

Name of Project  
Visitor Center Funding  
Administered by  
Space Center Houston  
Type of Agreement  
Visitor Center Grant  
Project Manager  
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Johnson Space Center (JSC) and Space Center Houston's Education( SCH) Offices will work closely to support one another on numerous events and education content development which will align with the NASA Education Outcomes, primarily Outcome #3 (To Engage and Inspire) using the Official Visitor Center of Johnson Space Center as our primary facility for reaching our audience. The project will include development of educational products and activities, training opportunities, staff professional development, or public outreach events to inspire the next generation of explorers.

### PROJECT GOALS

First, we intend to expand the reach to our informal audiences, professional development and student experiences with a number of educational products which are of high value and extreme interest to our customers.

We also intend to make the link to NASA's Education Outcome #3 which is to Engage and Inspire. The SCH and JSC education teams are constantly engaged in providing support for our formal education partners (teachers) and with the public engagement components which most directly affect SCH clientele. By virtue of working side by side, SCH and JSC will be able to directly influence the ability to communicate the themes and messages for the future of space exploration.

### PROJECT BENEFIT TO OUTCOME (1,2, OR 3)

Outcome 3

Build strategic partnerships and linkages between STEM formal and informal education providers that promote STEM literacy and awareness of NASA's mission.

Objective 3.1 requires that we have resources that engage and inspire youth to pursue skills and proficiency in STEM disciplines. The new dome planetarium, the classroom computers, and the Lego Mindstorm Robotic Kits, will provide hands on opportunities for students (and teachers) to experience real life expectations of the next generation of engineers and scientists. The Traveling Exhibit and the Space Suits will allow us to go out into the public, attend school career days with valuable resources, and enhance demonstrations and lessons for all of our "clients". By providing professional development for our education staff we are also linking to Objective 3.1 which requires us to provide a "pool of qualified presenters of NASA aerospace content".

Objective 3.2 requires us to provide Professional Development. Having the ability to travel to various conferences in support of an exhibit but also providing funding for our staff to attend the various conference workshops will enhance our ability to provide valuable and accurate information in our public and education presentations. By having the newly purchased visual teaching tools to help express these lessons will also enhance the experience and make it a memorable lesson learned for the audience.

Objective 3.3 wants us to create a pool of qualified informal educators with NASA experiences. By having the opportunity to go to museums and science centers in our 8 state region in order to develop partnerships, attend and present at professional conferences, enhancing our message with a traveling exhibit, and updating the content of our ERC's, this pool of candidates will continue to be expanded and provided with flexible teaching materials relevant to STEM literacy and NASA's mission.

## PROJECT PARTNERS AND ROLE OF PARTNERS IN PROJECT EXECUTION

Space Center Houston has purchased a Mark III Spacesuit for floor demonstrations and a High Fidelity EVA Spacesuit to take out to schools and libraries. We have purchased the Digital Skylab Portable Dome Planetarium and have hired a curriculum consultant to help implement the dome into our established programming with scouts and school visits. We have also started the re-design of our High School Engineering Space School program.

In the next 60 days we will begin the ordering of the portable laptop computer lab and also get the first collaborative Educator newsletter out to the teachers that participate in both Space Center Houston and Johnson Space Center Educational Programs.