



AstroTrek: An Overnight Adventure!

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY

You've heard about it! Your peers are talking about it! Previous participants say that this is their favorite activity during sixth grade!...only second to StoneLab.

Are you interested in Science? If so, then Hilliard Station has an outstanding opportunity!

ASTROTREK PROGRAM

The Astrotrek Program is an activity offered to our top-performing (G.P.A. qualified) students. AstroTrek is a popular two-night, three-day, hands-on aerospace program that includes access to the Space Museum, Rocket Park, Air Rocket Activity, Shuttle Park, Space History, Parachute Activity, Land Survival, Flight Physiology Activities, participation on two Astronaut-Training Simulators, 2 IMAX movies, and a tour of the Aviation Challenge facility at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

The program package follows a schedule that leads students through a complete look at past, present, and future space exploration. Students are encouraged, and challenged, to imagine the future as it relates to space travel. In addition, the students will delve even deeper into aeronautics and aerospace with an aviation experience. This experience gives students the opportunity to get "up-close and personal" with high performance aircraft, such as the F-14 Tomcat, F-4 Phantom, AV-8 Harrier, and others, including NASA's rocket program.

PROGRAM INCLUDES

- One Astro-Log Workbook for each student
- AstroTrek T-shirt
- Two nights of lodging in the Space Center Dorms
- Five meals in the Space Center Cafeteria
- An Aviation Technology Activity
- Coach-bus transportation (Lakefront Lines w/ driver background checks)

PROGRAM COSTS

- \$360 AstroTrek fee (includes all of the above). Money needed for two food stops (each way): \$6 to \$7, totaling approximately \$25 to \$30. Souvenir money: Gift shop on site. Check online for items and prices.

DEPARTURE/RETURN

Our expedition will depart early on **Monday, May 14, @ 5:30 a.m. sharp.** We will return on the evening of **Wednesday, May 16, at approximately 10:30 p.m.**

REQUIREMENTS

AstroTrek is being offered to students who are considered, by their teachers, to be strong in both Math and Science. For the first two grading periods (quarters) in all subjects, students must achieve a **G.P.A. of 3.75** or higher. Students must also demonstrate **excellent behavior** throughout the school year. (Saturday School, In-school and Out-of-school Suspensions, office referrals, service of detentions, excessive Cat Card punches, and case-by-case behavioral issues will result in immediate disqualification.)

Any student applying for the AstroTrek Program will be required to submit the following documentation:

- *Application*
- *A one-page essay, which depicts your interest in Science, areas of space, and technology. Please include a statement, detailing why it would be beneficial for you to attend.*
- *A Letter of Recommendation, from a scout leader, minister, former elementary teacher, etc. Get started early on this requirement! Plan a proper time frame, in order to avoid turning in your packet late OR missing the first-come, first-fill deadline!*
- *INITIAL DEPOSIT! YES, this needs to be turned in as part of the “first-come, first-fill requirement”. Even though it is long before the January deadline, please do not post-date your check! PLEASE NOTE: All four items MUST be turned in at the same time as an “application packet”.*

We ask for a \$180 deposit (check or money order, no post-dated checks). This deposit will be cashed before the holiday break due to creditors, payout schedules, and dealing with NSF checks. If the list grows beyond the 96 applicants, we accumulate a “wait” list and those checks will not be cashed. Any student not able to go will be given a refund and if not on the final list, un-cashed checks will be returned. (We realize that this monetary commitment is close to the holiday season, but with the timeline schedule that we have, a self-funded program, and PTO requirements, we need to collect funds at this time.) Please make your check or money order payable to Hilliard Station PTO.

Applications will be available to interested students on Monday, November 28th, after Thanksgiving break. If you are interested in having your child participate in this wonderful opportunity, all materials need to be returned to Mr. Kaufman no later than Friday, January 13th, or sooner with the “first-come, first-fill Basis.” Once accepted, a final payment of \$180 will be due no later than Monday, February 13th. PLEASE NOTE: A missed deadline will result in disqualification from the program, NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

We have a capacity limit of 96 students. Because of this, we will accept the first 96 students who have turned in the application, essay, recommendation letter, and initial deposit: ALL FOUR ITEMS AT ONCE. Mr. Kaufman will accept early entries (completed packet), beginning Tuesday, November 29th, and the first 96 seats could/will fill before the Friday, January 13th deadline. Deposit checks may be cashed before the Friday, January 13th deadline, and most likely before the holiday break.

HELPFUL HINT: This program is a first-come, first-fill basis! Working ahead to complete two time-consuming details of the program requirements, THE ESSAY AND RECOMMENDATION LETTER, prior to Monday, November 28th, will ensure quick turn-in after the applications have been handed out on Monday, November 29. Please bring your COMPLETE packet directly to Mr. Kaufman! Do not give it to your Science teacher! In previous years, spaces have filled before Christmas break!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Dan Kaufman, via email, at mrkhomeerom@yahoo.com (best) or Dan_Kaufman@hboe.org.