

Call for Applications—High School Teacher Teams Invited to Fly Experiments Aboard NASA Reduced Gravity Aircraft at Johnson Space Center

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) is seeking high quality applications from teams of high school science, math, and technology teachers who desire to participate in a Reduced Gravity Flight Week program offered through a joint project between NASA Johnson Space Center's (JSC) Office of Education and Oklahoma State University's Teaching From Space (TFS) Program. Your high school is invited to apply for the opportunity. 14 teams of 4-5 educators teaching grades 9-12 (from a single school or a school district) will be competitively selected to travel to Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX to participate in the Reduced Gravity Flight Week July 29-August 7, 2010 and fly their own experiments aboard NASA's Reduced Gravity Aircraft. All participants must be US citizens without a prior related connection to NASA (such as through NES or NEAT).

NASA reduced gravity flight experiences offer educators the opportunity to successfully propose, design, and fabricate a reduced gravity investigation of their choice with their students; fly the experiment; conduct research in a microgravity environment; and evaluate the investigation. Educators then share their findings with their students (who are not permitted to fly) and emulate the nature of inquiry to the larger education arena via a community experience of learning and future flight participants. The opportunity offers educators the opportunity to participate in first class immersive inquiry learning experiences and to engage, educate, and inspire their students in the STEM disciplines using NASA unique content and resources. In-flight and post-flight video activities allow educators enhanced opportunities to share their experience with the students. NSTA will support the flight week and provide pre-flight and post-flight professional development as well as local and national press outreach related to the experience.

The flight 10-day Flight Week will include training, readiness preparation, and experiment/equipment evaluation prior to actual flight days. NASA will cover the cost of securing the plane for flight week while the educators secure and pay travel and experiment equipment expenses to participate in flight week. Each selected team will be paired with a NASA mentor who will fly with the team and provide pre-flight technical guidance relating to the experiment design.

Selected participants will begin their involvement in the project beginning in April 2010 by participating in a series of training web seminars and initiating work on creating their experiment with NASA. Post-flight participation activities occur through December 2010. **Applications for participation in Flight Week are due at NSTA by March 10, 2010.**

For more information or an application, contact Marie Wiggins, Senior Director, Science Education Competitions and Teacher Awards at NSTA at (703) 312-9241 or mwiggins@nsta.org.

Marie C. Wiggins
Senior Director, Science Education Competitions
& Teacher Awards
National Science Teachers Association
1840 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 312-9241
www.nsta.org

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards
www.ExploraVision.org

Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers
www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/

The DuPont Challenge© Science Essay Competition
www.thechallenge.dupont.com

Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge
www.wecanchange.com

Disney's Planet Challenge
www.disney.com/planetchallenge

Spirit of Innovation Awards
www.conradawards.org