

Archived Information

The Space DaySM Foundation

At the start of the new millennium, there are scientific, technological and economic challenges that call for a highly skilled, technologically literate workforce. There is a need to prepare students to meet the challenges of the new millennium. One factor that is often missing from our educational equation is the kind of real-life, hands-on involvement that can stir students' imaginations and inspire them to participate in the scientific process.

The Space Day Foundation, a 501(c)3 operating foundation, supports education initiatives, which use space as a motivating vehicle, aimed at contributing to the goal of inspiring student involvement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Foundation's education initiatives are aimed at preparing students for the excitement and challenges faced by the workforce of the future. Student achievement is recognized and celebrated each year on Space Day. The Space Day Foundation serves as a forum for bringing together the best and brightest minds from business and industry, government and education to focus resources and efforts to achieve these strategic goals.

The Space Day Foundation is guided by a distinguished Council of Advisors composed of leaders in the fields of aerospace, education, science, business and government. Co-chairing the Council are Senator John Glenn and Dr. Vance D. Coffman, chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation -- both of whom consider the advancement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education to be a national priority. Senator Glenn and Dr. Coffman also serve as co-chairs of Space Day, the award-winning educational initiative created to celebrate the achievements of our space pioneers and inspire the next generation of inventors and explorers to follow their lead.

The Space Day Foundation, in collaboration with Challenger Center for Space Science Education, sponsors the Space Day *Design Challenges*. Interdisciplinary in nature, this exciting program encourages children to think like scientists and engineers. They are engaged in solving modern space-related problems, employing concepts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics as part of their design project. Teachers and students use the Web to connect directly with some of the best minds in science and engineering from government, business and education.

The Space Day Foundation also sponsors Space DaySM. First launched in 1997, Space Day – which takes place each year on the first Thursday of May – is a massive grassroots effort dedicated to the extraordinary achievements, benefits and opportunities in the exploration and use of space. International in scope, this initiative involves thousands of teachers and students in dozens of countries around the globe.

Highlighting every Space Day celebration are local activities in schools and communities. Simulated space missions; special appearances by astronauts, educators and space experts; planetarium shows and museum exhibits; field trips and space games all reflect the enthusiasm and energy this annual event inspires. Space Day is also a forum for honoring the year-long achievement of students. Mayors and governors across the U.S. and Canada have issued official proclamations recognizing the importance of this unique initiative.

Sharing in the adventure is an ever-expanding array of active, enthusiastic Space Day Partners and Associates. These diverse groups, including local school districts and policy-makers at every level of government, members of the business community and international education, youth, space and science organizations, play a crucial role in bringing the excitement of Space Day to their constituents, members, colleagues and peers.