

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Speechwriting, White House Office of:  
Research Office, 1981-1989  
**Folder Title:** [Undated] Summit-Background (2)  
**Box:** 357

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

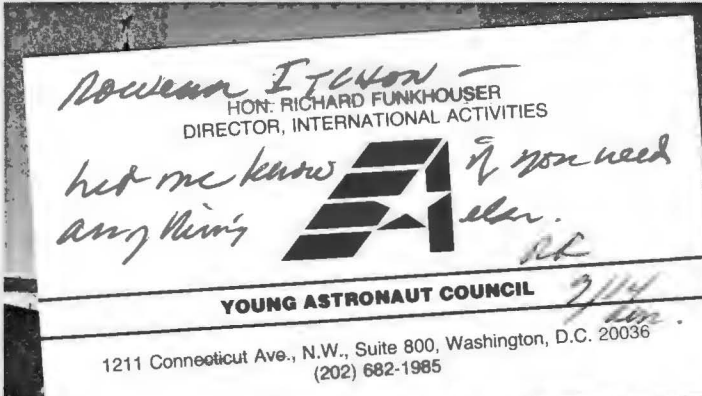
Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>



## Young Astronaut Delegation Fulfills Mission of Peace and Friendship



**YOUNG ASTRONAUTS IN SYMBOLIC CEREMONY**—The Young Astronaut delegation had the honor of laying a wreath at Lenin's Tomb while visiting the Soviet Union.



**SPACE LESSON**—Young Astronaut Council official Kerry Joels gave the Young Astronaut delegation a quick space lesson before they departed for the Soviet Union. What better place to learn than the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.  
photo by Katherine Lambert

Part One of the historic Young Astronaut Youth Exchange with the Soviet Union is over and it was by all reports "a resounding success." The ten Young Astronauts, two Chapter Leaders, two officials from the Young Astronaut Council, a real-life astronaut and space artist are back and each had a glowing tale to tell of the adventure.

The Soviets treated the delegation warmly and with great respect. Soviet officials permitted them access to people at the highest levels of Soviet society and gave them a chance to see sights that few Westerners had seen before.

In December, a delegation of Young Cosmonauts will visit the United States and the first round of the Youth Exchange between the two countries will be complete.

The Young Astronauts selected for the Exchange came from all over the country and were chosen as part of a nationwide competition. Yet they had one significant thing in common, according to T. Wendell Butler, Executive Director of the Young Astronaut Council. He said, "They were all great ambassadors for the United States." Butler and Linda Long, his assistant, accompanied the young people on the trip. In addition, Chapter Leaders Judy White from Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Wayne Peterson of Grand Forks, North Dakota, Apollo 9 Astronaut Rusty Schweickart and space artist Pamela Lee, were part of the Young Astronaut delegation to the Soviet Union. Pamela painted a special picture as a gift to the Soviets.

Before embarking on their

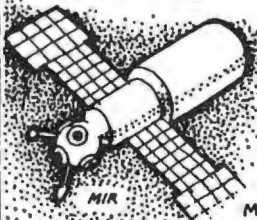


**FIRST CLASS SEND-OFF**—The Young Astronaut delegation was invited to the White House for a parting message from President Reagan, the founder of the Young Astronaut Program. Shown above with the President are Mandy Heidemann of Florissant, Missouri, Rica Buxbaum of New York City, New York, Scott Clark of Tucson, Arizona, Chris Lapp of Monahans, Texas, Tad Dockstader of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa (behind the President), Antonio Smith of Memphis, Tennessee, Todd Johnston of Neshanic, New Jersey, Juan Calzada of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Heidi Riffle of Dayton, Ohio and Amy Grubb of Clairton, Pennsylvania. The President said he was proud to have them represent the United States in the Soviet Union.  
photo by Vicki Warren

# ASTRO-THOUGHTS™

## FROM YOUNG ASTRONAUTS™

TOUR OF THE SOVIET UNION  
PART 3  
STAR CITY



MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG ASTRONAUT DELEGATION WERE TREATED AS VERY SPECIAL GUESTS DURING THEIR STAY IN THE SOVIET UNION. THEY SAW PLACES THAT FEW FOREIGN VISITORS EVER SEE.

ONE OF THE FIRST STOPS ON THIS FASCINATING TOUR WAS STAR CITY—THE TRAINING CENTER FOR COSMONAUTS—IN A SUBURB OF MOSCOW. THERE THE GROUP SAW TRAINING SIMULATORS, HUGE WATER TANKS FOR SIMULATING WEIGHTLESSNESS, AND A CENTRIFUGE FOR SPINNING COSMONAUTS TO GET THEM IN CONDITION FOR SPACEFLIGHT.

THEY SAW A MOCK-UP OF THE SOVIET SPACE STATION, MIR, AND THEY WERE ABLE TO WATCH MIR ORBITING THE EARTH AS THE SOVIETS TRACKED IT FROM NEW YORK TO AUSTRALIA. THEY WERE ALSO SHOWN THE NEW PHOBOS SPACE PROBE.

TM and © 1988 The Young Astronaut Council. All Rights Reserved.

YURI GAGARIN



IN THE SOVIET UNION, COSMONAUTS ARE NATIONAL HEROES. MOST BELOVED BY ALL IS YURI GAGARIN (1928-1968)—THE WORLD'S FIRST MAN IN SPACE. AT STAR CITY, THE YOUNG ASTRONAUTS LAID A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF GAGARIN.

THE AMERICANS WERE INTRODUCED TO VLADIMIR SOLOVYOV, ONE OF THE TWO COSMONAUTS WHO HOLD THE CURRENT RECORD FOR THE LONGEST STAY IN SPACE—287 DAYS ON THE SPACE STATION SALYUT 7.

TO LEARN HOW TO START A YOUNG ASTRONAUT™ CHAPTER IN YOUR SCHOOL, ASK YOUR TEACHER TO WRITE TO:  
THE YOUNG ASTRONAUT COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 65482  
DEPT. E  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

50

mission, the group assembled in Washington, D.C. The delegation was given briefings by officials of the Young Astronaut Council and a crash course in the Russian language! Amy Grubb, of Clairton, Pennsylvania, one of the Young Astronauts chosen for the trip, had a head start on the others — she began

columnist Jack Anderson, the founder of the Program and by the President. Reagan told the students, "Each of you is going to the Soviet Union as a special ambassador . . . just by being a Young Astronaut, we know you already have a keen mind."

Fletcher gave each member of the delegation a



**GIFT OF GOODWILL**—The Young Astronaut delegation gave a painting by space artist Pamela Lee (shown above) to the Soviets as a gesture of friendship. The Soviets have decided to hang the picture in the Air and Space Museum at Star City which is visited by four million people each year. Star City is similar to Johnson Space Center in the United States.

Russian classes as soon as she learned she was going to the Soviet Union. The group also visited the Air and Space Museum and got a quick lesson in space history.

The highlight of the time spent in Washington was a trip to the White House at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan, the initiator of the Program. The group assembled in the Roosevelt Room and was addressed by James Fletcher, the head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; by Astronaut Bob Crippen; by

special NASA pin and said his grandson is a Young Astronaut.

Then it was off to Moscow. Upon arrival, the group was met by schoolchildren carrying armloads of flowers. Members of the delegation were also given gifts of books, vases, record albums, paintings and lapel pins. Warm welcomes occurred at every stop on the trip leading everyone to comment on the friendly nature of the Soviet people.

Three of the Soviet schoolchildren at the Moscow Airport would leave a lasting

mark in the hearts of the Young Astronauts. Yuri, Sascha and Tanya became fast friends with the American Young Astronauts. Tanya even wrote two songs for the group. All three skipped school the day the Young Astronauts left just so they could say good-bye. For Juan Calzada from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, the friendliness of the three Russian schoolchildren meant more to him than any of the sights he saw in the Soviet Union.

