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Science Notes - Space Science Student Involvement Program

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Space Science Student Involvement Program

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

A student may enter in five categories. For the Space Station Proposal category, students propose experiments that could be accomplished on a space station. The experiments need not be constructed or performed by the student, but proposals are to deal with concepts that have unique value and application to space. From each region up to five winners (in grades 10-12) and their advisers will be awarded expense-paid trips to a special Space Symposium held at a NASA research center. Up to seven national winners will then be selected to attend a national symposium. In addition, they will be eligible to compete for \$10,000 in scholarships. Winners in the 7-9 grade section will receive special Awards of Recognition and one winner and his or her adviser will receive an expense-paid space experience trip. Entries in this category must be mailed by March 15, 1988, to the regional director at the address given below.

In the Zero-Gravity Research Facility Proposal category, students in grades 10-12 are able to propose experiments that could be tested in the Zero-Gravity Research Facility at NASA's Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. One national winner and his or her adviser will receive awards for their school and a two week, expense-paid educational visit to a NASA research center. Entries in this field must be postmarked by March 15, 1988, and sent to the NSTA (see address below).

Students in grades 10-12 are also eligible to participate in the Wind-Tunnel Proposal category. Students must propose experiments that could be tested in the 30' x 60' wind tunnel at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. One winning student and his or her adviser will receive awards for their school and a two-week, expense-paid educational visit to a NASA research center. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 1988, and sent to the NSTA (see address below).

In the School Newspaper Promotion, students are asked to write an article about the 1987-88 NSTA/NASA SSIP. To be eligible, articles must be published in the school newspaper by February 1, 1988. One 10-12 grade student and his or her newspaper adviser will be awarded an expense-paid trip to a national Space Symposium. In the 7-9 grade category, one student will receive a cash award and his or her adviser will receive resource materials. Entries must be sent to the NSTA (see address below) and should be postmarked by March 15, 1988.

The Mars Colony Illustration will provide students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to research and illustrate their concept of the first colony on Mars. Entries must be submitted unframed on art board or canvas board and must be no larger than 16' x 20'. Any medium appropriate to two dimensional work is acceptable. The colony must accommodate ten people, illustrate life support and transportation, and be accompanied by an explanatory paragraph. Winning entries from grades 7-9 and 10-12 will be displayed nationally. A best of show will

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be chosen and the student will receive a cash award and his or her adviser will be awarded resource materials. Entries should be postmarked by March 15, 1988, and should be sent to the NSTA (see address below).

Entry rules sheets are available free of charge from the NSTA and include proposal elements, guidelines and an entry form for all of the 1988 SSIP competitions. A 1987-88 Entry Packet is also available and includes the Entry Rules Sheets, lists of past winners and local contacts, "How to Use SSIP in Your Classroom," "How to Use the Library for Research," an SSIP bibliography, where to find aerospace information, a sample proposal and the information sheets for the different categories (you must request each category specifically). The cost for the packet is \$2. To obtain either the Entry Rules Sheets or the Entry Packet, write to the National Science Teachers Association, 1742 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

The Regional Director for Region IV (of which Iowa is a part) is Melody Hall, Five Forks Middle School, 3250 River Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30245.

— S.A.A.

IAS Excellence in Science Teaching Award Nominations

The Iowa Academy of Science is currently accepting nominations for its Excellence in Science Teaching Awards. Each year, Iowa teachers are chosen to receive the award in six categories: biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, elementary science and junior high science.

The awards recognize excellence in science teaching and are open to all elementary and secondary teachers who have at least half-time science responsibility. Self nominations are not permitted. A nomination packet will be sent to each nominator. The nominator will be asked to provide additional information to aid the selection committee in its decision.

Letters of nomination must include the following: category; nominee's name, school and school address; nominator's name, school address, home and office telephone numbers. The deadline for nominations is January 4, 1988, and completed nominations remain active for two years. Letters of nomination may be sent to Roy D. Unruh, Director, ESTA, Iowa Academy of Science, P.O. Box 868, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

— S.A.A.