

My Space Academy Experience by Sergio Marquez
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My Space Academy experience began at six o' clock when I said good-bye to my mom and dad at the airport. Next we spent all day in airports and airplanes and got to Huntsville, Alabama around ten p.m. We got picked up at the airport by a couple of ladies who drove us to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Finally we got ready for bed just thinking about what would happen to us next.

Upon arrival in Huntsville we got some dinner and went to bed since we got there at ten p.m. The first day we met up with our team and met our team leaders—Sabrina, a.k.a. Astro and Erin. We learned what would be happening for the rest of the week. During this time our team got to know each other by playing a little game I like to call, "The Human Knot."

The best experience I had at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center was the second of the two missions we participated in. The missions were used to teach us the procedures astronauts have to go through during launch and re-entry. During this mission I got to be CAPCOM, who is the only person in mission control who is aloud to speak to the orbiter. I really feel I contributed to our team's success of achieving the best average score in the missions throughout the camp.

In summary I would say that this experience was very fun and amazing. I really feel like it was a once-in-a-life-time opportunity and I'm glad I got to be part of this. Space Academy gives you a chance to meet new people from all over the world and make new friends. It also gives you a chance to participate in things some kids only dream of doing.

To all those kids who are contemplating on applying for this, I would say go for it. It's only a three-page essay and what have you got to loose?

In conclusion, I would like to thank my parents who supported me throughout the application part of this, Mr. Arreola and Mr. Thornton for writing such wonderful recommendations, and all the people in the ESD migrant program for allowing me to participate in Space Academy 2005.