

2026 ROCKET DRONES NATIONAL STUDENT DRONE COMPETITION

Schedule	Title	Description	Location	Alignment
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Check-In	- Student teams check in and receive badges - Teachers receive event passes - Competition maps and event overview distributed	Space Camp Operations Center	
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Opening Ceremony	- Welcome from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center - U.S. Space Force partnership recognition - Overview of the competition format - Leaderboard explanation and competition rules	Space Camp Operations Center SPOC Auditorium	
9:30 – 10:30 AM	New Pilot Flight Training	- Basic flight controls - Safe drone operation - Navigating gates and landing pads - Preparing for the competition challenges	Training Auditorium	DLCS18.HS.R1 Identify, demonstrate, and apply personal safe use of digital devices. DLCS18.HS.11 Model and demonstrate behaviors that are safe, legal, and ethical while living, learning, and working in an interconnected digital world. Drone Licensure and Fundamentals Foundational Standard 1. Incorporate safety procedures in handling, operating, and maintaining tools and machinery; handling materials; utilizing personal protective equipment; maintaining a safe work area; and handling hazardous materials and forces.
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Dynamic Landing Challenge	- Pilots demonstrate precision flying by landing on designated moving targets.	Astrotrek	DLCS18.HS.26 Use collaborative technologies to work with others including peers, experts, or community members to examine local, national, and global issues and problems from multiple viewpoints.
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Launching a Drone Program at Your School	- Flying drones safely in the classroom - Gamifying drone learning - Starting a drone club or team - Using the Rocket Drones portal, curriculum, and simulator	Training Auditorium	DLCS18.HS.26 Use collaborative technologies to work with others including peers, experts, or community members to examine local, national, and global issues and problems from multiple viewpoints. Drone Flight Operations Content Standard 21. 21. Complete five hours of flight time with a drone.
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Drone Basketball Shootout	- Pilots attempt to score baskets within the time limit.	Astrotrek	DLCS18.HS.26 Use collaborative technologies to work with others including peers, experts, or community members to examine local, national, and global issues and problems from multiple viewpoints. Drone Flight Operations Content Standard 21. 21. Complete five hours of flight time with a drone.
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Drone Delivery Challenge	- Pilots transport and deliver a payload to a designated drop zone.	Astrotrek	DLCS18.HS.26 Use collaborative technologies to work with others including peers, experts, or community members to examine local, national, and global issues and problems from multiple viewpoints. Drone Flight Operations Content Standard 21. 21. Complete five hours of flight time with a drone.
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Drones and the Careers They Lead To	- Career pathways in the drone industry - Commercial drone applications across industries - Skills students should develop for future drone jobs - Preparing students for careers in aviation, robotics, and autonomous systems	Training Auditorium	DLCS18.HS.22 Research the impact of computing technology on possible career pathways. Drone Licensure and Fundamentals Foundational Standard 3. 3. Explore the range of careers available in the field and investigate their educational requirements and demonstrate job-seeking skills including resume-writing and interviewing.
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Drone Racing Events	Line-of-Sight Drone Racing - Pilots race through the course while maintaining direct visual contact with the drone. FPV Drone Racing - Pilots race using first-person-view goggles, navigating the course from the drone's perspective. Fastest times are recorded on the leaderboard.	Astrotrek	DLCS18.HS.26 Use collaborative technologies to work with others including peers, experts, or community members to examine local, national, and global issues and problems from multiple viewpoints. Drone Flight Operations Content Standard 21. 21. Complete five hours of flight time with a drone.
2:00 – 2:30 PM	Tie Breaker Rounds	Tie Breaker Rounds	Astrotrek	DLCS18.HS.26 Use collaborative technologies to work with others including peers, experts, or community members to examine local, national, and global issues and problems from multiple viewpoints. Drone Flight Operations Content Standard 21. 21. Complete five hours of flight time with a drone.
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Competition Wrap-Up	- Final leaderboard review - Judges verify results - Pilots and teams gather for awards ceremony	Astrotrek	DLCS18.HS.26 Use collaborative technologies to work with others including peers, experts, or community members to examine local, national, and global issues and problems from multiple viewpoints. Drone Flight Operations Content Standard 21. 21. Complete five hours of flight time with a drone.
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Drone Career Insight Panel & Awards Ceremony	- Panelists will discuss how drones are used in their industries and the career pathways available to students interested in drone technology. - Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place competition categories will be awarded	Space Camp Operations Center SPOC Auditorium	DLCS18.HS.22 Research the impact of computing technology on possible career pathways. Drone Licensure and Fundamentals Foundational Standard 3. 3. Explore the range of careers available in the field and investigate their educational requirements and demonstrate job-seeking skills including resume-writing and interviewing.

