

2008 Space Academy Trip Summary

By Timothy Ramey

I am so grateful for the opportunity to go to Space Academy for Educators and to be a chaperone for these kids. What an incredible opportunity for them to see what is out there. We look at space camp as a way to explore the “Great Beyond,” to reach the limits of our earthly experience; but for these kids, there was a paralleled experience of going out of their comfort zones and discovery of what can be in their reach if they push for it. I can honestly say, “Space Camp is an outstanding program because of the fact so many kids are brought together for a common goal – to learn about space exploration, the vehicles used to get there, and the men and women who make that exploration possible.”

My experience in Space Camp for Educators just mirrors that of the kids with regards to meeting fellow educators from across the nation. In one week, I developed friendships that I have no doubt will survive through correspondence via e-mail or mail. I learned technique, developed skills, and acquired materials that I can apply in my classroom. The experience has allowed me to remember what it is like to be awed, excited, and experience what the kids must be able to do. I very much want to return again. There is so much to learn.

I learned almost as much from the others who attended as I did from staff. I loved the tours, the simulations, and the workshops. We were able to go to a press conference for astronauts from Expedition 15 and Expedition 16. We went to the museum and rode on the G-Force (gravity force simulator on a rocket), space launch (a ride that shoots you into the sky), and aviator challenge (a water activity simulation parachuting from a plane, crashing a helicopter and being rescued). I love Math and Science and am passionate about education. I can honestly say that I have, thanks to this experience, found even more reason to be passionate. Teachers work hard to help kids become the next generation of leaders, both on the ground and in space. This is just as important now as it ever has been. I am committed to providing that to my future classes. I am glad I was able to be a chaperone for these kids to also have that amazing opportunity.