Tad Dockstader of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and Heidi Riffle of Dayton, Ohio, thought Artek was the highlight of the trip. Artek is a camp for the Young Pioneers, an umbrella organization for hundreds of Soviet youth groups, including Young Cosmonauts. At Artek, students selected to visit can go horseback riding, sailing or participate in gymnastic events. The American young people touring Artek didn't have time to enjoy all the

activities offered, but they did participate in a flag raising ceremony, a visit to a museum and got to dance. Communication was no problem, surprisingly, because most of the Soviet young people spoke English. The Young Astronauts had little time to talk at the dance though, for all 600 of the Russians attending wanted a chance to dance with an American!

Tbilisi, a Russian city in the southern republic of Georgia, was another favorite with many of the Young Astronauts. The weather was warm, the people were very friendly and the accommodations more modern than in other parts of the Soviet Union. Young Astronauts Chris Lapp of Monahans, Texas and Antonio Smith of Memphis, Tennessee, said the nice hotel rooms made Tbilisi a hit.

Everywhere they went, the Young Astronaut delegation was impressed with the knowledge of the Russian



**SPACE IS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE**—That is what the Young Astronauts touring the Soviet Union learned when they visited a museum at Kaluga in the Soviet Union.



people about their own space program. Scott Clark of Tucson, Arizona, said, "Russian kids know more about their own space program than American children know about theirs." Not only do they know about it, but the exploration of space is highly revered in the Soviet Union. The statue of Yuri Gagarin, the Soviet cosmonaut who was the first man in space, was breathtaking and is visited by cosmonauts before they go on a mission and again when they return. The Commander of Star City asked the Young Astronauts to

to treat real Soviet cosmonauts when they land.

Butler said that he was surprised at the "lack of technical sophistication" of some of the Soviet spacecraft and their apparent lack of emphasis on making life comfortable for their cosmonauts on board the spacecraft. He said, "The inside of the American Space Shuttle is plush compared to Salyut 7 and Mir." He also mentioned that he saw few computers in stores or schools in the Soviet Union and noted the wonder of the Soviets at the workings of



**WHEW**—Young Astronauts get a chance to do some space training at the Young Pioneer camp at Artek.

lay a wreath at Gagarin's tomb.

Judy White commented, "The Soviet pride in their space program and the way they honor their cosmonauts is evident in a visit to Star City." Star City is similar to the Johnson Space Center and the delegation was given a first-rate tour. They were able to view a mock-up of two Soviet space stations, Mir, currently orbiting the Earth, and Salyut 7 which returned to Earth last year. Later, they were permitted to watch the Soviets track Mir at their Mission Control. While they were watching, the space station went from New York City to Australia — all in 45 minutes.

The delegation also got a chance to see how Russian cosmonauts train and how tough being a real space traveler can be. The first Young Astronaut volunteer on a simulator got sick and had to be taken care of at the inflatable hospital that is used

Astronet, the Young Astronaut electronic mail system. Plans are now being developed at the Council to make some form of Astronet available to the Young Cosmonauts. Butler said, "This is a real opportunity to share our computer successes with the Soviets and we could make some real breakthroughs." He added that a similar program is being developed with the Canadians and Japanese and that Astronet could be used to bring the children of the world closer together.

But what the Soviets may be lacking in technology, they aren't lacking in hospitality. The American delegation was given royal treatment wherever they went. Numerous members of the delegation commented on the fact that while hundreds of Soviets waited in line to see Lenin's tomb on a cold, blustery Sunday morning, the American delegation was ushered to the front of the line



**REMINDER OF A PREVIOUS AMERICAN VISITOR**—The Young Astronauts visiting a museum at Artek, the camp for Young Soviet Pioneers, stopped to view an exhibit and saw a memorial to a previous American visitor, Samantha Smith. On the wall is a tribute to her which says, "Artek will not forget Samantha Smith."

Wayne Peterson had another story about Soviet hospitality, "When a regularly scheduled city bus in Leningrad didn't arrive, our Russian hosts commandeered another city bus and had the driver take us to our hotel."

The delegation also got a quick lesson in the pitfalls of socialism as they saw Soviets waiting in line after line for foodstuffs and other consumer goods. The Americans also learned why. A baker can't just open his own bakery; the state must designate the need for such a bakery. Still, there were good points to the system — the delegation reported they saw no street people, little poverty, and little or no crime or drug use.

The entire trip was a real educational experience for all the members of the American delegation and when they left, they donated their left-over rubles (Russian money) to a fund to help the victims of

Chernobyl. For that gesture, the Russians gave them a certificate of appreciation.

The delegation gave Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev an engraved telescope and the Soviets were especially pleased with the gift of books written by the Council's own Kerry Joels. One book was on how to operate the Space Shuttle and the other on the planet Mars.

But the Soviets gave the Americans something far more valuable than any material good. As Judy White so aptly concluded, "On November 1, the American delegation returned from the Soviet Union with their hearts and minds brimming with happy memories of new friendships, understandings and experiences." Young Astronauts and Young Cosmonauts alike will benefit if experiences like these can be repeated every year.



**UP AND AWAY**—Soviet Young Cosmonauts like to launch rockets, too, and give a demonstration to the Young Astronaut delegation at Artek. Their technology is slightly different and the Young Astronauts were surprised to see them using matches to send the rockets skyward.



# Dayton's young astronaut returns

By Tim Gaffney  
STAFF WRITER

8651

Young people in the Soviet Union are eager to see joint U.S.-Soviet efforts to explore space, a Dayton teen-ager said after her return from a three-week tour of Russian schools and space centers.

Heidi Riffle, 14, a Colonel White High School student, took part in a Young Astronaut International Exchange Program that selected 10 members from around the country to visit the Soviet Union. The Young Astronaut program is a private, non-profit organization that uses space flight to encourage young people to learn more about math and science.

Heidi met her Russian counterparts in Soviet schools

and toured the Kremlin, the Star City astronaut training center and the Soviet mission control center for manned space flight.

Soviet space officials recounted the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz rendezvous — the only time American and Soviet astronauts have met in space — but they avoided speculating about the possibility of future cooperation in space, she said. "They talked mostly about the past. They don't say much about the future."

Young people she met were much less reserved. "The children want to have joint missions," said Heidi, who plans to be an engineer and eventually expects to work on space projects with Soviet and Japanese scientists.

Tuesday morning, she said she was still tired from her trip back to Dayton the day before. She noted that morn-

ing here is evening there, and she said her stomach was still trying to readjust to American food.

Soviet youngsters must wear uniforms in school, she learned, but she said she thought American and Russian young people are pretty much alike. "We talked about what kinds of pets they have and what kinds of things they're interested in. . . . They're all interested in space."

She hopes the Young Astronaut organization will give her another chance to meet with Soviet space enthusiasts. The Soviet Union plans to send 10 of its students to America this year.

"It's still in the works, but we 10 might get to go to Washington or (the NASA center in) Huntsville when they come," she said.



Heidi Riffle

STAR

SAN JUAN, PR  
DAILY 38,250

WEDNESDAY  
NOV 5 1986

***BURRELLE'S***

## **Back from the U.S.S.R.**



Fortaleza photo

**Gov. Hernández Colón greets Juan Carlos Calzada, 14, shortly after the student's return from a two-week visit to Russia. Calzada, a freshman at Antilles High School, won the trip to the Soviet Union in a contest sponsored by the Young Astronauts Club in which he competed against hundreds of other youths.**

DAILY ADVOCATE

GREENVILLE, OH  
DAILY 9,270

TUESDAY

NOV 4 1988

**BURRELLE'S**

## Ohio astronaut returns

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — A three-week trip to the Soviet Union as the only Ohioan among a delegation of students hoping to become astronauts has convinced Heidi Riffle that both countries can cooperate in space.

