

CHALLENGER'S UNIQUE SIMULATOR

A Challenger Space Center mission is more than a field trip or a computer game. Our mission simulations are learning environments based on practices used by NASA to prepare astronauts. It's as real as it gets without needing a spacesuit.

Students become astronauts and engineers at Challenger Space Center, solving real-world problems as they share the thrill of discovery on missions through the Solar System.



How A Mission Simulation at a Challenger Space Center Works:

- Prior to the visit, educators receive curriculum to prepare students in the classroom for the mission and help them understand the thematic topic of their mission and build their communication skills. Teacher training is required, provided the first Sat. of each month.
- Upon arrival at the Space Center, students are partnered up and assigned to one of ten team stations: **Communications, Data, Navigation, Probe, Medical, Remote, Life Support, Isolation, Space Weather (New!), and Media (New!).**
- One student on each team is assigned to Mission Control, while the other team member is transported to the Space Station. At mission midpoint, the partners exchange places so every student can experience both learning environments as a mission controller and as an astronaut.
- During the mission, students must accomplish specific tasks in order for the mission to be a success. Astronauts onboard the space station build space probes, monitor life support functions, conduct experiments on items taken from the surfaces of Mars, the Moon, or asteroid, and plot navigation courses for the spacecraft. Engineers at Mission Control support these endeavors by answering the astronauts' questions and providing necessary research. **Students understand the importance of teamwork, cooperation, creativity and communication while focused on subjects of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).**



- In the days and weeks following the mission, the students' mission experience continues. Educators have the option of using specific programs designed to help extend the Space Center mission.
- During a Challenger space mission simulation, students are inspired to think of careers they may not previously have considered based on the skills they use during the mission.

THE SIMULATOR IS AVAILABLE FOR CORPORATE TEAMBUILDING, SOCIAL GROUPS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO PURCHASE BOARDING PASSES FOR PRE-SCHEDULED WEEKEND PUBLIC MISSIONS.