



Where learning is...mission possible!

Challenger Connection

Fall 2011 Issue

School News

The 2011-2012 school year missions will begin soon. We appreciate our participating school districts and look forward to providing quality programming for them again this year.

We also offer e-Missions for schools that are too far away from Paducah. Please contact the center at (270) 534-3101 if you know of any schools that may be interested in our program.

New Education Coordinator

The Challenger Learning Center is pleased to welcome Jennifer Collier as its new Education Coordinator. Jennifer joined our team as a part-time flight director six years ago and has facilitated almost every program we offer. We are very excited that she is now with us full time. Welcome, Jennifer!



Shuttle Retirement



The mission of the Challenger Learning Center at Paducah is to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering and math education by providing opportunities for all in our region to participate in quality real-life experiences, attain knowledge and become life-long

learners. As the space shuttle era comes to an end, we want to assure our customers and the community that the Challenger Learning Center will remain a vital resource for promoting science, technology, engineering and math education. In a nation that is continually falling behind in these areas, we more than ever need the programs that will create and sustain this interest in our students. Our programs and missions are based around the past, present and future of space travel, but yet they provide so much more. In addition to these STEM areas, our programs promote many other skills including teamwork, problem solving, decision making, reading and following directions and social interaction.

On August 16, 2011, the Challenger Learning Center at Paducah celebrated its ninth anniversary. Even though the space shuttle may no longer be flying, the flights and dreams of students at the Challenger Learning Center will continue for many years to come.

Club Challenger

Club Challenger is an after school club offered to students in 3rd-5th grades. The next session will start in September 2011 and meets once a month through December 2011. This session of Club Challenger will include exciting hands-on activities such as designing and building a spacecraft. The cost is \$45 per student for all four sessions. Go to www.clcpaducah.org for more information about dates, times and registration procedures.



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STARLAB

The STARLAB portable planetarium is an exciting way to study the night sky. The 45-minute program features stars and constellations seen from your area and the Greek mythological stories related to them. The program can be adapted for those in 2nd grade and up. STARLAB is great for school groups, scout groups, church groups or any group interested in seeing the stars. Visit www.clcpaducah.org or call (270) 534-3101 for more information on pricing and requirements.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The first space shuttle, Columbia, launched on April 12, 1981.
- The last space shuttle, Atlantis, launched on July 8, 2011.
- There were a total of five space shuttles utilized over the 30 year program: Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavour.
- Two space shuttles and crews were lost: Challenger in 1986 and Columbia in 2003.



Space Quest 2011

Summer camps for 2011 have come to an end, but the excitement generated for participants will linger for a long time. Over 440 campers ranging in age from kindergarten to eighth grade participated in camp programs. Many rockets were launched, robots built, stars studied, planets and moons visited, culprits caught (CSI Camp) and colonies



built during Space Quest 2011. Our newest camp, Underwater Astronaut Camp, even had Scuba diving in cooperation with Mermet Springs of Southern Illinois.

Lengths of camp range from a few hours to three days and offer a wide variety of interest areas. Consider sending your children, grandchildren, students, nieces, nephews or neighbors on a summer space quest they won't forget.

Starting in February 2012, check our website for information about Space Quest 2012!

Support Opportunities

The Challenger Learning Center is looking for individuals and businesses who are interested in helping promote the importance of science and math education in our region. Please contact Mellisa Duncan, Center Director, at (270) 534-3097 for more information on how you can support our future scientists and engineers.

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