Scouts Can Earn Merit Badges at Stennis Space Center!

Merit Badge Programs

StennisSphere, the visitor center at NASA’s John C. Stennis Space Center (near Bay St. Louis, Miss.), offers ongoing programs in aviation and space exploration.

Boy Scouts can meet four of the eight requirements for their Space Exploration Badge by "boarding" the International Space Station exhibit and seeing how astronauts live and work in space. Girl Scouts can meet five of the nine requirements for their Aerospace Badge by attending the same program.

Other programs change throughout the year. Check with the tour reservations specialist to see which programs are available to meet your group’s badge requirements.

Reservations for Scout groups are required in order to guarantee seating and program scheduling. To make your reservations, scout leaders should call 1-800-237-1821, or access StennisSphere’s online reservations form at www.ssc.nasa.gov/public/visitors/tour.html

Scouting and NASA

NASA is proud of the contributions Scouts have made to America’s space program. **John Glenn**, the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth, was a Scout and so was **Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise**, who is from Biloxi, Miss.

Former Scout and shuttle astronaut **Richard Truly**, from Fayette, Miss., went on to lead NASA.

Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, was a Girl Scout.

Many NASA astronauts learned valuable lessons in scouting that helped them achieve their goals and serve their country.

Admission to StennisSphere is FREE. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed Sundays. Closed major holidays throughout the year. Tours depart from the Launch Pad tour stop at the Hancock County Welcome Center at Exit 2 on Interstate 10.

www.nasa.gov