"We're both heading in the same direction. I wouldn't say they're ahead of us, but I wouldn't say they're behind us, either," Miss Riffle, 14, said on her return Monday. "We're both headed toward Mars."

While the Soviets have a space station, we have a flying space shuttle, despite the Challenger explosion, she said. The Soviets are developing their shuttle and we are developing a space station.

The 10th grader at Colonel White High School said she was suffering from jet lag as she met reporters at Dayton International Airport. The excursion, which began Oct. 14, also included stops in Washington, D.C., and

Frankfurt, West Germany.

She had so many lapel pins in English and Russian that Miss Riffle said she couldn't remember what most of them were from.

The 10 other U.S. students who were part of the Young Astronaut International Exchange Program got to visit the Soviet Mission Control in Moscow and work some of the computer gear, she said. They also visited schools, many museums and a student rest camp in the Soviet state of Georgia.

"When we talked to the children, we both had the same ideas. We both want peace and friendship," Miss Riffle said.

"If you went anywhere, you would expect to hear about Lenin and Yuri Gagarin" the first cosmonaut to circle the Earth on April 12, 1961, she said.

The Young Astronaut Council, a private, non-profit educational program, hopes to bring a group of Soviet students here early next year.



# Young astronaut returns home

NEWS-JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, OH  
DAILY 7,500

TUESDAY  
NOV 4 1986

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — A three-week trip to the Soviet Union as the only Ohioan among a delegation of students hoping to become astronauts has convinced Heidi Riffle that both countries can cooperate in space.

"We're both heading in the same direction. I wouldn't say they're ahead of us, but I wouldn't say they're behind us, either," Miss Riffle, 14, said on her return Monday. "We're both headed toward Mars."

While the Soviets have a space station, we have a flying space shuttle, despite the Challenger explosion, she said. The Soviets are developing their shuttle and we are developing a space station.

The 10th grader at Colonel White High School said she was suffering from jet lag as she met reporters at Dayton International Airport. The excursion, which began Oct. 14, also included stops in Washington, D.C., and Frankfurt, West Germany.

She had so many lapel pins in English and Russian that Miss Riffle said she couldn't remember what most of them were from.

The 10 other U.S. students who were part of the Young Astronaut International Exchange Program got to visit the Soviet Mission Control in Moscow and work some of the computer gear, she said. They also visited schools, many museums and a student rest camp in the Soviet state of Georgia.

"When we talked to the children, we both had the same ideas. We both want peace and friendship," Miss Riffle said.

One thing she learned that was different from the United States' space program is that Mission Control keeps firm control of Soviet space flights, leaving less discretion to the cosmonauts, she said.

Miss Riffle said she was a little disappointed the tour included so many museums and not a visit to the Soviet launch complex. The Soviets talk little about the future, but revere the past, she said.

"If you went anywhere, you would expect to hear about Lenin and Yuri Gagarin" the first cosmonaut to circle the Earth on April 12, 1961, she said.

The Young Astronaut Council, a private, non-profit educational program, hopes to bring a group of

PEOPLE'S DAILY WORLD

NEW YORK, NY  
DAILY 50,000

TUESDAY  
NOV 4 1986

***BURRELLE'S***

432

## **U.S. young astronauts visit USSR**

A delegation of young astronauts from the U.S. has been deeply impressed by what they have seen of the Soviet space program, said Judy White, the group's leader in Tbilisi, capital of Soviet Georgia, last week. White teaches mathematics in Kentucky and hopes some day to teach classes in outer space.

The delegation includes 10 U.S. students, who are interested in space and would like to become astronauts. Amy Grabb, 14, from Pittsburgh, said she is very much pleased with the trip. She met Soviet students her own age and learned they have much in common, she said. The U.S. students earlier visited Moscow, Leningrad and the Crimea, visited space centers and observatories and met with Soviet cosmonauts and space experts.

HERALD

CIRCLEVILLE, OH  
DAILY 9,410

TUESDAY  
NOV 4 1986

BURELLES

84

# Ohioan returns from U.S.S.R.

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — A three-week trip to the Soviet Union as the only Ohioan among a delegation of students hoping to become astronauts has convinced Heidi Riffle that both countries can cooperate in space.

"We're both heading in the same direction. I wouldn't say they're ahead of us, but I wouldn't say they're behind us, either," Miss Riffle, 14, said on her return Monday. "We're both headed toward Mars."

While the Soviets have a space station, we have a flying space shuttle, despite the Challenger explosion, she said. The Soviets are developing their shuttle and we are developing a space station.

The 10th grader at Colonel White High School said she was suffering

from jet lag as she met reporters at Dayton International Airport. The excursion, which began Oct. 14, also included stops in Washington, D.C., and Frankfurt, West Germany.

She had so many lapel pins in English and Russian that Miss Riffle said she couldn't remember what most of them were from.

The 10 other U.S. students who were part of the Young Astronaut International Exchange Program got to visit the Soviet Mission Control in Moscow and work some of the computer gear, she said. They also visited schools, many museums and a student rest camp in the Soviet state of Georgia.

"When we talked to the children, we both had the same ideas. We both want

peace and friendship," Miss Riffle said.

One thing she learned that was different from the United States' space program is that Mission Control keeps firm control of Soviet space flights, leaving less discretion to the cosmonauts, she said.

Miss Riffle said she was a little disappointed the tour included so many museums and not a visit to the Soviet launch complex. The Soviets talk little about the future, but revere the past, she said.

"If you went anywhere, you would expect to hear about Lenin and Yuri Gagarin" the first cosmonaut to circle the Earth on April 12, 1961, she said.

The Young Astronaut Council, a private, non-profit educational program, hopes to bring a group of Soviet students here early next year.



CHIEF-UNION

UPPER SANDUSKY, OH  
DAILY 4,760

TUESDAY

NOV 4 1980

**BURSELLE'S**

## Ohio's young astronaut returns home

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — A three-week trip to the Soviet Union as the only Ohioan among a delegation of students hoping to become astronauts has convinced Heidi Riffle that both countries can cooperate in space.

"We're both heading in the same direction. I wouldn't say they're ahead of us, but I wouldn't say they're behind us, either," Riffle, 14, said on her return Monday. "We're both headed toward Mars."

While the Soviets have a space station, we have a flying space shuttle, despite the Challenger explosion, she said. The Soviets are developing their shuttle and we are developing a space station.

The 10th grader at Colonel White High School said she was suffering from jet lag as she met reporters at Dayton International Airport. The excursion, which began Oct. 14, also included stops in Washington, D.C., and Frankfurt, West Germany.

She had so many lapel pins in English and Russian that Riffle said she couldn't remember what most of them were from.

The 10 other U.S. students who were part of the Young Astronaut

International Exchange Program got to visit the Soviet Mission Control in Moscow and work some of the computer gear, she said. They also visited schools, many museums and a student rest camp in the Soviet state of Georgia.

"When we talked to the children, we both had the same ideas. We both want peace and friendship," Riffle said.

One thing she learned that was different from the United States' space program is that Mission Control keeps firm control of Soviet space flights, leaving less discretion to the cosmonauts, she said.

Riffle said she was a little disappointed the tour included so many museums and not a visit to the Soviet launch complex.

# Young Astronaut In Orbit After Soviet Trip

Deborah Peterson  
the Post-Dispatch Staff

8051

With a white fox hat atop her blonde curls, it was obvious that all-American Mandy Heidemann had brought back a bit of Russia from her two-week trip to the Soviet Union.

She sat Monday at her dining room table in Florissant a few hours after returning from Washington, where she had been entertained by government officials for 10 days after her trip. Mandy said it fur hats for herself and her family were just a part of what she'd brought back.

She said she had also brought back images of a people, a country and desires that are similar to our own.

One image that remains particularly strong in her mind is that of "Star City," a Soviet space facility where cosmonauts live and are trained for future space missions. "It was really spectacular," Mandy said.

