

## **Why I Want to go to Space Academy**

Space Academy sounds like a great place for me to really delve into my interest in STEM topics. Being an astronaut is a career that appeals to me and a career that I would like to learn more about and get hands-on experience with. I want to go to Space Academy because I think that it would be an amazing opportunity for me. I would gain experience and knowledge in STEM areas, learn new things, and explore career interests.

For the past three summers, I've been involved in a program called GEMS (Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science). While that's been great because I love math, science, and engineering, participating in Space Academy would give me a chance to dig further into my love of STEM. Space Academy is a unique program that has a wonderful collection of knowledge that I could learn from and the ability to give kids, like myself, a hands-on experience that will last a lifetime.

Over the last two years, I've taken the technology class offered at my school as one of my electives. That class provides a great place to learn and experience interesting new things, but, as always, I am looking for more options that could give me even more experience. In one of my technology classes, I participated in a SeaPerch (underwater robot activity) team by being the "electrical engineer." I soldered and built the circuit board. I also drove the robot to complete our goal of collecting ping pong balls from underwater. I would like to see how these and other engineering skills apply to space travel and technology. Learning about and experiencing what an astronaut does would be fascinating for me.

As an eighth-grader entering high school next year, I am beginning to look into careers that appeal to me. STEM careers particularly interest me. Being an astronaut or something related to space sounds cool and is something I might like to do. I am beginning to investigate my interests further to determine possible jobs and careers I would enjoy and have fun with. Participating in Space Academy would help me decide whether or not being an astronaut is a good career for me. I could also explore how other scientists and engineers support our country's space programs.

Space Academy is an amazing opportunity for kids interested in STEM and space. I really believe that I would be a good candidate for a scholarship because I am intelligent, eager to learn and experience new things, and it would enable me to experience experiments as they would be on the International Space Station that I otherwise wouldn't be able to. I would also learn information about space and science that I hadn't known before. Additionally, Space Academy could help show me if being an astronaut is a good career for me. In conclusion, Space Academy is the perfect place for the person who is interested in learning, interested in STEM, and interested in space, and I embody those characteristics.