**Why I want to go to Space Camp**

**Space makes me feel free.**

**Maybe it’s the fact that I’m floating gradually away from Earths harsh pull of gravity on me. Or maybe it’s the fact that I have a mind of my own, a responsibility.**

**The one place I imagine I would feel at home is** *space*. **It’s quite hard to describe the overwhelming feelings I have about space and how everything moves so contently.**

**I really want to be an astronaut. Partially to make my country proud, partially to say that a girl can go into space and will go into space. But I mostly want to be an astronaut for me. I can’t quite describe the feeling when I see things about space or hear things about space. It’s just pure excitement and inspiration. I know a lot of astronauts might say that… because it’s true. Space is utterly amazing.**

**But although all those beautiful, rectifying colours draw me in close to Space, I am quite afraid. I’m afraid of the dangers. I recently went to a talk with Helen Sharman, the first Briton in Space. One of the questions asked was ‘Were you afraid of the dangers?’ She answered. ‘We are all scared at times. We are not scared of dangers but much of the unknown.’ Then that day I realised….. I wasn’t scared of the dangers in Space…… But I was scared of not making it into space. Not becoming an astronaut.**

**And so this is why I strongly believe that Space camp will give me a great advantage of becoming an astronaut, of knowing what it’s like in space! To be able to carry out simulations of what happens in space, that would be awesome! I want to understand space better but I need help to do that. After all, I do live in Ireland and I’m pretty sure there is no rocket centres anywhere near in the next few hundred miles or so! I don’t have very many opportunities as I would have over in America. But I’m determined to use this incredible opportunity and apply for a space camp scholarship. Right now, this is my first step.**

**I am fully prepared to overcome my fears I have about Space. In fact one of my fears is heights and I have recently taken up climbing as one of my hobbies because I know that I need to be strong both physically and mentally! I attend a bouldering club. Bouldering is basically climbing without a harness and I actually realised that I like it better than with a harness because as I have mentioned…..I like to be free!**

**Space camp will give a taste of what it’s really like up with the stars. And space camp will help me resolve my fears.**

**Space camp will help me escape Earth’s gravity!**

**Marie Kearney, Future Martian!**