

MAC Launch XXIV

The Application

The purposes of this application: First, to ensure that the selection process to attend Space Camp, Space Academy, or Advanced Academy is done fairly. Second, to give each applicant the opportunity to express his/her reasons for wanting to attend Space Camp, Space Academy, or Advanced Academy.

This application and the 2 Teacher Recommendations are due Friday October 02, 2026

The student will need to complete **all five** of the following steps to apply:

1. Ask **two** teachers to complete the student evaluation forms (pages 6 and 7).
2. Complete the application form (page 3).
3. Complete a presentation entitled: "Why I Want to Go to Space Camp." (page 4)
You can write it, create a computer presentation or make a presentation using any medium of your choice.
4. Write an essay on **one** of these subjects:
 - a. It has been suggested that we should return to the moon. Explain why you think we should or should not return.
 - b. Why and how would you convince the government to continue funding the space program?
 - c. Describe a typical day living or working on a lunar outpost.
 - d. If you could talk to an astronaut, past or present, whom would you talk to and why?
 - e. If man had never gone into space, what would the Earth be like today?
5. Have your parent sign the parent agreement (page 5).

Send the application to:

**Reach for the Stars - Attention: Peter Dansky
P.O. Box 6878, Minneapolis, MN 55406**

If the presentation (see part 4 above) is an item that cannot be mailed, contact the RFTS Teacher at your school (or call 612.306.6114 if your school has no RFTS Teacher):

Seward: Ms Peggy Solensten and Mr. Tom Ward

All application materials must be received by Friday, October 2, 2026. The Teacher Recommendations must be sent by the teacher under separate cover. Each applicant will receive a letter by Saturday, October 17 informing him or her whether or not they have been accepted. Then our first monthly training session would be Saturday, October 24, 2026.

How the applications will be evaluated:

Since we expect that there will be more applicants than we can take, an independent committee appointed by the board of directors of Reach for the Stars has final decision-making authority to decide who is accepted.

1. Teacher recommendations are important. Special consideration is given to recommendations from teachers who have been trained and certified in the NASA curriculum, U.S. Space and Rocket Center education training or NCTM/NASA Mission Mathematics curriculum. These teachers have special knowledge or have attended Space Camp with groups of students before. They know which characteristics a student might have to make it more likely that the experience at the camp will be fulfilling for all concerned.

2. The 2 student essays will be a determining factor.

- The most important essay is “Why I want to go to Space Camp, (Space Academy, or Advanced Academy).”
- The second essay is chosen from NASA recommended topics. We’re interested in what you think about these topics, and why. No scientific aptitude or knowledge is necessary to attend the programs.

Paying for MAC Launch XXIV

Those who are accepted will be required to pay \$100 to cover the deposit on airfare and Space Camp.

The total cost of the trip is estimated at \$2,500 per student. Each family will be asked to pledge the minimum amount that they can afford to pay towards this cost. We will then add up the pledges and determine if there is any shortfall of funds. (There will be!)

The entire group (families, students, teachers and Reach For The Stars Inc.) will raise enough money to cover any shortfall. There will be a number of fundraising activities that everyone must participate in. These are team building activities. Every student accepted to MAC Launch XXIV will go to Space Camp regardless of his or her ability to pay.

Note: If we fail to raise the total amount, the trip will not take place. We all go or no one goes! Everyone will need to participate in fund raising!

Student Participation

MAC Launch is a fun educational expedition. Our goal is to increase student’s interest in science and math.

In order to prepare for the week at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Reach for the Stars will conduct workshops Wednesdays after school. **These training sessions will start October 24, 2026.**

We like to build things, such as hot air balloons, airplanes and model rockets at the workshops. We will also conduct briefings on the history and physics of flight and space travel. All building materials will be provided.

All students accepted to the MAC Launch program will be expected to attend these gatherings.

We will have monthly business meeting and expect that at least one parent or guardian be present.

The current calendar of events can always be accessed on our web site: **www.reachuplink.org**

MAC Launch XXIV Application Form

Name: Last _____ First _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone number: _____ Date of Birth: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____
Email _____ Classroom Teacher: _____
The two Teacher Recommendations have been requested from:
_____ & _____

Participants

Tell us about yourself and about events in your life that have had an impact on your school activities:

Do you like working and studying as part of a team? Provide an example of something you have done at school as part of a team:

List any school and/or community activities in which you have participated during the last year (for example, student groups, music, sports, community or school volunteer activities):

Reach For the Stars

MAC Launch XXIV

Why do you want to attend U.S. Space Camp, Space Academy, or Advanced Academy?