Mandy, 13, is commander of the Young Astronauts chapter at Hazelwood Central Junior High School. She was one of 10 young astronauts chosen around the country who were chosen from among 2,000 applicants for the three-week trip to Washington and the Soviet Union.

The trip was the result of an agreement made between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev during their summit meeting last year in Geneva, Switzerland. Next month, a delegation of Soviet youngsters who are to be cosmonauts is scheduled to visit the United States.

Mandy said the group she had traveled with had enjoyed top level security clearance and had access to computers at the Soviet's "Mission Control," — the guiding post for Soviet spaceships and for track-Soviet space stations.

We found readouts of organic matter and food levels on the Russian space station 'Peace', she

said with a smile. "We were flaking out. We thought it was pretty neat that we could get all this information."

Scientific findings aside, Mandy said, "All the kids talk about is that they want peace. They really are just like us," she said.

Other than some trouble with the paper products — namely toilet paper that Mandy said "could stand up on its own" — and food that kids on the trip dubbed "mystery meat" and "solid rocket boosters," she said the Soviet Union seemed not that foreign.

"Leningrad is really Westernized and areas of the Georgian Republic — why they could probably be a suburb of any of our major cities," Mandy said.

Twenty private companies paid for the trip. Mandy said members of the group had walked around in silver satin jackets with the Adidas sportswear logo on the back and the Young Astronaut Council badge on the front.

Mandy, an eighth-grader, is a budding scientist who wants to go into space medicine. She is in the school's gifted program and plays the flute in her school band.

She was selected on the basis of an essay on how she could better understand the people of the Soviet Union if she were chosen to make the trip.

The trip has created a flurry of attention for Mandy, including an appearance last week on the "Today" show and dozens of other interviews. But she appeared to be taking it all in stride.

She said that some of the best times on the trip had little to do with education, and a lot to do with fun.

With blue eyes sparkling, Mandy recalled, "We square-danced at the American Embassy in Moscow, and we taught 600 Russian kids on the Black Sea how to do the Pee Wee Herman."



LT. Spence/Post-Dispatch  
Mandy Heidemann, 13, at Lambert Field Monday after returning from two weeks in the Soviet Union.

# Earthly views on outer limits

B805

Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH TWP. — Thirteen-year-old Todd Johnston, back from his tour of the Soviet Union as one of America's 10 "young astronauts," said yesterday he was hopeful that space exploration can be a common ground leading to greater understanding between the superpowers.

Johnston, an eighth-grader at Hillsborough Middle School in this Somerset County community, returned Saturday as one of 10 youths from across the United States who had been selected for an exchange program with the Soviet Union.

The Young Astronauts program was developed two years ago to encourage the study of math and science. It uses the space program as an inspiration.

The group left for Russia on Oct. 17, and visited Star City, a community about 30 miles north of Moscow where that nation's cosmonauts live and train.

Asked to compare the Soviet and U.S. space programs, Johnston said, "They tend to worry more about the psychological aspects of their cosmonauts. It could be because they have to spend very long hours in space."

He said he had met one cosmonaut who had just returned from a 235-day mission, most of it spent in a space station. The longest an American has been in space was 84 days, during a 1973-74 Skylab mission.

Johnston said he felt space could be explored jointly.

**'Basically, children can talk to each other, relate to each other on a non-political basis. Children can dream.'**

—Todd Johnston, Hillsborough eighth-grader

us," he said. "There's always something new to do. We should have a joint trip, probably to Mars."

As for himself, said Johnston, "I always liked space. I wanted to be an astronaut, but as I learned more, I thought of being other things, like an aerospace engineer. If I had to bet now, I'd say I'll be up in space."

The group also traveled to Moscow, Leningrad and the Crimea.

Johnston said he was surprised by what seemed to be the near-poverty level in many areas.

"It wasn't as much people begging on the streets as the conditions the housing, which is often rundown," he said. "Either you're involved in the (Communist) party or you're poor and a worker."

But the youngster said he thought the people interesting.

"One thing that struck me is that despite communism, each province has retained its culture," he said. "I was astonished they were allowed to."

And the children were friendly.

"I was disappointed I had to leave," said Johnston. "The Russian kids were great. There weren't any bad things said to us. They had only good things to say, ideas they wanted to tell us. It made me feel bad to have to leave them."

Johnston, who does not speak Russian, noted that most of the students he met spoke English and began learning the language early.

He said he thinks foreign languages should be taught earlier and more extensively in the United States.

The youngster said his experience taught him that children are the best ambassadors.

"Basically, children can talk to each other, relate to each other on a non-political basis," Johnston said. "Children can dream."

"Most children are alike," he said. "When you become an adult, in most cases, you've feel you've learned all you have to learn."

Of nuclear arms reduction talks, Johnston said, "each country now wants to give a little and take a lot. We have to find some midway point."

"Hopefully, I think I won't have my children living under the threat of

The tension remains in many forms. Johnston saw firsthand the result of the most recent rift in Soviet-American relations — cuts made by each country in the other's diplomatic staffs.

When his group arrived in Leningrad at the American consulate, "there were only four people working in the whole office," he said. "It kind of scares you when you're in a communist country and something bad happens."



NOV 03 1986  
*BURRELLES*

# 9th grader sees Russia as Young Astronaut

By Barbara Vancheri  
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

**A**side from the custom of eating cow's tongue (taste buds attached) for breakfast, the Soviets were surprisingly like Americans in many respects, ninth-grader Amy Grubb discovered in a two-week trip to Russia.

It was her vision of space travel into the 21st century that earned the 14-year-old girl from Elizabeth one of 10 Young Astronaut slots on a delegation bound for the Soviet Union. In a qualifying essay, she wrote about the prospect of space colonies and a mission to Mars that would be the product of American and Soviet know-how.

"I still think a joint trip to Mars would be possible. Some things we have are better than theirs, some things they have are better than ours," Amy said yesterday from Washington, D.C., while coping with the scientific phenomenon of jet lag.

Amy and her fellow travelers, ho returned to the United States on Saturday, had been chosen for the trip from an estimated 300,000 students by the Young Astronaut Council. The council is a private, non-profit program designed to increase the interest of students ages 6 to 16 in math, science and related subjects.

Their tour was part of an exchange worked out between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last November in Geneva. Ten young cosmonauts will visit this country in December.

Before departing the students



Associated Press

*Amy Grubb, arriving in Washington, D.C., with teddy bear appropriately clad in cosmonaut gear.*

met with Reagan days after he returned from the Iceland summit. In addition to asking them to serve as young ambassadors for their nation, he announced, "We can't be held back because of Soviet demands" that the United States slow development of a missile defense system.

Amy said that Reykjavik was never broached in her meetings with Soviet students, cosmonauts and others. Instead, she found that the Soviets — upon receiving photos of the Challenger crew killed in January — shared their grief over the loss, and matched the Americans' desire for friendship and an avoidance of war.

"The people are really nice, and they try to help you in any way they can. The country is absolutely beautiful," she said, although she missed the small luxuries of home. She has a new appreciation for toilet tissue that's soft enough to squeeze and chewing gum available from vending machines with the clink of a few coins.

The stops on the tour included Moscow and its space hub called Star City, Leningrad, Simferopol, and Tbilisi. Among Amy's observations: The homes of many Soviets are

young people cultivate an early, intense interest in politics; and students' commitment to learning extends to extra classes after regular school hours.

One problem that did not confront Amy and other delegation members was a language barrier, since most of the people they encountered spoke English. And, no, the experience hasn't changed Amy's plans to be a veterinarian. "I figure the first things that went into space were animals, and we're trying to build space stations and colonies, and people will want to take their animals."

John Knox Hall, the principal of Elizabeth Forward Junior High which Amy attends, plans to meet with her to discuss how she can share her experiences with the school. She has 10 rolls of film that will help jog her memory and plans to correspond with a 15-year-old from Moscow named Tanya who writes songs about peace and friendship.