SPACE CAMP MAP



TOP 10 ARTIFACTS

Be Sure to See All Top 10 Artifacts!

TOP 10 EXPERIENCES

Be Sure to See All Top 10 Experiences!

1. **Apollo Saturn V Moon Rocket:** See the National Historic Landmark designed in Huntsville, AL.
2. **Rocket Park:** Rocket Park showcases developmental milestones in space exploration and Redstone Arsenal's contribution to national defense technology. It is also home to the Space Exploration Wall of Honor.
3. **Skylab Training Module and largest surviving fragment:** The training module was used to train astronauts for America's first space station, and the oxygen tank fragment fell to earth and landed in Australia.
4. **Apollo 12 Lunar Rock Sample:** This piece of basalt was collected by Apollo astronaut Alan Bean in 1969.
5. **Apollo 16 Command Module:** The capsule was used to launch and return John Young, Charlie Duke and Tom Mattingly in 1972.

6. **Pathfinder Shuttle Stack:** This is the only flight configuration shuttle stack in the world. Pathfinder served as a ground test article.
7. **A-12 Oxcart:** This aircraft traveled from New York to London in an hour but is considered an antique by today's military standards.
8. **Saturn 1:** This Saturn I Block II rocket is a vibration test article from the development phase of the Saturn program. It features eight aerodynamic fins to stabilize flight and a powered upper stage for orbital insertion.
9. **Boeing CH-47D Chinook:** The Chinook is a transport and medevac helicopter used by the Army for more than 40 years.
10. **Shuttle Training Aircraft:** This modified Gulfstream II was used by space shuttle pilots to learn how to land the orbiter.

1. **INTUITIVE® Planetarium** – Visit our state-of-the-art 8k digital planetarium for an immersive entertainment experience.
2. **STEM on Stage** – These live daily STEM performances incorporate our artifacts and exhibits as we illustrate science concepts.*
3. **Hypership** – This HD motion-based simulator is a multi-sensory experience that combines a movie-like audiovisual presentation with the motion of the ride compartment.
4. **VR Explorer** – Take a trip to the Moon with the crew of Apollo 11 or zip around the cosmos on this Virtual Reality motion-based simulator.
5. **Multi-Axis Trainer** – Experience a spacecraft tumble as you ride strapped and suspended in three tumbling rings.

6. **AC Flight Sims** – Learn to fly an F-18 Super Hornet as you sit in a cockpit and grace the skies in this simulated flight.
7. **SparkLab** – A hands-on invention workspace where families and friends can learn about and engage in the history and process of invention.*
8. **MaxFlight** – Experience the thrill of MaxFlight's cutting-edge virtual roller coaster! This full-motion simulator offers 360-degree pitch, roll, and spin technology, immersing you in an unforgettable adventure!
9. **G-Force** – This centrifuge spins approximately 45 mph and will exert approximately 3 Gs of force on your body*
10. **Moon Shot** – Experience 3 Gs of lift-off and simulated microgravity*

*Included with General Admission
Please see guest services for pricing, availability and restrictions.