



## ***Pathfinder 2019: An Overnight Adventure!***

**PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY and POST/SAVE ON YOUR REFRIDGERATOR**

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! And now the program is even better!! Are you interested in Science? If so, then Hilliard Station has an outstanding opportunity!

### **PATHFINDER PROGRAM**

The Pathfinder Program is an activity offered to our top-performing (Benchmark qualified) students. Pathfinder is a popular two-night, three-day, hands-on aerospace science/STEM program that includes access to the Space Museum, Shuttle Hardware and Timeline, Shuttle Mission Training, Manage a Shuttle Mission, Mission Patch, Team Photo, Space-Bowl contest, Rocket Park, Shuttle Park, Space History: Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab; Estes Rocket Construction and Launch, Land Survival, Flight Physiology Activities, participation on four Astronaut-Training Simulators, an IMAX movie, and a tour of the Aviation Challenge facility at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

The program package follows a 3-day, STEM enriched, jam-packed, "not for the weary schedule" that leads students through a complete look at past, present, and future space exploration by using Scientific Inquiry/STEM (6<sup>th</sup> grade standards). Students are encouraged, and challenged, to imagine the future as it relates to space travel using science inquiry. 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 spacecraft that was from the early rocket programs in US history.

### **PROGRAM INCLUDES**

- One Pathfinder Log Workbook for each student.
- Mission Patch, Team Photo, Spacecamp Shirt, and Shuttle Pin.
- Two nights of lodging in the Space Center Dorms (aka: Habitats).
- Five meals in the Space Center Cafeteria.
- Shuttle training and mission.
- Coach-bus transportation (Lakefront Lines w/ seasoned drivers, having background checks).

### **PROGRAM COSTS**

- \$554 Pathfinder fee (includes all of the above). Will need to bring extra \$\$ for Souvenirs: We do visit the gift shop that is on site. Check online for items and prices. Need \$\$ for return trip fast-food stops (2).
- **If your child needs to leave during the 3-day program, either due to behavior, anxiety, or illness, your tuition may not be reimbursed. AND, parents may/will need to drive to Huntsville to pick up their child.**

### **DEPARTURE/RETURN**

Our expedition will depart very early on **Wednesday, May 1, @ 4:30 a.m. sharp (we have a strict timetable, don't be late); arrive at Station by 4:15 a.m. , parking lot between Station and Hub.** We will return on the evening of **Friday, May 3, at approximately 11:00ish p.m.**

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Pathfinder is being offered to students who are considered to be strong in Science and STEM based enrichments. **Best to apply if you would like to be part of this program even though the requirements are unknown/unfilled at the initial turn-in date! Those that are removed from the program, prior to departure, by not meeting the below requirements will receive a full refund or return of uncashed funds.** In order to determine those students to attend the Pathfinder program, students will be assessed by a committee on the following criteria and scoring "benchmarks" of:

#### **ACADEMICS (20pts)**

We value academic achievement and recognize those students whose talents and efforts are reflected in their performance in the classroom. Pathfinder is a designed STEM based opportunity and requires interest in the scientific concepts/thinking. Science grades/%'s for the first and second trimesters will contribute to the point system, i.e. 95% (1<sup>st</sup> tri) and 93% (2<sup>nd</sup> tri) in science will be a 9.5 and 9.3 of the scoring system.

#### **ATTENDANCE (10pts)**

We value consistent attendance and recognize the importance of valuing time in the classroom as essential to continual learning and growth. Students who maintain good attendance all year, demonstrate a desire to learn and personal responsibility for their academic performance. After 5 unofficial absences, a point will be deducted for each unofficial absence above the 5, i.e. 7 total absences would be a deduction of 2; 21 total absences would be a deduction of 16. Official absences do not count against a student's scoring.

#### **BEHAVIOR (10pts)**

We value PAWS (polite, aware, wise, safe) behavior as part of a positive and productive school culture all year. We need students who demonstrate a positive culture on a regular basis and make every effort to practice these behaviors every day. A point will be deducted for each PAWS card punch a student receives. Patterns of inappropriate behaviors will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. More severe infractions resulting in consequences such as excessive PAWS card punches, detentions, Wednesday school, and/or suspensions will result in immediate disqualification from the program.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS (10pts)**

We value the relationships that students develop with their peers and teachers and the ways in which they contribute in positive ways to our community of learners. Two teacher (in house) recommendations and one (outside) recommendation are required. The outside recommendation will be a letter written by an adult (i.e., coach, youth minister, past elementary teacher, scout leader, etc.) that was in charge of the applicant.

