US Space Trip 2011
For students in Years 9, 10 and 11

The Science Faculty is planning another US Space Trip during the June/July holidays next year, 2011. The trip offers students the opportunity to attend a facility in Huntsville, Alabama – the US Space and Rocket Centre - that provides astronaut or pilot training for students of all ages. Students involved in astronaut training complete the Advanced Space Academy programme while those wanting pilot training do Aviation Challenge – Mach III. While in the US, students visit other attractions, mainly those with a space or technology theme.

The Advanced Space Academy programme is designed to imitate the mental, emotional, and physical demands astronauts must face while preparing for and completing missions. It immerses students in topics such as shuttle orientation, astronomy, and space physiology. They are put into teams that train together to complete an intensive programme that concludes with a simulated space mission. Trainees choose from the following three tracks of academic study and training:

Pilot - Trainees focus on the educational requirements needed for a shuttle commander, including celestial navigation, orbital mechanics, meteorology, and space piloting.

Pilot S – This is a new track which allows trainees to command or pilot an orbiter and learn aerospace science as their core basis for training, but instead of flying the flight simulators, they scuba dive in the UAT SCUBA tank.

Mission Specialist - Students study robotics, engineering, materials science, and optics. This track is designed to provide hands-on mission training aboard the space shuttle or a space station.

The Aviation Challenge – Mach III programme revolves around high performance aviation. The programme uses state-of-the-art jet simulators to test students’ skills. The simulator curriculum is centred on basic jet handling skills, preparation for graded missions, and the Top Gun competition. Students spend the first two days learning how to handle an aircraft and how to work together as a crew. As the pilot or the RIO (Radar Intercept Officer), students learn how to handle the aircraft as a member of the all-important team. The trainees come together as a team to complete objectives that cover air-to-air, air-to-ground, and carrier activities. At the end of the week, trainees compete for the Top Gun title by flying against other crews in a single elimination competition. The best aircrew in the single elimination earns the title.

More information about the programmes offered by the US Space and Rocket Center can be found at: [http://www.spacecamp.com](http://www.spacecamp.com)

The proposed itinerary also includes visits to Universal Studios, The Epcot Centre, Disneyworld, and Kennedy Space Centre, a sightseeing tour of Washington DC as well as a stopover in San Francisco. Students will leave Australia on Friday 24 June and return sometime around July 13. The cost of the trip, although not yet finalised, will be about $9000-$9500 depending on exchange rates. The first payment of $2000 will be due in September this year with another payment of $3000 due in November. The balance of the cost will be payable early in 2011. Payment options are available. Contact Finance on 3332 1368 for details.

If you are interested in receiving more information about the US Space Trip, please complete the form below and return it to the box outside the Science Staffroom by Wednesday, September 1. Students have been invited to a meeting in the Gehrmann Theatre on Monday 23 August at 12.40pm. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr Stephens if you have any queries.

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Daughter’s Name: ___________________________ Year & House Group: _________

I am interested in receiving further information about the US Space Trip 2011.

Parent’s Signature: ___________________________