

Assembling Your Teams

In preparation to fly a mission at the Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky, students “apply” for available positions are assigned by their teacher to their roles. Challenger Center believes the classroom teacher is best suited to make the student assignment to teams which best match their abilities and interests. To ensure a positive learning experience for every student, please give careful consideration as you assign students to the teams.

To help you make those assignments, use the “Job Application” to determine the students’ personal preferences. Then use other information at your disposal, such as skill level or learning styles, to provide a good match of each student’s abilities with the position requirements.

The Team Descriptions outline the roles and responsibilities of each opposition to help teachers make student assignments. Challenger Center has characterized additional information about skill requirements and learning styles for each description to use as appropriate in making your student assignments.

In addition to providing an authentic setting which to apply skills learned in the classroom, every Challenger Learning Center also provides students with a dynamic, multi-sensory environment. Research shows that people use all of their senses to learn. That same research shows that while most people use a combination of particular sensory styles to process information, one dominant style usually dictates their preferred method of learning: kinesthetic, visual, tactile, and/or auditory. Kinesthetic learners learn best by hands-on physical involvement. Visual learners may prefer reading, taking notes, and making lists. Tactile learners may work best at their own pace in a comfortable secure environment, while auditory learners may prefer group discussions and listening to lectures.

Each mission requires the cooperative effort of eight teams. Teams will do a “crew swap” so that each team will experience Mission Control as well as the Spacecraft during the course of the mission.

Have Students:

1. Review the positions available for entire mission as a class.
2. Complete a Job Application:
3. Submit completed applications to their teacher for position assignments.

Team Descriptions

Rendezvous with a Comet, Voyage to Mars, Return to the Moon

Communications Team (COM): As a member of the Communications Team the students will be responsible for all verbal communication between Mission control and the Space Station.

Skills: Proficiency in reading and oral communications, ability to work in high stress situations, ability to prioritize.

Learning Style: Favor an auditory learning style.

Medical Team (MED): As a member of the Medical Team the students will monitor and analyze auditory and visual response time, respiration rate, skin temperature, and heart rate of Space Station personnel.

Skills: Data entry skills, a strong interest in biological sciences, math skills (simple averaging).

Learning Style: Favor a visual learning style.

Isolation Team (ISO): As a member of the Isolation Team the students will be responsible for conducting research and data analysis of radioactivity, meteoroids, and hazardous materials.

Skill: Strong eye hand coordination, use of measurement devices (balance), reasoning, patience.

Learning Style: Favor a kinesthetic learning style

Life Support Team (LS): As a member of the Life Support Team the student will perform water supply tests, analyze data from pH tests, and read solar panels.

Skills: Strong problem solving skills, interest in environmental and biological sciences

Learning Style: Favor a visual or kinesthetic learning style

Data Team (DATA): As a member of the Data Team the students will be responsible for data entry, synthesizing and summarizing data from the Research Program, and the video link between Mission Control and the Space Station.

Skills: Proficiency in reading and oral communications, ability to work in high stress situations

Learning Style: Favor a visual or auditory learning style.

Navigation Team (NAV): As a member of the Navigation Team the students will send and receive messages, calculate trajectories, and analyze and determine angles for launch coordinates.

Skills: Data entry skills, strong math skills, interest in astronomy

Learning Style: Favor a visual or auditory learning style

Probe Team (PROBE): As a member of the Probe Team the students will be responsible for assembly, deployment, and monitoring of a space probe.

Skills: Strong mechanical skills, proficiency in math and reading, analytical problem solving, deduction skills, self-motivation

Learning Style: Favor a kinesthetic learning style

Remote Team (REM): As a member of the Remote Team the students will operate the robotic arm and collect and analyze mass, volume and chromatography data.

Skills: Strong mechanical and observation skills, proficiency in reading

Learning Style: Favor a kinesthetic or visual learning style.

Job Application

Please review all of the available positions and list your top three choices.

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

3rd Choice _____

Personal Data

Name: _____ Date: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Relevant Skills and Experience

What makes you best qualified for this position?

What experiences and skills make you the best candidate for this position?

List membership in any organizations or civic clubs: (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, sports teams, etc.)

List any honors, awards, publications, or personal achievements. (Honor roll, School paper, etc.)

List any hobbies or interests that you enjoy when not in school: (Fishing, Star Gazing, Cooking, Computer/Video Games, Reading, etc.)