Amy, the daughter of Donald Grubb, started her trip with an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America" and will end with a spot on "Pittsburgh 2Day" tomorrow. She will return to Pittsburgh

JOURNAL NEWS

HAMILTON, OH  
DAILY & SUNDAY 28,655

TUESDAY  
NOV 4 1966  
BURRELLE'S

# Young astronaut urges cooperation

DAYTON (AP) — A three-week trip to the Soviet Union as the only Ohioan among a delegation of students hoping to become astronauts has convinced Heidi Riffle that both countries can cooperate in space.

"We're both heading in the same direction. I wouldn't say they're ahead of us, but I wouldn't say they're behind us, either," Miss Riffle, 14, said on her return Monday. "We're both headed toward Mars."

While the Soviets have a space station, the United States has a flying space shuttle, despite the Challenger explosion, she said. The Soviets are developing their shuttle and we are developing a space station.

The 10th grader at Colonel White High School said she was suffering from jet lag as she met reporters at Dayton International Airport. The excursion, which began Oct. 14, also included stops in Washington, D.C., and Frankfurt, West Germany.

She had so many lapel pins in English and Russian that Miss

Riffle said she couldn't remember what most of them were from.

The 10 other U.S. students who were part of the Young Astronaut International Exchange Program got to visit the Soviet Mission Control in Moscow and work some of the computer gear, she said. They also visited schools, many museums and a student rest camp in the Soviet state of Georgia.

"When we talked to the children, we both had the same ideas. We both want peace and friendship," Miss Riffle said.

One thing she learned that was different from the United States' space program is that Mission Control keeps firm control of Soviet space flights, leaving less discretion to the cosmonauts, she said.

Miss Riffle said she was a little disappointed the tour included so many museums and not a visit to the Soviet launch complex. The Soviets talk little about the future, but revere the past, she said.

# Soviet trip gives girl, 14, new views

By Lee Bowman

The Pittsburgh Press

Back from a two-week tour of the Soviet Union, Young Astronaut Amy Grubb said she was surprised to find that Soviet space facilities were less advanced than she expected.

"I was surprised by the fact that things looked the same as in the U.S. The buildings looked the same, for instance, yet there was something just a little different about them. They weren't quite as advanced as ours."

The 14-year-old Elizabeth Township girl and nine other American teenagers returned to the nation's capital last night after touring Leningrad, the Crimea, Soviet launching pads, and Star City outside Moscow, the U.S.S.R. counterpart of the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Her itinerary included a meeting with President Reagan and an appearance on ABC's Good Morning America with two of her colleagues. They're to be back on the show tomorrow for an encore report on their trip.

Miss Grubb said the tour modified her career goal.

A ninth-grader at Elizabeth Forward High School, she would like to become a veterinarian. She explains that when humans establish permanent bases in space, they'll take animals with them.

"You need someone to take care of them," she said in interview before her trip.

She says now that she would also like to study psychology. "In particular I'd like to study kids in space, how they react to being in space. I think that would be fascinating. In fact, I wouldn't mind being the first kid in space myself."

Miss Grubb, arriving at National Airport, carried with her a teddy bear wearing a space suit, a purchase she made while attending a space camp in California earlier this year. The mascot accompanied her throughout the Soviet trip.

She said her favorite stop on the journey was the Sea of Tbilisi in Soviet Georgia. "We met a lot of children our own age there. Everyone was really nice. Even the adults," she said.



Ross A. Catanza/The Pittsburgh Press

## Amy Grubb toured Soviet launch sites

years ago to increase interest and skills in mathematics, science and other technology-related subjects among students aged 6 to 16.

Corporate sponsors and manufacturers of Young Astronaut-licensed products provide most of the funding for the educational program, which is active in thousands of schools across the country.

An exchange of visits between American Young Astronauts and Soviet Young Cosmonauts was agreed to by the respective governments in June, the first tangible result of an agreement reached by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Geneva Summit last year.

The exchanges had been in doubt until the end of September due to the detention of American correspondent Nicholas Daniloff, but the resolution of that dispute cleared the

Butler, executive director of the Young Astronaut Council.

Before leaving Washington Oct. 16, the American youths met briefly with President Reagan.

Ten Soviet youths will make a reciprocal trip beginning Dec. 2.

Butler said the tours are intended to promote "education, peace and understanding between the children of both nations."

Miss Grubb was selected from among 300,000 Young Astronauts aged 13 to 15 (Commander level with the Young Astronauts and the same age group as the young Cosmonauts) through an essay contest and interviews.

(Lee Bowman is Pittsburgh Press Washington correspondent).

THE PITTSBURGH PRESS  
PITTSBURGH, PA

D 251 210 0111 005707

Inside: Fall Dining  
Also: Sports has moved to page 1

# THE CHRONICLE

A Sentinel Publication

37th YEAR, NUMBER 43

OCTOBER 22, 1986

SILVER SPRING EDITION

## PINEY BRANCH VISITS WHITE HOUSE

# Young Astronauts: Local students help Reagan launch U.S.-Soviet exchange



Piney Branch Elementary School teacher Susan Miller stands outside the White House with fifth-grade students Liam Davitt, David Etila, Dawn Rickard and Jeanette Tinney and sixth-grade students Diallo Bey, Kofi Frempong, Jackie Hernandez, Charley Leary, Dorothy Santos and Kira Sternburg.

Staff photo by Alec Harris

By ALEC HARRIS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

■ Give 10 Montgomery County fifth- and sixth-grade students the once-in-a-lifetime chance to see President Ronald Reagan in the White House, and how do you think they'd respond?

Probably not with. "I thought it was going to be more exciting," as one student said.

Or, "It was more than a little boring," as fifth-grader Jeanette Tinney put it. "I didn't expect him to speak about Star Wars."

Added another student: "Kids really aren't that interested (in Star Wars)."

But any one of the kids — all students in the Young Astronauts program at Piney Branch Elementary School in Takoma Park — will tell you it was an experience they will not forget.

"He was so real," one student said. "He looks so one-dimensional on T.V."

See STUDENTS, page 9

Silver Spring, MD  
THE CHRONICLE  
October 22, 1986  
Cont'd



# Students visit Reagan, White House

From page 1

The students were invited to the White House to help kick off a major student exchange program last week between the United States and the Soviet Union.

A select group of 10 Young Astronauts from across the country will be the guests of the Soviet Union for two weeks. Later this year, 10 Young Cosmonauts will come to the United States.

The exchange, the first ever between secondary school students, was planned during the superpower summit held in Europe one year ago.

The farewell ceremony, highlighted by a speech from Reagan, was still being planned the day before.

Last Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., White House officials telephoned Piney Branch and invited 10 students and one teacher to the farewell. (Piney Branch was selected because the school has one of the oldest young astronaut programs in the area.) The delegation from the school was due at the White House in less than 24 hours.

The teachers at Piney Branch had to act fast.

They whittled a group of some 200 students down to the permissible 10. Then they had to decide which teacher could go.

Susan Miller, who has been

teaching science to Piney Branch students in the Gifted and Talented Program for three years, was selected. That night, she phoned the families of the lucky 10 students.

Many of the students went to the social security office to get their first-ever official identification the next morning. They were told I.D.'s were necessary to get White House clearance.

The students gathered at school later that morning and at 11 a.m. headed for the White House on the Metro.

It turned out that the students did not need the social security numbers — their birth dates sufficed. After supplying their names to a security guard, they filed past the secret service agents and into the White House.

The Roosevelt Room — just down the hall from the Oval Office — was small. Five rows of chairs and a roped-off section bristled with a forest of cameras and tripods.

Young Astronauts creator and syndicated columnist Jack Anderson made a brief introductory speech. Then he uttered the famous words: "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States."

Reagan walked into the room and immediately began reading a prepared script.

