

Org-Type	Non-Profit-based		
Lead	Federation of Galaxy Explorers	PoC	Derek Casari, Nick Eftimiades
PoC-Phone	(877) 761-1266	PoC-Email	dcasari@foge.org
Address	12609 Springloch Ct Silver Spring, MD 20904-3545		
URL	www.foge.org		
Service-Region	Nationwide		
Type	Lesson Plan		
Subjects	Earth Science Space Environmental Science Engineering Other		
Level	Middle School (5-8th grade)		
Other-Objectives	Secondary themes are taught while presenting the primary course of instruction and include the following: • Leadership skills (innovation, responsibility, inspiring people, communication) • Organizational skills (task organizing, goal setting, teamwork, leveraging technology)		
Served-per-Year	~3000	Demographics	
Content	<p>Welcome to the coolest idea since the 20th century! The Federation of Galaxy Explorers was incorporated in the state of Maryland as a 501(c)3 non profit organization. The organization seeks to inspire and educate kids in space related science and engineering. Galaxy Explorers was created to prepare children for the future; a future that advances a space faring civilization. Kids in Galaxy Explorers attend after-school (or evening) monthly "Mission Team" meetings and periodic field trips. Adult volunteers teach Galaxy Explorers with easy to understand and fun-to-do educational material to provide a hands-on understanding of space science, earth science, engineering, and rocketry. Another primary theme - Space Citizenship - teaches the role of government, the power of citizens in a democracy, the promise of space expressed in art, writing, history, and business. Mission Team members wear uniform shirts and are rewarded for participation and achievements with ribbons, patches, medals, and certificates. Awards are an integral part of the program providing children self-esteem through achievement and recognition. The Federation of Galaxy Explorers began in 2002 with pilot program in Rock Creek International School in Washington, DC, and Prince William County schools in Virginia. In summer 2002, Galaxy Explorers hosted a summer camp with Prince William County schools. In 2003, we hosted 500 kids in 5 summer camps and nearly 400 kids in after school programs. We continue to grow. Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate our kids - The Galaxy Explorers will prepare children for employment in the 21st century. Galvanize support for space - Over time, Galaxy Explorers kids will grow to create a long term citizen activist force in society; shaping the national space policy, and furthering the science and engineering required to create a space faring civilization. Economical - The concept of Galaxy Explorers is an extremely inexpensive means of educating the future generations by drawing on the volunteer spirit of America. The program provides a critical support infrastructure to motivate and educate children outside of the classroom. This infrastructure is particularly important given America's lack of classroom resources, science and math teachers, and modern day peer pressure 		
Outcomes	<p>1. Educate and inspire youth in science and engineering using the widely popular concept of space exploration as a theme. 2. Prepare children for employment in the 21st century. 3. Galvanize youth and create scientific literacy among the general population. 4. Create long term citizen activist force in society; shaping the nation's space policy and furthering the science and engineering required in society.</p>		
Started	2002	Funded-Through	
Length	Ongoing	Cost	
Primary-Funding	Industry Donations	Primary-\$	70% donations; 10% membership dues; 20% program service revenues
Materials	All materials and resources are provided free of charge: 1. Loans of materials such as replica space suits, meteorite collections, robotic kits, GPS units, portable planetarium, Space Shuttle simulator, Moon Base simulation software, and scientific equip		
Other-Funding	Product sales that include telescope kits and model rockets		
How-Assessed	Survey forms to instructors, parents, and participants.		
Best-Practice-Why	<p>Yes ----- Testimonials: As a principal struggling to meet the demands of No Child Left Behind and still make learning an engaging, interactive and fun filled endeavor, I highly recommend Galaxy Explorers to all administrators. Our children have lost track that they are complying to a curriculum and simply enjoy learning and exploring science. Galaxy combines the natural curiosity of children with the expected content needed to attain school success. The support is provided to get the program started but is primarily parent driven. This is a format I firmly support as it brings parents into the educational paradigm and fosters the belief that learning is a home school partnership. Dr Tish Howard, Principal, Washington Mill Elementary, Alexandria VA Using the exploration of space to entice kids toward careers in science and math is ingenious. Their curiosity about space brings them in; the fun they have building and learning and trying out new ideas--some of which work and some of which don't, keeps them coming back. Ms. Jean Wallace, Teacher, Rugate Montana Quote by 7th grader "I knew I liked to build things and I always knew I liked rockets, but I never liked science that much. Now I know that the career I want is to become an aerospace engineer." "Mr. Eftimiades My son, xxxx, possibly has Asperger's Syndrome. I don't know if you are familiar with it, but some refer to it as high-functioning Autism....I signed up as a volunteer primarily to watch my son – to make sure he wasn't disruptive, stayed in line and had fun. Well, to my amazement, he not only behaved and functioned normally, but he THRIVED. He was involved, he asked questions, he worked very well with this team, he had fun and my eyes are actually welling up with tears right now thinking back on how much fun he was having. It is truly that different of an experience for us and such as relief that there is actually something out there for him where he can be himself, be productive and be happy....." Tanya M. Baltimore, Maryland. Letter received following Moon Base One summer camp</p>		
Promising-Practice			
Sponsor	Sponsor-Org		
Sponsor-Phone	Sponsor-Email		
Other-Orgs	<p>* National Aeronautics and Space Administration * National Reconnaissance Office * Naval Research Labs * The Aerospace Corporation * Raytheon Corporation * The Boeing Company * The Mitre Corporation * The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers * American Astronautical Society * Analytical Graphics Inc. * Praxis Inc. * The Planetary Society * GarageGames</p>		