

More To Explore After We Close the Doors

The Stars & STEM program, formerly known as Space After Dark, is designed for groups who want to take learning out of the classroom while experiencing the wonders of space exploration. We provide engaging, hands-on activities that have been developed according to grade level standards so students are challenged, inspired and eager to explore STEM concepts when they return to campus.



Unique grade-specific adventures

1. **We are Explorers (grades K-2)**

Prepare for space like an astronaut! Students will discover what it takes to be an astronaut as they receive certified training for their missions. They will design mission patches for their journeys, code robots to traverse Mars, launch rockets to new heights and experience the challenges of working in space.

2. **Go for Launch (grades 3-5)**

You are “go” for a mission to Mars. Students will collaborate and solve problems when faced with engineering challenges for a Mars launch and landing system. They will learn about Newton’s Laws while designing rockets and preparing “eggstonauts” for landing on the red planet. Once arriving on Mars, they will program a robot to help accomplish their missions.

3. **Mission to Mars (grades 6-8)**

Things don’t always go as planned in spaceflight. Because of this, astronaut candidates are chosen for their abilities to make quick decisions for the benefit of their missions. Will your group be able to solve puzzles to unlock the mysteries surrounding the Mars Colony One crew? As part of their mission to Mars, students will build rockets and test trajectories as they launch toward the red planet. After arriving at Mars, students will design and build rovers to transport precious cargo to their habitats.

4. **Space Odyssey (grades 9-12)**

Students live the dream and become immersed in the world of NASA engineering from past to present. They will build and launch Space Center Houston rockets during a special night-launch. Communication and teamwork are emphasized as students design and construct a prototype heat shield that must be able to withstand the intense heat of entry into the Martian atmosphere. Students must protect their “eggstronaut” from temperatures of approximately 2000 °C (3,600 °F) with similar constraints of real spaceflight. Once the heat shields have been through the engineering design process to withstand entry into the Martian atmosphere, the challenges continue as students must design and build robotic rovers to transport precious cargo across the Martian terrain.



Every program includes

- Live briefing about Mars
- Dinner served at Space Center Houston
- Exciting, grade-level appropriate, hands-on activities.
- Private guided tram-tour to NASA Johnson Space Center.
- Second-day visit to Space Center Houston.

Program price

- \$59.95 per student
- \$39.95 per adult within a 1:10 adult to student ratio
- \$59.95 per adult for additional adults
- \$15 per t-shirt (optional), XXL \$15

Program enhancement options

- Group meal tickets
- Stars & STEM T-shirt
- Outer Space Academy Starlab shows, Starship Gallery tour and Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory tours.

Start your adventure today

Download the registration form and email to reservations@spacecenter.org or fax to +1 281-283-4766.

Questions about registration can be answered by our reservations team at +1 281-283-4755.

