

Reading Street Sleuth

Unit 1

Space Camp Explorers

Have you ever looked up at the sky and wondered what it is like in space? Imagine putting on a spacesuit and blasting off on a spaceship to find out. While this may seem like a far-off dream, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) gives kids a chance to see what it is like to explore space.

Camp Kennedy Space Center is a weeklong camp that is offered each summer. It is held at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Campers from ages 8 to 14 enjoy space-related fun and adventure.

While at the camp, campers see and feel what it is like to train to be an astronaut and explore the universe. For example, they work in teams to study the future of space travel. They design space exploration vehicles and places to live in space. They meet real astronauts and ask them questions about their work.

Campers experience the speed with which space vehicles travel. They also get to see what it is like to be weightless. After all, there is no gravity in space to keep astronauts on the ground! Space campers get a small taste of this.

Perhaps the most thrilling part of space camp is stepping into the Space Shuttle Launch Simulator. The simulator is a towering six-story building. It looks just like the space shuttle launch site at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Inside, astronauts walk campers through the steps of a space shuttle launch, right up to the final countdown. Three, two, one, blast off! Campers experience sound and lighting effects that are similar to a real space shuttle launch. It is a very exciting event!

Campers at Camp Kennedy Space Center have a lot of fun, and they learn a lot too. Each year, NASA hopes the camp experience will inspire a few campers to become astronauts and explore space.