

Mission Specialist Information

Information for Moon Base Explorers Adult Chaperones / Volunteers



Thank you for volunteering to be a part of the Moon Base Explorers field trip at Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana. This handout is your guide to all you need to know before blast off.

So, the classroom teacher has assigned you to be a “Mission Specialist.” **What does that mean?** You are the team leader of a specific group of 5 to 6 young astronauts in your Moon Base! You will be guiding your group through their TASK CARDS, or science activities, during your program. Throughout the field trip, you will be using a tablet that has YOUR TEAM’S task cards in the form of a PDF on it. You scroll through the directions, following the instructions presented to you on the screen step-by-step.

Things to note about these task cards:

- It is unlikely that your team will complete all the activities. Astronauts always bring more experiments than they can finish in one day, and this is an on-going scientific mission!
- The goal is to enjoy each task and get all the students involved and working together as a team. If a task is not holding the group’s attention, or is frustrating, move on! If the students love a task (like building with LEGOS), let them work on that task more than once.
- We are **NOT ROTATING STATIONS** in the Apollo Room. Your team has a specific job, and while other jobs look fun, there is a lot they need to get done for NASA at their specific station.

All of this sounds great, but how does a Moon Base Explorers program even work?

For starters, half of the field trip (1 hour) is spent in our *Apollo Room*, while the other half of the field trip is spent in our *Planetarium*. Where you start or finish your program doesn’t really matter, as you will get to experience all the space and science fun!

A Flight Director (Challenger staff member) will be directing the program and working with you and your crew throughout the day. Flight Directors are always happy to answer any questions that you may have, or help with any challenges.

During the field trip, we ask that you refrain from the usage of cell phones for calls and text messaging. However, we understand the excitement and do not mind if you want to take photos occasionally. If you need to step out to take or make an important phone call, please let your Flight Director know.

The success of this unique field trip is heavily dependent on the involvement of the chaperones. We really want you to be engaged with your astronauts, and show them how fun science can be. Please take on your role of Mission Specialist with enthusiasm. Playing along in the fun truly makes a huge difference!

We greatly appreciate your coming along on this field trip and helping out. We hope you enjoy it!

Apollo Room ("Mission Specialist") Potential Tasks

Chaperone #1 Engineering Mission Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a satellite using a diagram and plastic PVC pipes • Design and test a LEGO Moon Base • Experiment with circuits and electricity • Construct and drive a robot
Chaperone #2 Geology Mission Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sort different rock samples using special tools • Determine what category rocks belong to • Measure weights of different samples using a balance scale • Experiment with metals and magnetism
Chaperone #3 Life Support Mission Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record temperature readings of our environment • Test the pH of liquids • Experiment with air pressure • Create new animals to live in extreme environments
Chaperone #4 Medical Mission Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine slides through a microscope • Complete astronaut exercises and coordination activities • Assemble a human skeleton example using x-ray images • Create an astronaut meal plan
Chaperone #5 Biology Mission Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect germ samples from around the room for analysis • Complete germ sanitization activity • Sort and categorize different germs and microbes • Use magnifying glasses to examine mini microbes
Chaperone #6 EVA Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist students in the Moon Room for an EVA (extra vehicular activity)

Planetarium Jobs

All Chaperones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise all students during educational film in a theater setting • Assist in facilitating hands-on activities as requested by Challenger Staff or classroom teacher (helping distribute materials, grouping or pairing up students as needed, guiding students through activities, etc.)
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