EXCITING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

StellarXplorers is a program to inspire and attract high school students to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. Created and produced by the Air Force Association (AFA), a 501(c)(3) educational organization, StellarXplorers features an exciting, space-focused competition using professional tools to address real-world problems.

The program provides a hands-on, space design challenge involving all aspects of space systems development and operation with a spacecraft and payload focus. Season after season, the Challenge has proven to be a fun experience that can be offered to large numbers of students with diverse interests and academic abilities, while exposing them to a dynamic industry vital to the American way of life.

STELLARXPLORERS

StellarXplorers registration opens May 1st each year. Teams come from high schools, Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, or any high school-aged organization. Teams consist of an adult Team Director (usually a teacher) and two to six students. Team Mentors with space expertise are available to assist inperson or via the internet. A nominal registration fee is payable prior to the first competition round each season.

Academic modules, system software licenses and training, and multiple practice competition rounds are provided for team education and preparation. The qualifying rounds, conducted remotely at the team’s home base, occur early in each academic year. Quarter- and semi-final rounds determine which teams will receive all-expense-paid trips to the National Finals and Culminating Events, held each Spring.

STUDENTS

- Provides an exciting, hands-on learning experience, developing knowledge and skills that are commercially valuable.
- Increases appreciation for the critical and expanding roles space systems play in our daily lives.
- Maps a pathway to challenging and rewarding career opportunities.
- It’s lots of FUN!

TEACHERS & MENTORS

- Provides interesting and relevant educational material to supplement existing curricula.
- Enhances knowledge of a subject of critical importance in our daily lives, and to our nation.
- Allows mentors the opportunity to share their passion and knowledge for an enterprise they have chosen as their life’s work.

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

- Enhances relations with local communities and partners, boosting their national reputation for corporate citizenship.
- Increases visibility, and ability to interact with a pipeline of technically proficient future employees.
- Provides interaction with key clients & stakeholders, reinforcing the sponsor’s dedication to the space missions of their principal customers.
- Contributes to the competitiveness and security of our nation.

CONTACT

Stephen Gourley at: 720-253-3474
stephen.k.gourley@gmail.com

Program Office at: 703-247-5800, ext 4899
stellarxplorers@afa.org

StellarXplorers.org