



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
John F. Kennedy Space Center
Brevard, FL 32815

ANNOUNCEMENT

February 23, 2015

Dear United States Citizen,

We, the scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, have been known for our innovative, often crazy, ideas. From launching a person into space so they can orbit the Earth, walking on the Moon and building the first space station, we have always tried to think about ways to push the limits of thinking.

As you may have heard, we are no longer able to send people into space. That is right, we no longer have a space shuttle program! That means we cannot send people to the International Space Station, to the Moon, or even send someone up to fix the many satellites that you use to watch TV and make phone calls.

We have a brand new idea, but we NEED your help!!! We want to create, design and build a program that will take citizens, just like you, into deep space. That's right! Think about visiting such places as Mars, the rings on Saturn, or tiny Pluto. Like, we said, we need your help, though. We need you to help us create this program. We need your help for so many things: designing and building a space ship, choosing the route, even when the best time to leave Earth is. Finally, the most important thing we need is a way to get the message out to the public!

We hope you are able to help, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CF Bolden, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
NASA Administrator

Task: NASA is competing against private companies, such as *SpaceX*, to develop space journeys from the Earth to Mars and eventually returning to Earth. But, what if it doesn't stop there? Imagine a time when you could travel from the Earth to explore our largest planet, Jupiter, and its moons? Or, envision traveling to our second-closest star, *Alpha Centauri*? Your team of astronauts has been asked to design this new interplanetary cruise for NASA. The itinerary should include a visit to each of the following: *a star, a planet, a comet, a dwarf planet, a moon, and an asteroid*. Each stop should inform the traveler about the *celestial object's* unique characteristics, points of interest, and possible activities for the visitor to explore. Be sure to also include an explanation of travel times and pricing for your customer.

Requirements:

- 9 Destinations on Cruise → *Must include a stop at a Star, Planet, Dwarf Planet, Asteroid, Comet, and a Moon. Other options include Meteors and Black Holes.*
- *Activities for Customers at Each Destination → Activities are based on Characteristics of Object*
- *Itinerary of Cruise → A summary of destinations, activities, and amount of time spent at each location*
- *Pricing → How much might this cost?*

Rubric:

	NY	MS	ES
Collaborate - <i>Work effectively with others to achieve common goals.</i>		___ My partners and I worked together, and when problems came up, we worked them out together	My partners and I: ___ Worked together ___ Had established group member roles ___ Solved problems together ___ Supported and encouraged each other every day
Communicate - <i>Make ideas and information understood, mindful of audience, purpose, and setting.</i>		___ I have included 9 different destinations ___ I have created at least one safe activity based on the characteristics of the celestial object ___ I have blended scientific language with persuasive writing	MS Criteria AND ___ I have used higher level persuasive writing techniques in my project
Plan - <i>Make deliberate plans, reflect, and persevere in order to achieve goals.</i>		_ I have submitted evidence of planning and research for this project _ During work periods, I am on task most of the time, but I may need some teacher redirection. _ I have met ALL deadlines	_ I have submitted evidence of a tremendous amount of planning throughout the course of this project. _ During work periods, I am on task and I do not need redirection from my teacher _ I have met ALL my deadlines