

2007 Space Academy Trip Summary

By Student Guillermo Rodriguez

When I realized that I was actually going to Space Camp, I couldn't believe it. I've always like robotics, mechanical engineering and astronaut training, so I was really excited when I got the great notice.

On my arrival at Space Camp, I was amazed because I was at the biggest Rocket Center of the U.S.A. I was actually in the same place where some of the most talented commanders and pilots were at.

Space Academy was actually the best camp I've ever gone to! You don't only have fun, but you learn a lot, too. The counselors are really cool and you make a lot of friends really quick. All day you are really busy and you never get bored. You have a lot of activities that are great and I enjoyed the things we did.

Some of my favorite activities were the space shot, the G-force accelerator, the museum the rocket hunts, and best of all – the missions.

The Space Shot is a high ride that you sit on a capsule and go up and down really fast. It is the best ride at the camp and almost everyone rode Space Shot each 10 times.

My other favorite ride was the G-force Accelerator. In this ride, you stand up in a big capsule with other people and it spins around a lot. By spinning that fast, the gravitational force is augmented by four times. This is why you feel weak by the amount of pressure your body is experiencing. Your seat actually rises!

The museum and rocket hunts are really fun because you need to look for answers written all over the place. The museum hunt takes place at the Space and Rocket Center Museum, and the Rocket Hunt takes place at the park where all space and military rockets are placed.

My favorite thing of all was the space missions. You actually are on a highly, realistic mission in outer space. Each group gets to do two missions. In these missions you get to do different jobs. There are three areas in which you are allowed to do the jobs. These are: mission control, station, and orbiter.

Mission Control is where all the people sit and read how the mission is going, find out the weather, and they make contact with both the station and the orbiter. Mission Control is in Houston, Texas. The station is in outer space where all the scientists do their experiments. The orbiter is the space shuttle and those guys get to stay there and control the shuttle.

In our first mission, I was the mission scientist in the mission control area. I talked to the guys in the station and helped them with problems or anomalies they had, and I told them how to fix it.

In our second mission which was the best, I was the pilot. The pilot's job is to assist the commander and make the things to do in the orbiter happen. I got to speak with Mission Control and they would help me with anomalies and problems. We landed in a sort of crazy way, and when we went to the landing site, the parachute wouldn't activate and we went straight to the ocean and drowned, but it was the best mission ever.

In conclusion, I think this is the best camp ever and one opportunity in a lifetime! I encourage people to try to win the scholarship because this trip is truly amazing and I won't ever forget this.

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