(You may write a one-page essay on this page or use some other way of answering, such as a display presentation, computer program or another medium of your choosing).

If you choose an alternative to writing on paper, provide a brief description of your presentation on this page and email it to peter@reachuplink.org and put your name in the subject line and state Application Page 4.

Applicant Parent Agreement

We are pleased that your child has expressed interest in our MAC Launch program. MAC Launch is our most engaging experience. 5 monthly weekend balloon, airplane and rocket building sessions culminate in a six-day program at the U. S. Space and Rocket Center (Space Camp) in Huntsville, Alabama. This year's trip is scheduled for May 09 - 14, 2027.

As many as fifty students will participate in MAC Launch this year. The program costs about \$2,500 per student. This expense includes materials for the after-school program, airfare, tuition for Space Camp and the expenses of the teacher/chaperones. Students will miss five days of school. The academic value of the after-school component enables us to maintain acceptance of the program by school administrators.

We raise funds for MAC Launch as a group. Families will be asked to contribute what they can afford. Then the entire group works together to raise the rest. We all go or nobody goes.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the commitment needed to meet program cost requirements, and to convey our expectations regarding your participation in the MAC Launch Program.

If you or your student are not comfortable making this commitment, please think it over before submitting an application for MAC Launch XXIV.

Call Peter Dansky (612) 306 6114 or email peter@reachuplink.org with any questions.

We are asking for the following commitments as part of your child's application to the MAC Launch Program:

- * Minimum deposit of \$100.
- * A pledge of what you believe you can pay toward the remaining cost.
- * A commitment to participate in the scheduled fundraisers.
- * Attendance at the monthly parent/student meetings.

Should your child be accepted to MAC Launch, there will be a **MANDATORY** meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. The location will be the Matthews Park Community Center, 2318 29th Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55406. At that meeting, RFTS will require the \$100 minimum deposit and your pledge. The pledge amount is confidential, only you and the Treasurer of Reach for the Stars will know the amount. We hope to see you then.

Please sign this form to confirm that applicant and parent understands this requirement.

Student Name _____

Parent(s) Name (Please print) _____

Parent(s) Signature _____

Parent(s) Email Address _____

MAC Launch XXIV APPLICATION

Teacher Recommendation

Must be received by Reach for the Stars by **Friday, 02 October, 2026**

To be completed by a teacher who has worked with student.

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

Please answer the following questions concerning this student's application for the Mac Launch XXIV Program of Reach for the Stars. The goal of this enrichment program is to provide students with a challenging, real, and extended space science experience offered through NASA Space Camp and Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. Students will be working closely with a core group of students from throughout the U.S. during the week of May 09 – May 14, 2027. Your input will help Reach for the Stars staff determine the appropriateness of this student for the Mac Launch Program. When you are finished completing this information please send it to:

Reach for the Stars.

Attn.: Peter Dansky

PO Box 6878, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

If you have questions concerning this application please call Peter at (612) 306 6114.

1. Describe your relationship with this student and how long you have known her/him.

2. Please circle how you would rate this student on the following (circle one).

1=Unsuitable 2=Poor 3=OK 4=Good 5=Excellent

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Ability to work with peers on a group project: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. Hard work & persistence at working through a problem: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. Maturity working in a variety of settings with a variety of people (being respectful, listening, being a good representative of the school and project): | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. Leadership ability and potential: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. Potential to benefit (personally or academically) from this program. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

3. Other information you would like to share with the Reach for the Stars staff:

4. My overall recommendation of this student for the Mac Launch program is:(CHECK ONE)

- ☐ Cannot recommend.
- ☐ Recommend with reservations. Please specify your concerns.
- ☐ Recommend as a good candidate for this program.
- ☐ Highly Recommend as an excellent candidate for this program.

Recommender's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please print or type your name: _____

May we contact you if we have further questions? ☐ Yes ☐ No Phone: _____

Thank you for completing this evaluation!

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Recommender's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please print or type your name: _____

May we contact you if we have further questions? ☐ Yes ☐ No - Phone: _____

Thank you for completing this evaluation!