The students were expecting Reagan to speak about the Young Astronauts program. He did, equating the students head-

ing for the Soviet Union with Neil Armstrong.

The exchange program was an important first step for the country, Reagan said, as was Armstrong's first step on the moon.

But the bulk of his 15-minute speech focused on Star Wars. Just days after Reagan returned from the pre-summit in Iceland, the country's Strategic Defense Initiative was in the forefront of more minds than the Young Astronauts program.

The event ended as abruptly as it started, and after being presented with a space shuttle pin, the group was quickly escorted outside.

Although many students said they were disappointed Reagan equated Star Wars with the Young Astronauts, they were quick to air their views on the nuclear threat.

"I just hope I live to the year 2000 and all these missiles don't go off accidentally," said fifth-grade student Liam Davitt. "It's quite possible because we are only human. We make mistakes."

"That nuclear stuff — we don't need it," he added.

Liam said the country would be far better off if it spent the money for nuclear weapons on research in suspended animation.

The students praised the Young Astronauts curriculum — a project that embraces all subjects, not just math and science. Last year, for example, the school's social studies teachers organized a mock summit on space policy.

They also designed a space suit and, in another project, sought ways to repair a space suit leak.

Despite the emphasis on technology and space, the students said they do not feel pressured into being astronauts.

One student wanted to be a doctor who treats astronauts. Another hoped to be a space shuttle pilot, but just as long as he didn't have to spacewalk.

But sixth-grade student Kofi Frempong said she does not have the stomach for it.

"I'd probably get sick a lot,"





FRIDAY  
OCT 17 1986  
**BURRELLE'S**

273

# Reagan meets with Young Astronauts

## President tells junior high students Soviet price for agreement too high

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan told a group of junior high school students bound for the Soviet Union that the arms control agreement he passed up in Iceland would have been "a deal that we couldn't afford."

Administration officials said they hope to work out agreements to reduce superpower nuclear weapons, but said the Soviet Union has not said in two preliminary bargaining sessions whether a dispute over the Star Wars program will stand in the way.

"We hope to clarify this point in our discussions in Geneva," Pete Martinez, a State Department spokesman, said Thursday.

Reagan met at the White House with five boys and five girls in grades 7 to 9, who were selected on the basis of applications and interviews to take part in the Young Astronauts Program. They are leaving to tour the Soviet Union through Oct. 28, visiting schools and other sites and meeting with cosmonauts.

The trip is part of a U.S.-Soviet exchange agreed upon by Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at their summit meeting last November

in Geneva.

Addressing the Young Astronauts participants and others in a group of about 50 students and teachers, Reagan said the Reykavik summit last weekend "was a crossroads, not between having and not having an agreement, but rather between believing that nothing can change and believing in a future that offers hope that our world will some day be free of the awesome fear of nuclear attack."

"Mr. Gorbachev and I were able to come closer to finding the magic formula which would permit us to reduce the number of weapons in our nuclear arsenals, even eliminate them entirely," the president said.

But Reagan told the students he balked at terms that would have killed his proposed Strategic Defense Initiative, the so-called "Star Wars" space-based missile defense system, because "it might have been Columbus Day, but I wasn't about to give away the store for a deal that we couldn't afford."

"I couldn't give up your future," he told the young people.

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, speaking to reporters immediately after his return from the Geneva talks,

said the current Soviet position linking an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe to agreement on confinement of Star Wars research to the laboratory represents an abandoning of Gorbachev's commitment not to do that.

Stevens, a member of a bipartisan group of senators who are closely following the arms talks, said that Gorbachev last February had backed off an earlier rigid position and "clearly said the Soviets will not tie an agreement on (medium-range missiles) to the Strategic Defense Initiative in any way."

But he said Gorbachev's position in Iceland "clearly breaks that agreement." Stevens said U.S. negotiators have to find out "what happened to that

agreement" and determine if it can be reinstated.

He said that chief U.S. negotiator Max Kampelman and other U.S. bargainers are somewhat optimistic that progress still can be made but that in meetings so far, both sides are merely repeating the positions taken in Iceland.

"The optimism is there because we have come a long ways," Stevens said. "The Soviets certainly haven't left Geneva and we certainly aren't going to leave."

The senator said he believes Reagan and Gorbachev will meet in a summit again, overcoming whatever bitterness the collapse of the Iceland talks may have caused.

U.S. and Soviet negotiators met Wednesday in Geneva.

SUN

CLEARWATER, FL  
DAILY & SUNDAY 37,345

FRIDAY  
OCT 17 1986

BURRELLE'S

38

# Reagan to students: 'I couldn't give up your future'

8051  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan told a group of junior high school students bound for the Soviet Union that the arms control agreement he passed up in Iceland would have been "a deal that we couldn't afford."

Administration officials said they hope to work out agreements to reduce superpower nuclear weapons, but said the Soviet Union has not said in two preliminary bargaining sessions whether a dispute over the Star Wars program will stand in the way.

"We hope to clarify this point in our discussions in Geneva," Pete

Martinez, a State Department spokesman, said Thursday.

Reagan met at the White House with five boys and five girls in grades 7 to 9, who were selected on the basis of applications and interviews to take part in the Young Astronauts Program. They are leaving to tour the Soviet Union through Oct. 28, visiting schools and other sites and meeting with cosmonauts.

The trip is part of a U.S.-Soviet exchange agreed upon by Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at their summit meeting last November in Geneva.

Addressing the Young Astronauts participants and others in a group of about 50 students and teachers, Reagan said the Reykjavik summit last weekend "was a crossroads, not between having and not having an agreement, but rather between believing that nothing can change and believing in a future that offers hope that our world will some day be free of the awesome fear of nuclear attack."

"Mr. Gorbachev and I were able to come closer to finding the magic formula which would permit us to reduce the number of weapons in

our nuclear arsenals, even eliminate them entirely," the president said.

But Reagan told the students he balked at terms that would have killed his proposed Strategic Defense Initiative, the so-called "Star Wars" space-based missile defense system, because "it might have been Columbus Day, but I wasn't about to give away the store for a deal that we couldn't afford."

"I couldn't give up your future," he told the young people.

Both superpowers indicated Wednesday they were ready to build on the Reykjavik summit.

RECORD-COURIER

RAVENNA, OH  
DAILY 23,950

FRIDAY  
OCT 17 1986

*BURRELLE'S*

282

United Press International



PRESIDENT REAGAN meets with Moscow-bound school children, Thursday, in Washington. The children are a part of the Young Astronaut program. The president told the children he refused to trade his "Star Wars" missile-defense program for a sweeping arms agreement at the Iceland summit because, "I couldn't give up your future."

## Local girl off for visit to Russia

By Leslie J. Allen

Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

Talks between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union may have been halted, but a 13-year-old Florissant girl is benefiting from one area on which the two countries still agree — cultural exchanges.

Mandy Heideman, commander of the Young Astronauts chapter at Hazelwood Central Junior High School, left for a three-week trip to the Soviet Union Tuesday. She is one of only 10 Young Astronauts in the United States taking the trip. They were chosen from among 2,000 applicants, ages 13 to 16.

**THE YOUNG ASTRONAUTS** program is a national, privately financed program in which students are taught math, science and related subjects through applications involving the space program.

Mandy's trip is a result of the cultural agreement made between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev during last November's summit in Geneva, Switzerland. In December, a delegation of Soviet youngsters will visit the United States.

Mandy said she wasn't worried about the breakdown of the recent mini-summit talks in Reykjavik, Iceland.

"They made provisions for exchanges for several years at the last summit," she said. "I don't think it'll have too much effect on (the trip). I



**Mandy Heideman:** 'I think it will kind of pave the way for future exchanges.'

felt it was too bad that they couldn't come to an agreement."

**MANDY SAID SHE** is "excited and honored" about being chosen for the trip. "I think it will kind of pave the way for future exchanges."

