

SPACE CAMP

Space. Not the one on a keyboard, not the one between words, or an area of land. But the definition of space to me is the one when you look up into the night sky. An infinite darkness with little twinkling lights. I have always wondered what mysteries wander past our solar system. Do aliens really exist? How much fuel does it take to travel to the moon and back to Earth? What technologies allow humans to survive in the inhospitable elements of space? These questions just completely boggle my mind. When it comes to space, I am very curious and eager to learn more. Space Camp will give me a unique opportunity to explore the astonishing world of space.

My mission is to find answers to these thought provoking questions and further explore the parallels of space. In order to make discoveries, like space missions in the past, it requires curiosity and collaboration. One of my strengths is collaborating and working with others to solve a problem. For instance, in 2013 Typhoon Haiyan rocked the Philippines causing widespread damage and destruction. My family and I took quick action to help out my ancestral country. We came up with the idea of Bayanihan Bracelets, which were made of "Rainbow Looms" created with the colors of the Philippines flag. "Bayanihan" means "community" in Filipino. True to this word, we rallied our community, gathered schoolmates, friends, and family to make bracelets, sell them and send them to donors. In addition, my family participated in events to raise funds to help those in need halfway across the globe. We used the money we raised through donations to buy much-needed food and supplies for those who were affected by the typhoon. Additionally, our fundraising efforts helped to purchase seven new fishing boats for fishermen who lost their livelihood.

Breakthroughs in science and engineering have allowed us to venture our universe. Although not as ground breaking as a Mars rover, I

have used engineering concepts to build a four-wheeled mousetrap vehicle. In woodshop, my partner and I created the perfect mousetrap vehicle. We tinkered and experimented, and after many failures, we finally succeeded. We tested our vehicle and it was only three feet away from setting a school record! Since I love working in groups and engineering, I believe that Space Camp would be the perfect place to use these skills.

The knowledge and experience that I will gain in Space Camp can be applied in the real world. One day, I want to be a physical therapist. With this job, I want to further experiment the short and long term health effects of space on the human body. Going to Space Camp will further educate me to learn more about the thrills of space and help my future blast off to another level.