#### **ESSAY (not part of the scoring but is required)**

Applicants are to write a, minimum one page, essay describing their desire/interests in Science, areas of space, technology/STEM, and why/how it would benefit them from this experience. **Get started early on the outside recommendation and essay requirement! Plan a proper time frame in order to avoid turning in your essay, recommendation, and missing the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> deadline of the timeline!**

## TIE-BREAKER

To determine the 100<sup>th</sup> applicant from the 101<sup>st</sup> applicant and beyond, **those that turn in their application and first deposit will be date/time stamped.** The applicant who turned these two items in first will break the tie. These two items can be turned in at any time starting October 22<sup>nd</sup> to establish your desire to go. The remaining items can be turned in up to the December 17<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**\*\* Keep in mind that we are 600 miles from home. This may not be a trip for those that have high anxiety of leaving the security of home and for those that are prone to sickness from the high physical demand. If a student is not able to participate once we arrive, parents may be required to make a trip to Huntsville for pick-up of their child, and, partial or no refund may occur \*\***

**Any student applying for the Pathfinder Program will be required to submit the following documentation  
(All items may be turned in earlier than the timeline states (best)):**

### Initial Turn-In's

1. ***Application (will be available on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from Mr. Kaufman's room (22); distribution will begin at 8:00am, or print from Station's website). Application, first deposit (\$277), essay, and outside recommendation letter may commence October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The top 100 students from the assessed criteria will be the definitive 'Go List' (determined by Mar 1, 2019, 1 week after 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester ends). Application, essay, outside recommendation, and first deposit will be accepted up to and including December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm. Please!!, do not wait to the last day to piece items to Mr. K. Get items in ASAP.***

### Following Items to be Turned in **by** December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (no exceptions!!).

- *Completed Application.*
- *A one-page essay.*
- *The outside Letter of Recommendation*
- *Deposit 1 of 2 for \$277 with checks made out to Hilliard Station PTO.*

### Items to be Turned in by March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

- ***Deposit 2 of 2 for \$277 with checks made out to Hilliard Station PTO (can be turned in at anytime).***
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Ends on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, top 100(from the scoring criteria) will be determined the following week. We will have the final list and notify the top 100 students by March 1 for the March 7<sup>th</sup> second installment deadline. In this way, PTO will not need to write many refund checks. 2<sup>nd</sup> install checks will be deposited quickly. NOTE: The 2<sup>nd</sup> installment check can be turned in at any time prior to the 7<sup>th</sup>...these checks **will be held**, and if benchmarks qualified, will then be deposited after the 7<sup>th</sup>.*

We ask for an initial \$277 deposit (check or money order, no post-dated checks, please) with the submission of the application, a.s.a.p. after the initial Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning turn in timeframe. Your initial deposit **will be held.** After the Christmas break if you are within the top 100 candidates (based on the current Benchmarks), your check will be given to PTO for deposit. If your Benchmark is not of the top 100, then your check will be **on hold** until the completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> (Mar 1<sup>st</sup> grade posting). In this way, we will avoid having the PTO Treasurer to issue an overabundance of reimbursement checks. A final list is not determine until after the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester has ended and the posting of grades on Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>. If any identical Benchmarks are at the 100<sup>th</sup> & 101<sup>st</sup> place, the 100<sup>th</sup> spot will be decided **on the date and time of application/check.** We realize that this is a monetary commitment within and after the holiday season, but with the payment schedule that we have to meet to our creditors, a self-funded program, ISF checks, and PTO requirements, we need to collect funds at this time with two deposits. Please make your checks or money orders payable to **Hilliard Station PTO, NOT to Mr. Kaufman!!.**

Applications will be available for pickup in Mr. Kaufman's room or online to interested students on October 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in having your child participate in this wonderful opportunity, all materials need to be returned to **Mr. Kaufman (Rm. 22 or parents can drop off in our office; do not give to your science teacher)** by the above timeline. We will accept any items of the timeline between October 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup>.

***We have a capacity limit of 100 students and 8 teachers. Because of this, we will accept the top(Benchmark) 100students. Station teachers chaperone this event and US Space and US Space and Rocket Center assign seven teacher/counselors, we do not take parent chaperones due to limited bed/bus space. In this way, each of our groups have two adults to 12.5 students.***

***US Space and Rocket Center is a secured facility (Red Arsenal Military Base) with security staff, 24/7 counselors, and 24/7 nursing in their sick bay.***

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Dan Kaufman, via email (best way to correspond), at [Dan\\_Kaufman@hboe.org](mailto:Dan_Kaufman@hboe.org). Please **do not email the gmail account** that is attached to the Facebook page. I do not check that email account.

 We have a Facebook page; find us at [stationpathfinder2019@gmail.com](mailto:stationpathfinder2019@gmail.com) or via "Stationnineteen Pathfinder" (pick the one with the planet earth as this profile pic....be sure you are in this year's page, not previous years). If your child is applying to the program, **parents, you MUST join the FB page as all communication is posted there!!** Ask to be a friend. Mr. Kaufman will post very important information/updates of upcoming timeline events, and parents may ask generic questions that would be beneficial to all...please **no student requests** for friendship and **Parent's requests only, no immediate family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles or friends asking to be friends), only parents**....any specific question regarding your child needs to be directed to Mr. Kaufman's school email .... We, also, use this page to post pics and happenings while on the trip **and then** you can share to your FB page for family/friends of your FB world.... thank you.