



Dear Parent(s),

Your child will soon be embarking on a journey to space! As part of their simulated space mission at the Challenger Learning Center of Maine, students will complete prep work at school and receive assigned jobs as Mission Controllers and Astronauts. Together, they will work to complete their simulated mission.

While they are at Challenger they will engage in hands-on learning that is tied directly to the latest Maine learning standards. They will surely enjoy the experience, but this is not a “field trip.” The work they do at Challenger will complement their in-class work and provide activities that are not possible in the classroom. In addition to meeting science standards, they will be required to solve problems, communicate effectively, make good decisions and work as a team to achieve success.

The Challenger Learning Center of Maine is part of a network of 44 international centers that were established in honor of the astronauts lost in Challenger flight 51-L. Please watch the history of Challenger with your child to begin to prepare them for their mission. Here is a link to a video that we recommend on Youtube, titled “Challenger Disaster 25 years later”:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcXJPEB16-w>

We want to help you foster your child’s interest in science and potentially turn the inspiration into a career path. We offer a variety of on-going programming for children grades K-10 and families. This includes periodic “Family Science Nights” public science events that cover a variety of topics and themes, including chemistry, engineering, physics, and astronomy. We also offer programs during all school vacations, and on- and off-site science modules for a variety of groups and occasions, such as scouts, 4-H clubs and school-wide family science nights. We even host out-of-this-world birthday parties! To join our mailing list, sign up on our web site: www.astronaut.org/contact.

If you would like to check out the Challenger Learning Center of Maine facility for yourself, you are welcome to visit the Center any time. Regular office hours are 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday through Friday if you would like to schedule a tour. If your work place is looking for a fantastic company retreat, we also offer corporate missions that provide an incredible team building experience! Please call (207) 990-2900 x4 for more information.

We look forward to working with your child, and we hope to meet you sometime soon!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Therrien
Center Coordinator / Education Director

Commanders Pratt, Worthley, Cotrell,
Hibbard and Loftin
Flight Directors

30 Venture Way / Bangor ME 04401 / astronaut.org / 207-990-2900 tel. / 207-990-2040 fax



Can't get enough? Your middle school student will have a blast at Challenger this summer! Astronaut Academy, Engineering Challenges, and more - Challenger Summer Camps