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**FLIGHT TEST MUSEUM
FOUNDATION (FTMF)**

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Flight Test Museum Foundation (FTMF) is hosting a free summer STEM program at the Blackbird Park in Palmdale. This amazing camp runs till July 20th.

Palmdale, CA, June 28, 2023 — The Flight Test Museum's **Junior Test Pilot School (JTPS)** is a one-of-a-kind summer STEM program held at Blackbird Airpark in Palmdale.

The children go on morning "missions" at Blackbird Airpark and the City of Palmdale's Joe Davies Heritage Park where they learn about the different aircraft like the A-12, SR-71, U-2, F-86 Sabre, C-46, F-16, A-5, and the NASA 747. Focusing on the principles of aerospace engineering, flight mechanics, and flight test training, including stealth technologies, airplane design, jet engines, and MACH speed systems, the Junior Test Pilots engage in numerous learning activities with an emphasis on hands-on simulation experience and career readiness.

The goal of the program is to inspire and motivate elementary-aged children in all learning by sparking an interest and understanding of how STEM subjects work in action and to provide an understanding of the vast variety of career options in aerospace in their own community. The program is free and publicly accessible through the museum and the school districts, serving 150-400 students every summer. Director of Education, Lisa Sheldon Brown: "Our Junior Test Pilots learn to analyze the aircraft to figure out why they were designed the way they are and think like an engineer."

The program was developed by the Flight Test Historical Foundation and funded with generous support from our sponsors in the local aerospace community Lockheed Martin Company and Northrop Grumman. The City of Palmdale has partnered with the Foundation and provides daily access to Joe Davies' Airpark to enhance the learning experience of our Junior Test Pilots.

Director of Education, Lisa Sheldon Brown: "We could not run this program without our sponsors, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. They not only fund our program staff, but they also help solicit our volunteer speakers. The career focus is important for our students to understand the variety of opportunities in the aerospace industry that are right in their backyard."

Each day, students participate in lessons, group activities, and experiential projects that cover the basic principles of STEM subjects in flight test through learning modules about the aircraft and experiments conducted in aerospace, and offer an exploration of STEM subjects in action in engineering and flight test, including the use of flight simulators. The daily lessons cover: **Flight** (principles of flight, inner workings of airplanes), **Stealth** (engineering, stealth in nature), **Altitude** (effects of altitude and atmosphere on humans and flight), **Speed** (G-force, MACH speed, effect of altitude on speed), **Payload** (effects of weight on flight), **Maneuverability** (engineering for maneuverability, definitions of flight test), **Reconnaissance** (design and use), and **Jet Engines** (types of engines, their uses and systems).

All lessons correspond to learning objectives in the National Generation Science Standard and Common Core. Lessons and explorations culminate in a “mission” conducted by the Junior Test Pilots, which reinforces their learning by applying it to practical action. Successfully completing a mission earns the Junior Test Pilots a mission accomplished sticker in the particular lesson of the day. Classes are led by professional educators with support from interns.

Activities are designed not just as a foundation for aerospace learning, but to motivate students overall toward increased achievement and self-efficacy in STEM subjects through a social constructivist learning environment. By working collaboratively with exploration and curiosity as the guiding principles, students connect learning to imagination and future goals, practice teamwork and leadership skills, and are encouraged to voice questions and ideas while working through problems. This is especially important for elementary to the early middle school grades; research proves that this age group is the best demographic to motivate interest in learning, career exploration, and building a positive academic trajectory.

The Antelope Valley is home to one of the largest density concentrations of STEM related workers in the nation. Yet, there are not many programs geared toward career readiness. There is ample evidence to show that students begin school as naturally curious and excited about learning, however, by 4th grade, if children (especially girls) have not been exposed to career awareness, career-minded thinking, and STEM careers in particular, the mindset, motivation, and confidence needed to pursue higher-level learning wanes and disappears. Academic trajectory is set by the time they are in the 5th grade.

To fully explore career paths in aerospace, guest speakers from local aerospace companies volunteer their time to visit with the children and discuss their jobs in skilled operations, production, or engineering. Many visitors are top women in their fields.

This amazing program runs through July 20th and is Monday to Thursday from 9:00 until noon.

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FTMF IS NOW OFFERING THE MEDIA AN “ALL ACCESS” INVITATION TO CHECK OUT THE TOP MILITARY AIRCRAFT UP CLOSE AND INTERVIEW THE TEST PILOTS THAT FLY THEM. THIS VIP ACCESS WILL BE GRANTED ON A LIMITED “FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE” BASIS!

FTMF Background:

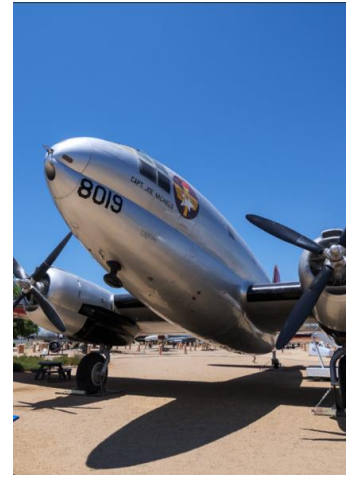
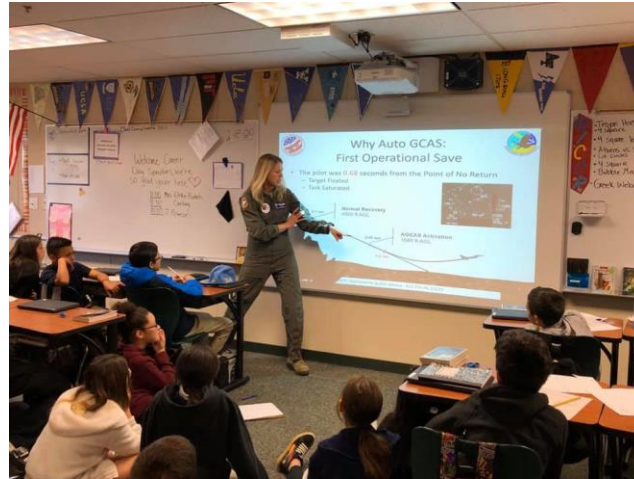
The main goal is to protect and preserve these historical and extremely rare aircraft inside the new structure and away from the damaging outside elements. The hall will house one of the most unique collections of research aircraft in the world and provide a place for the world to see it.

Our mission is to preserve, display, and educate **the public** about the more than 75 years of flight tests, aerospace and technological developments in the Aerospace Valley. Our Educational Programs provide online and in person activities, lessons, and classes on the principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in flight test and aerospace research to expand knowledge, inspire, and motivate future generations using examples of the advancements in aerospace in our collection.

Innovation and exploration are alive and well in the Aerospace Valley. In the past, the pilots and engineers broke the shackles of traditional thinking that held them back from chasing their wild ambition to fly faster, longer, and further than anyone ever had.

Today, Blue Origin rocket testing is conducted, the Space Force is testing systems, and NASA is developing a commercial supersonic aircraft with the Skunkworks. History is being made every day in the Aerospace Valley, and the museum is the place for the world to learn about it.

Supporting Photos: Previous Summer Programs



For more information about the Flight Test Museum Foundation, please visit www.FlightTestMuseum.org or contact Lisa Brown directly at: Lbrown@FlightTestMuseum.org or call 323.630.4789.