



Wyoming Department of Education **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:

July 25, 2013

Contact:

Tom Lacock

(307) 777-5399

tom.lacock@wyo.gov

edu.wyoming.gov

NASA Exploration Design Challenge seeks Wyoming participants

CHEYENNE - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is seeking Wyoming entries for its Exploration Design Challenge.

In March, NASA announced a partnership with Lockheed Martin, inviting students in grades K-12 to learn more about radiation. Students will use age-appropriate activities to investigate space radiation and its effects on humans and hardware traveling to deep space destinations.

Children in grades K-4 participating in the program will complete NASA education activities related to radiation. Upon completion of the activities, a teacher or another adult may submit the students' names to be flown on the Orion space vehicle's test flight in 2014 as an honorary virtual crew member.

Students in grades 5-8 interested in the program may participate in a similar educational experience, but may also design and develop a radiation shield prototype. Instructions, guidebooks and related content are available on the Exploration Design Challenge Website (below).

High School students may take part in the development of a radiation shield prototype that meets an established criteria and constraints. Teams will submit their designs and the top five designs will be tested in a virtual radiation simulator. The winning team will travel to Florida for Orion's launch and have its design flown aboard the spacecraft.

“This allows them to do some things that have tangible results and should they be selected, they would have their stuff go up as a virtual crew member as they are doing this. That is pretty

exciting,” said Dr. Jim Verley, science educational consultant at the Wyoming Department of Education.

All students that participate in either phase of the challenge can join participants from around the world to celebrate the flight test by having their names flown on board as honorary crew members. The deadline to register students for the virtual crew is **March 14, 2014**.

For more information, instructions, and contest details, consult NASA’s Exploration Design Challenge Website at: <http://www.nasa.gov/education/edc> or contact Verley at 307-777-5506 or jim.verley@wyo.gov.