

My name is Elektra Larson, and coming into my senior year of high school I am very much looking forward to what will be my last year at Space Camp. Over my last three years of attending I have made many friends and have come to view it as the highlight of my year. With college applications soon looming over my head, the chance to see those friends again and get one more year of Space Camp's one-of-a-kind experience would be wonderful.

As someone who intends to study aerospace engineering in college I am endlessly excited about nearly every topic covered during Space Camp from aerospace history, to the logistics of missions to space, to astronomy, to engineering. These experiences give me a taste of what I hope my future will be, particularly those related to life in space, as that is something I may never get to experience as a visually impaired person. Moreover, the learning experiences attainable at Space Camp are unmatched, the museums and simulators there allow for a far more engaging learning environment than a classroom. Attending Space Camp fuels my desire to not be bound by the limitations of my vision and fills me with anticipation over what I may accomplish for space exploration over the course of my life.

Beyond academics, Space Camp is probably the most fun I have had in my entire life. The experience is exhilarating. From the moment I would wake up to when I fell asleep my day was filled entirely with activities, but, surrounded by so many other people just as interested in space, I was never tired. It is liberating to be around so many people with similar interests; I continue to keep in touch with many of my Space Camp friends, most of us seeking to turn our excitement into a career. The activities themselves—from scuba diving, to the MAT, to mock Space Shuttle missions—are such an amazing opportunity to learn through experience. Moreover, everyone else participating alongside me is just as absorbed in space as I am, making them all the more memorable. While at Space Camp I can never seem to shake that giddy feeling that comes from being surrounded by Space-related knowledge and people just as passionate about it as me.

I plan to make my final year of Space Camp as memorable as possible, hanging out with old friends, making new ones, and learning as much as I can. Space Camp is inspiring, intellectually engaging, entirely focused on my favorite topic, and endlessly fun. I hope to go to Space Camp again because I can truly say that the weeks I have spent at Space Camp were the best weeks of my life.