvement is an important component of this program. I commit to accessing and using parent on-line activities and information to encourage and help my child succeed in his/her pursuit of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and career.
- I understand my son/daughter is expected to dress appropriately at all times and demonstrate exemplary behavior at all times while participating in INSPIRE. Dress code guidelines will be provided upon acceptance of award. Each NASA work facility may have specific requirements and policies related to the operational work being performed.
- I accept understand if my son/daughter violates any rules or policies, at any time, they will be immediately dismissed from participating in the INSPIRE program and I am required to provide immediate arrangements for transportation home and bear the associated costs.
- I understand my son/daughter will be held personally responsible for any damages to equipment or facilities resulting from any negligence or misconduct in which they are involved.
- I understand the use of profanity, drugs, alcohol, inappropriate behavior and/or fighting by my son/daughter will result in automatic dismissal from INSPIRE.
- I understand my son/daughter will be held personally responsible for any damages to equipment or facilities resulting from any negligence or misconduct in which they are involved.
- I understand the use of profanity, drugs, alcohol, inappropriate behavior and/or fighting by my son/daughter will result in automatic dismissal from INSPIRE.
- I authorize NASA to use any photographs of my son/daughter taken during their INSPIRE Program participation for promotion activities (I.e., web site, newsletter, and promotion materials).
- I authorize the NASA staff to release my child's name and address to filed installations and associated contractors directly involved in this program to implement services and activities and to track and monitor the progress of the INSPIRE program participants.

Relationship: _____ () Telephone No. _____ () Mobile No.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature of Consent: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation FORM - 1
NASA INSPIRE PROGRAM

Student's Name: _____

Teacher's Name/Position/Discipline: _____

Name of School: _____

How long have you known the student? In what capacity? _____

Please rate the student in the following areas.

1. Ability to follow rules and directions

- Always follows
- Sometimes follows
- Seldom follows
- Never follows

2. Accepts responsibility

- Always accepts responsibility
- Usually accepts responsibility
- Sometimes irresponsible
- Often irresponsible

3. Leadership ability

- Strong leadership ability
- Sometimes exhibits leadership
- Seldom exhibits leadership
- Always follows others

4. Initiative/Independence

- Seeks extra tasks
- Prepares assigned tasks
- Needs occasional reminders
- Needs constant reminding
- Seldom shows initiative

5. Ability to work well with others

- Always works well
- Sometimes works well
- Seldom works well
- Does not work well

6. Oral communication skills

- Very articulate
- Articulate
- Somewhat articulate
- Difficulty in articulation
- Inarticulate

7. Written Communication

- Excellent writing skills
- Good writing skills
- Average writing skills
- Poor writing skills

8. Level of interest

- Exhibits high interest
- Often interested
- Seldom interested
- Lacks interest

9. Motivation

- Highly self-motivated
- Sometimes motivated
- Seldom motivated
- Lacks motivation

10. Maturity

- Always exhibits maturity
- Sometimes exhibits maturity
- Seldom exhibits maturity
- Immature

Please describe why you are recommending this student for participation in the INSPIRE program:

Overall Recommendation for the Program: Very Highly Recommended Highly Recommended
 Recommended Recommended with reservations Not Recommended

Signature: _____

Date: _____

May we contact you for additional information? Yes No

Telephone No. _____
(____) _____

E-mail: _____

This form should be returned as part of the student's application package

Note: Two recommendations are required using the forms provided. At least one must be from a teacher and the other from any adult who is most familiar with the student's capabilities. Please return the recommendation to the student in a sealed envelope with your signature written across the seal.

NASA INSPIRE PROGRAM

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Date: _____

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- No

Telephone No. _____
 (____) _____

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