**Why I want to go to Space Camp**

Submitted by Clark Gray 6/10/19

With the engineering track at my school, McKinley, we seek to solve both the usual and unusual problems. We often have to conduct research, design probable solutions to problems and then revise and improvise on our designs after failures. We can sometimes work alone, but we have found it more advantageous to work as a team. Being part of the Engineering STEM track, it has taught me resilience, the importance of teamwork, patience and improvisational skills. My desires to both better myself and to serve my country in a global context have steadily increased throughout the years. I am pursuing International Relations with a possible engineering focus. In college, I am interested in developing and implementing new ways to avoid international conflicts and crises. I have had the opportunity to travel to other countries like Japan, Canada and Costa Rica. These experiences opened me up to new cultures, new ideas and new people. At space camp, I can build upon my STEM and problem solving skills that will help me as I am currently considering a focus on engineering at Syracuse University in the coming fall. Patience, along with resilience, will help me to focus on my tasks even when the going gets tough and it would also help me remember the importance of staying calm in the field, where hot tempers can potentially lead to many casualties. Improvisational skills will help me to solve new and unprecedented issues that may emerge while working in International Relations or engineering. Teamwork will be important in working towards a goal, such as peace, productions, or protections with representatives of foreign or differing backgrounds. Building relationships and more developing effective ways to solve problems, and meeting new people would be great practice for a future diplomat, ambassador, or engineer. Past partnerships and cooperation’s at the ISS show the vast need for international communicators. Overall I believe that attending the advanced space academy will enrich my knowledge of both the world around us and the universe above us. Thus, allowing me to gain a greater understanding of how international relations and engineering will go hand in hand as we shift to explore farther than we have ever been before in the final frontier.