National Aeronautics and Space Administration

July - September 2010

The Launch Pad

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

Sure, we love our astronauts, physicists, and rocket scientists. We encourage you to explore those options, if that's what you are interested in pursuing in the future. Did you know that NASA also provides employment for people with other interests? We do! In fact, at the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) we do things like: accounting, finance, human resources, procurement, information technology, communications, and graphic arts – just to name a few. To find out more about where you fit in at NASA visit: http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/studentopps/employment/programs.htm

SOMEONE WE THINK YOU SHOULD MEET

Dorothy M. Metcalf-Lindenburger
NASA Astronaut

Experience:

- Five years of teaching earth science and astronomy at Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington
- Selected by NASA as a Mission Specialist in May 2004
- February 2006 - completed Astronaut Candidate Training
- Mission specialist on the crew of STS-131 Discovery (April 5-20, 2010), a resupply mission to the International Space Station
- Has logged over 362 hours in space

www.nasa.gov

HEY GAMERS: WANNA GO TO THE MOON?

NASA's "Moonbase Alpha" is open for business – for video gamers who want to suit up and embark on a realistic lunar adventure. The free, online video game, which debuted July 6, casts one to six players as exploration team members – part of a bustling, futuristic lunar outpost crippled by a meteor strike. Players must work to restore critical power systems and oxygen flow, walking across the moon's surface and piloting a lunar rover to navigate the harsh environment and complete a series of tasks. At their disposal: an interactive command center, a fully stocked equipment shed and sophisticated, mobile robotic repair units. For more information about Moonbase Alpha, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/moonbasealpha/

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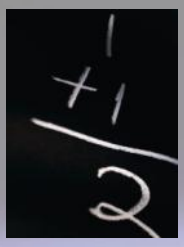
NASA's GREAT MOONBUGGY RACE

NASA's Great Moonbuggy Race is hosted each year by the U.S. Space & Rocket Center at Marshall Space Center. Marshall conducts education programs to inspire the next generation of explorers, including the Great Moonbuggy Race in which student teams design, build and race a human-powered moonbuggy. In the Student Launch Initiative, students design, build, and launch rockets complete with scientific payloads. These and other initiatives enable students from elementary school through college to apply their learning to science and engineering projects. For information: http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov/

Above: High school division first place winners from International Space Education Institute in Leipzig, Germany.

Above: College division third place winners from Rhode Island School of Design in Providence.



YOU DO THE MATH

The current NSSC operating budget is approximately $75 million per year. The average cost of one movie ticket is $7.50. A large container of popcorn costs $11.50, and a soda costs $2.00.

QUESTION:

If you were awarded the NSSC's operating budget, how many movies could you attend if every time you went to a movie:

- You treated your best friend to a movie
- Purchased one large popcorn
- Purchased two sodas

(Answer provided at the bottom of this page)

MAKING HOME A SAFER PLACE

One day, homeowners everywhere may be protected from deadly carbon monoxide fumes, thanks to a device invented at NASA's Langley Research Center. The device uses a new class of low-temperature oxidation catalysts to convert carbon monoxide to non-toxic carbon dioxide at room temperature and also removes formaldehyde from the air. The catalysts initially were developed for research involving carbon dioxide lasers.

For more information about the NSSC visit: www.nssc.nasa.gov

Answer:

2,459,016 movies

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