As she watched the plane take off, Mandy's mother, Marilyn, said she had mixed emotions about her daughter's trip. "You're very excited for them, and you know it is well-planned and organized, but three weeks is a long time."

The students will be in Washington until Thursday, spending all day Wednesday in briefing sessions with the Young Astronauts Council. Thursday, the students will visit the Smithsonian Institutions' Air and Space Museum.

**IN MOSCOW,** the Americans will visit a space research center, the

Kaluga Museum of Space Research, the Institute of Microbiological Processes, a school and a ballet performance. The group then goes to Leningrad to visit museums and cultural centers and the Leningrad Palace of Young Pioneers and School Students. They will also visit the Crimea to see the Artek All-Union Pioneer Camp and the Crimean Junior Academy of Sciences.

From Oct. 23-25, the group's itinerary includes a "surprise," Mandy said. "We think we're going back to Moscow to maybe meet Gorbachev, but we'll have to see."

Lastly, the students go to Soviet Georgia to see the Tbilisi City Palace of Pioneers and School Students. They return to Washington on Nov. 1, and Mandy will return to St. Louis on Nov. 3.

**TUE COMMERCIAL APPEAL**

MEMPHIS, TENN.  
D. 230,666 SUN. 289,005

OCT 12 1986

***BURRELLE'S***

# Youth who aims for the stars to discuss ideas with Soviets

---

By John Beifuss  
Staff Reporter

---

Antonio Smith, a boy who would fly, has stars in his eyes.

Electric lights reflected in his glasses like planets in a spaceship viewport.

He was at the Mall of Memphis recently, along with other young would-be astronauts. They displayed models of rockets and Skylabs and things that never go bump (there is no sound) in the always-night.

A shopper looked at Antonio's futuristic space station model, and said: "That's not reality."

Antonio replied: "I know, but I want to be part of the dream."

That's a favorite story of Marietta Bridgeforth, sponsor of the Young Astronaut Program chapter at Chickasaw Junior High School. Maybe it gives some indication of why Antonio, 15, was chosen one of 10 Young Astronauts who will take part in a historic exchange program with the Soviet Union.

The 10 were chosen from among some 66,000 applications, Mrs. Bridgeforth said.

Antonio will leave Memphis Tuesday. He will spend the night in Washington, have dinner with the President, and take part in a national press conference before leaving for two weeks in the USSR.

The Young Astronauts will visit Soviet

space facilities, museums and schools, and meet with their Russian counterparts, the Young Cosmonauts. In December, the Young Cosmonauts will visit the United States, and Antonio will accompany them on a trip to the space museum in Huntsville, Ala.

"What better way to promote peace and understanding among nations than to have our children get to know each other?" said Edith Westermann, director of media relations for the Young Astronaut Council in Washington.

The event is the first of a series of annual youth delegation exchanges agreed upon by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Geneva summit in November.

The Young Astronaut Program is a nonprofit, privately funded method "to use the excitement of the U.S. space program to motivate kids to study math, science, computers and other topics," Ms. Westermann said. "Kids have a natural fascination with space."

Chickasaw was one of the pilot schools chosen when the program was launched two years ago. Now, there are 7,000 Young Astronaut chapters, or 250,000 program members, in the United States and overseas.

Antonio, the son of Effie Smith of 3941 Dearborn, will be honored tomorrow at a school assembly.

After his trip to the USSR, Antonio has other travel ambitions. "I'd like to be the first student in space," he said.

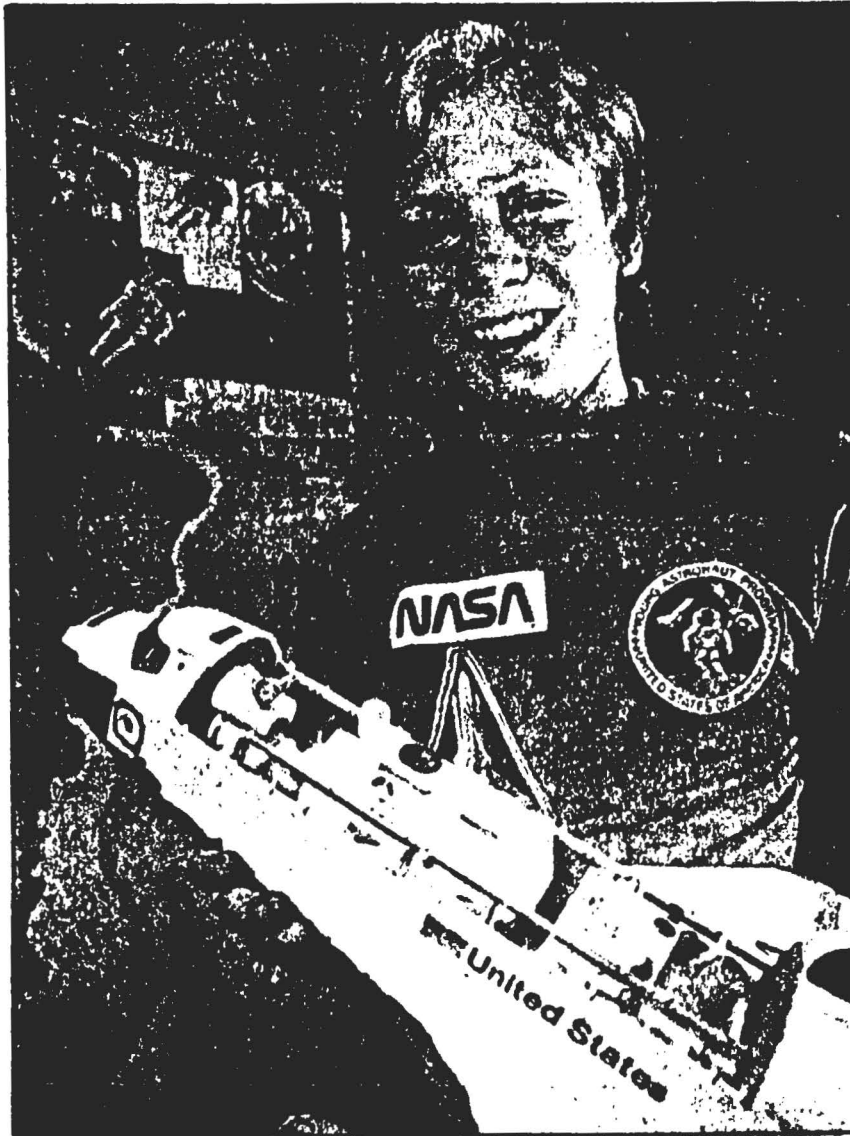


# Tucson Citizen

Gannett Newspaper

Tucson, Arizona \*

First Edition/80 Pages/35 Cen



Scott Clark will tour space facilities in the Soviet U

XAVIER GALLEGOS/Tucson Citizen

## Tucson boy is 'young astronaut' Group to travel to Soviet Union

By DAN BAREN  
Citizen Staff Writer

Scott Clark has never dreamed of becoming a fireman or a baseball player.

At age 8, his dreams elaborately depicted a career as a solar engineer working in space.

Now 13, Clark has taken a giant leap forward toward achieving his goal.

He is one of 10 U.S. "young astronauts" who will travel to the Soviet Union next week. Chosen from among thousands of applicants by the Young Astronauts Council, the 10 will tour Soviet space facilities and teach Soviet children about the U.S. space program.

Clark said the journey has another important function:

"We are going to promote peace. They have the same goals for peace and the same fears that we do. Hopefully, we can help create an environment for peace in the future."

A privately funded group, the

TUCSON, continued

Wednesday, October 8, 1986

# Tucson teen named 'young astronaut'

Continued from 1A

Young Astronauts Council was established by President Reagan in 1984 to encourage young people's interest in space sciences.

"I have been reading books on space for as long as I can remember, and I definitely plan on becoming an astronaut," Clark said.

