

Could space launch these girls' future careers?

A life-changing journey to NASA promises to inspire the ultimate STEM career for 90 junior students from 14 schools in NSW when they journey to world renowned HASSE Junior Space School in the USA these school holidays as part of an Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia program in partnership with iVicon.

Dubbed 'youth astronaut training' the two-week hands-on program teaches amazing teamwork skills as the girls work together on simulated missions to repair the international space station or land an exploration rover on Mars, delve into marine biology, forensics and robotics and explore personal growth skills.

Miriam Berlage, Deputy Principal at Loreto Kirribilli said that inspirational, immersive STEM experiences like Space Camp helped to equip students for the rapidly changing workplace and other challenges of the future.

'The girls will experience first-hand how science, technology, engineering and maths can be applied in a creative and exciting professional setting, an ideal way to inspire them into STEM careers,' said Miriam.

'We hope an opportunity like this ignites a fire within these young women to go out and really make their mark in the world,' she said.

The trip will take place from 25 June – 9 July.

Some of the trip highlights:

- Tour the Johnson Space Centre – NASA's leading facility
- Mission training – limited gravity trainer
- Investigate the future of spaceflight
- Teamwork to solve simulated missions
 - o Landing a rover on Mars
 - o Construct and launch a rocket
- CSI style forensics course
- Marine Biology course
- Space suits, living in space and the shuttle program
- Meet a NASA astronaut

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

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'I'm thrilled to collaborate with the other girls!'

Year 8 Presbyterian Ladies College student Julia Cummins, who won the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia scholarship to attend space camp, said the prospect of exploring space has always been a dream of hers.

'After many nights at home stargazing through our family telescope, going to the HASSE Junior Space School is a dream come true,' said Julia.

'The idea that humans could, in the future, settle other planets and visit other galaxies has always fascinated me. The thought that one day I could be part of such an extraordinary thing was a huge motivation to apply for the scholarship.

'Right now I am part of the accelerated maths program and I'm passionate about science, enjoying both the theory and practical elements. The experiments never cease to blow me away.

'Whether my career is in medicine, engineering, maths, physics or chemistry, I want a job where I'm improving people's lives, I believe that science is the key to building a better world, and that going to Space Camp will be the first step in making my dream a reality,' she said.

NSW Schools taking part in the Junior Space Camp:

Bethlehem College
Danebank
Kambala
Loreto Kirribilli
Loreto Normanhurst
Marist Sisters' College
Meriden School
Monte Sant' Angelo
Presbyterian Ladies' College
Queenwood School
Ravenswood School
St Scholastica's College
Stella Maris
Tara Anglican School

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Space Camp is organised as a partnership between the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia and iVicon

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