

## Why I Want to go to Space Camp

My name is Hannah Apel and I am 14 years old. I live in Harrisburg, North Carolina and attend Hickory Ridge Middle School. Starting in elementary school, I have always had an interest in STEM and the thought processes surrounding Problem-Based Learning. Space has always been an area of interest for me, alongside forensic science. I would love to be able to participate in an amazing opportunity like space camp to further extend my knowledge of where we live and the unknown of space. In school, I'm taking a year long course of advanced art and for my in depth choice project I chose to incorporate space, and the mystery of what is "out there" and the costly consequences researching this subject can serve. Using research, documentaries, and articles has been my number one source of information for my project, alongside keeping up to date on my NASA app to analyze the new discoveries and progress being made every day.

Next to my turtle tank in my room, I have a NASA Women of Space LEGO set to remind me of one of my many goals in life. This inspires me every single day to keep my grades high and always strive to be the best I can possibly be. I have an almost obsession, for lack of a better word, of science and anatomy. I have always struggled with figuring out if my dream job is working for NASA or being a forensic pathologist. I traveled to Florida to see the Kennedy Space Center last summer and it was an awesome experience for me to be able to listen to a tour of behind the scenes work many people in the field put their all in creating. Not to mention, John F. Kennedy is my all time favorite president and always my first choice when I do a research project. Sometimes, my interest in learning is misunderstood by my friends. I aspire to learn as much as I can every single day and am extremely grateful to go to an amazing school that can meet my needs for learning. I go into school with a positive attitude, and come out with one waiting to share what I learned to my mom and my stepdad at the dinner table.

To conclude, I would like to say thank you for taking the time to read why I would like to attend space camp and how much space continues to amaze me, to the point where I would like to learn even more than my small town can provide.