

Space Camp Academy

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I am interested in this particular program for several reasons: I have taught both math and science for about seven years now and I am always looking to the stars for inspiration. My love for space exploration began when I started teaching programs to five year old kids at the Virginia Air and Space Center. I watched as the kids got excited when making paper plate rovers and the enthusiasm of learning about the planets. My interest went from part time programs to a full time position overseeing the space center's Aerospace Laboratory which housed ten flight simulators from ten NASA research centers. In my spare time, I became a Lieutenant for the Air Force Auxiliary. I wanted to teach aerospace education to cadets. I taught them about the first years of flight with Wilbur and Orville to the ISS. I gave them an opportunity to see naval squadrons and launch rockets. My quest for knowledge lead me to get my Masters in Aerospace education. I received the Aerospace Officer of the Year Award and it was amazing. I wanted to take my knowledge out into the community so I spoke to parents about the ISS at a variety of schools around Hampton Roads. I soon became a teacher liaison for the Space Foundation. I also got involved with judging projects with NASA's Student Involvement Program. I loved the program so much I had my own students participate and they placed second. You should have seen their faces when they received their awards. I still continue to take courses in Aerospace education through NASA seminars and graduate courses at Pennsylvania State University. I enjoy bringing science into my classroom while teaching math. I recently took my students to Wallops Flight Facility to witness a rocket launch. This opportunity would give me a chance to encourage my students to pursue a career in STEM. As I mentioned, teaching math can get, well, boring without hands-on activities. Bringing in science to my class would enable me to encourage these kids to explore careers like engineering, scientific research and possible aeronautical science. Just recently for Black History Month, I show themed "Hidden Figures". I want my students to see that math isn't for geeks and nerds, it kinda makes them into a superhero!

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