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Science Notes - Space Science Student Involvement Program for Middle School/Junior High School Students

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Space Science Student Involvement Program for Middle School/Junior High School Students

The National Science Teachers Association, in conjunction with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is once again sponsoring Space Science Student Involvement Program (SSIP) competitions. SSIP provides students with an opportunity to design experiments which are relevant to aerospace science.

This year, students in grades six through eight are invited to enter in any of five categories. In the Space Station Proposal category, students (working individually or in teams of up to three people) propose experiments that could be accomplished on a space station. The experiments need not be constructed or performed by the students, but proposals are to be related to space science (i.e. use of space instruments and tools, human health, human resources). Certificates of participation will be awarded to all students and their advisers, and state winners and their advisers will receive certificates of recognition. National winners and their advisers will be awarded trophies and one outstanding national winner and his or her adviser will receive an expense-paid space experience trip. Entries in this category must be mailed by March 15, 1989, to the regional director at the address given below.

In the School Newspaper Promotion category, students (again, working either individually or in teams of up to three people) may enter two areas: the news/feature article section or the advertisement section. In the news/feature article section, students must write a news or feature article about some aspect of the SSIP program or space science and students. In the advertisement section, students must design and write an advertisement for the 1988-89 SSIP program. All participants and their advisers will receive certificates of participation and certificates of recognition will be awarded to students and their advisers whose entries receive honorable mention. One national winner will receive a cash award and his or her adviser will receive resource materials. All entries must be published in the participant's school newspaper by February 1, 1989. Entries must then be sent to the regional director (see address below) by March 15, 1989.

Students may also enter the Mars Settlement Illustration category. Also divided into two sections, this category offers students a chance to research and illustrate their concept of the first human settlement on Mars. In the General Illustration section, students must illustrate the overall settlement, which must be designed to support ten people and show life support and transportation. The Diagram/Schematic section calls on students to draw a diagram or schematic of

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the technical features of the settlement (which, again, must support ten people). All students will receive certificates of participation, and certificates of recognition will be awarded to those students (and their advisers) whose entries receive honorable mention. A cash award will be given to the student whose entry is named "Best in Show" and his or her adviser will receive resource materials. A national traveling exhibit will be mounted with all of the winning entries. Entries must be sent to the NSTA regional director (see address below) by March 15, 1989.

For more information, guidelines and entry forms, contact the National Science Teachers Association, 1742 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009. The regional director for Region V (Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) is Melody Hall, Five Forks Middle School, 3250 River Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30245.

--S.A.A.

Corporate Sponsored Scholarships for Minority Undergraduate Students in Physics

The American Physical Society (APS), in cooperation with several corporate sponsors, has made several \$2000 scholarships available to minority undergraduate students studying physics. Any Black, Hispanic or Native American United States citizen who plans to major in physics and who is a high school senior or college freshman or sophomore may apply for the scholarships.

The program was organized by the American Physical Society to increase the level of minority participants in the field of physics in the United States. The scholarships may be applied to a student's tuition, room or board and may be renewed with the approval of the APS Selection Committee, the student's school financial aids committee and the corporate sponsor.

Applications may be obtained from the APS Minorities Scholarship Program (Attention: Dr. Harry Lustig), The American Physical Society, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017-3483, ph. (212) 682-7341. Deadline for application is March 31, 1989.

--S.A.A.