

Fatima Perez - Orellana

04/15/2018

The INSPIRE Project - Space Camp Application



This is me at the Robotics Club at Roosevelt High School.

I am Fatima Perez and I am from El Salvador. I came to this country when I was almost 14 years old. I know for a fact that as a girl who is part of the minority, the odds are against me when it comes to STEM careers. But if Dr. Ellen Ochoa thought that way, she would not have been the first Latina astronaut to go to outer space. Now, she is the director for the NASA Johnson Space Center, and has three patents under her name for her work in optical engineering.

I am in 9th grade in Theodore Roosevelt High School. My parents did not go to college. Everyday, I strive to make them proud. I work hard to prove to everybody that Latina women can be successful in a career in STEM. I love Algebra. I like learning how math applies to the real world. In class, I help my classmates understand what is difficult for them.

I want to go to Space Camp because I am interested in researching and finding new ways to use math to help efforts in space exploration. In Algebra, I learned that equations model real-world situations. This is what I want to do after college. I want to

help model real data from outer space so we can use this data to conduct studies about planets and stars.

I want to either be an engineer. But it is not common for latina women to become one. I want to break this stereotype. In my school, there are only two girls in the Robotics club. Already I am trying to break this barrier.

I want to help use math to launch rockets into space. Since I want to be an engineer, I think this would be a great opportunity to learn more about my interests and receive more experience in the field of engineering.

Right now, I am a high school student. But in 10 years, I could be the next lead engineer or scientist in NASA.