He said Sister Judy Bisignano, his teacher at the Kino Learning Center, 6625 N. First Ave., encouraged him to apply for the program.

Bisignano, an Arizona semi-finalist in the Teacher in Space program, constructed a replica of the space shuttle at the school and runs a summer space camp.

As a student-teacher at the camp last summer, Clark helped command a 24-hour simulated shuttle flight. He also has lectured students on the history of space research.

"He is extremely well educated on the subject and will be an excellent representative of both the school and the United States," Bisignano said.

Bisignano will have Clark relate his experiences to other Kino students when he returns. "Scott, in a way, is going for all of us."

The eighth-grader said he feels lucky to have been selected, but also said he feels qualified to represent his country.

"Many of the other applicants were probably as knowledgeable and as interested in space as me, but my work with the summer space

camp might have convinced the council to select me.

"While other applicants were not doing anything space-related with their summer, I was teaching kids about neutral buoyancy and how to build rockets," he said.

Clark also wrote a report on what he believed would be in the future of the American space program. He told the council he could foresee the United States getting together with other nations to form a space habitat program.

In his quest for promoting peace, Clark said he will take petitions signed by Tucsonans to the Soviet Union. Each person who signs the petitions will pledge to respect one another and the environment, and to work together to bring about a peaceful, united world.

Clark said he hopes to collect as many as 150,000 signatures, but has only four. A copy of the petition will appear in tomorrow's Tucson Citizen.

Clark will leave Tuesday for Washington, where he will meet his fellow "young astronauts" for the first time. The group will leave for Moscow on Oct. 16.

Sandra Clark, Scott's mother, said she hopes her son's journey will expand his view of the world. She said it is a tremendous chance to promote friendship between the superpowers.

Agreed the youth, "It's the opportunity of a lifetime."

# Youth's star quest leads to Soviet tour

08051  
Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH — Thirteen-year-old Todd Johnston's quest for the stars is going to take him on a tour of the Soviet Union as a teen-age ambassador with the Young Astronaut Program.

Johnston, a student at Hillsborough Middle School, is one of 10 applicants selected in the United States for the Soviet tour by the privately funded Washington, D.C.-based program.

"When I found out, I just jumped," said Johnston, a space enthusiast who has been responding with NASA letters since age 5. "I was dancing around the room. It was crazy." The Young Astronaut Program, founded and chaired by newspaper columnist Jack Anson, has 250,000 members in 100 chapters in schools nationwide.

The program, which is not affiliated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, offers schools supplemental space-theme curricula in math, science and technology.

Selections for the tour were based on academic performance, involvement in local projects, and an essay describing why students wanted to go on a trip to the Soviet Union, a program spokeswoman said.



AP Wirephoto

Todd Johnson, 13, of Neshanic Station is among 10 young Americans chosen to tour the Soviet Union as part of a Young Astronaut Program. In exchange, beginning in October, 10 Young Cosmonauts will tour the United States.

The Oct. 16-Nov. 1. tour is a result of the cultural exchange agreement reached at the November 1985 summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Long said.

She said the tour will be one

of the few western looks at Soviet space operations, including a visit to mission control at Leningrad and the country's primary launch facility in central Asia.

The program will pay for the students' airfare and the Soviet

Union's Committee on Youth Organizations will fit the bill for travel, meals and hotels.

After the trip, the Young Astronaut Program will host a delegation of 10 young cosmonauts who will tour the Kennedy and Johnson Space Centers.

Long said program officials found Johnston's essay impressive from the first sentence. Johnston looked up the Soviet spelling of "space," and incorporated it along with the English spelling in a sentence saying that for both countries space is the "final frontier."

Johnston also wrote that he would like to "experience the rich Russian culture and social life" and compare his dreams of the future with those of Russian youths.

Johnston said his interest in space goes back as far back as he can remember, when his family lived near Cape Canaveral, Fla. He would send NASA letters and pictures he drew of spacecraft.

"I think basically what interests me most about space is the vastness of it," he said. "We have pretty much conquered our Earth. Space is so endless, and there's so much more we can learn from it."

As he got older, he said, his letters to NASA became more sophisticated, with his latest correspondence urging the head astronaut recruiter to consider children for space exploration.

"We are the future of NASA," he said. "Without us, there will be no space program. We should try to boost space enthusiasm among kids. And the Young Astronaut Program is a very neat way of doing that."

## Space fascination lands N.J. boy on Soviet tour

Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH, N.J. — Thirteen-year-old Todd Johnston's quest for the stars is going to take him on a tour of the Soviet Union as a teenage ambassador with the Young Astronaut Program.

Johnston, a student at Hillsborough Middle School, in Somerset County, is one of 10 applicants selected in the United States for the Soviet tour by the privately funded program, based in Washington.

"When I found out, I just flipped," said Johnston, a space enthusiast who has been corresponding with NASA since he was 5. "I was dancing around the room. It was crazy."

The Young Astronaut Program, founded and chaired by newspaper columnist Jack Anderson, has 250,000 members in 10,000 chapters in schools nationwide.

The program, which is not affiliated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, offers schools supplemental space-theme curricula in math, science and technology.

Selections for the tour were based on academic performance, involvement in local chapters and an essay describing why students wanted to take a trip to the Soviet Union, said program spokeswoman Linda Long.

The tour, from Oct. 16 to Nov. 1, is a

result of the cultural-exchange agreement reached at the November summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Long said.

She said the tour would be one of the few western looks at Soviet space operations, including a visit to mission control at Leningrad and the country's primary launch facility in central Asia.

The program will pay for the students' airfare, and the Soviet Union's Committee on Youth Organizations will foot the bill for travel, meals and hotels.

After the trip, the Young Astronaut Program will host a delegation of 10 young cosmonauts, who will tour the Kennedy and Johnson Space Centers.

Long said program officials found Johnston's essay impressive from the first sentence. Johnston looked up the Soviet word for space and incorporated it along with the English word in a sentence saying that space was the "final frontier" for both nations.



**TODD Johnston will get a rare look at Soviet space operations when he tours the USSR next month as a teenage ambassador with the Young Astronaut Program.**

Todd, 13, a student at Hillsborough Middle School in New Jersey, is one of 10 U.S. applicants selected for the Soviet tour by the privately funded Washington-based program.

The trip will feature a visit to mission control at Leningrad and a rare look at the country's primary launch facility in central Asia.

"I'm really surprised they're letting us see so much," said Todd, a space enthusiast who said he has always dreamed about a joint U.S.-Soviet space project.

The Young Astronaut Program, founded and chaired by New York Post columnist Jack Anderson, has 250,000 members in 10,000 chapters in schools nationwide.

The program, which is not affiliated with NASA, offers schools supplemental space-theme curricula in math, science and technology.

Selections for the tour were based on academic performance, involvement in local chapters, and students' essays.

The Oct. 16 to Nov. 1 tour is a result of the cultural exchange agreement reached at the November 1985 summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The program will pay for the students' airfare, and the Soviet Union's Committee on Youth Organizations will foot the bill.

After the trip, the Young Astronaut Program will host a delegation of 10 young cosmonauts who will tour the Kennedy and John-



Todd Johnston has always been interested in space travel — and now he

David Rentas





AP photo

Somerset County student Todd Johnston is one of 10 young Americans chosen to tour the Soviet Union next month.

## 'Astronaut,' 13, will share his dreams with Soviet kids

By MICHAEL BOOTH  
Staff Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — Thirteen-year-old Todd Johnston says the first thing he has to do is buy some warm clothes.

Johnston, a student at Hillsborough Township Middle School, needs those clothes after being told he will be one of 10 students from across the country chosen to travel to the Soviet Union next month as a "teenage ambassador" with the Young Astronauts Program.

"I am really tremendously excited," Johnston said yesterday. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to see what the Soviets have in space — and to learn what I have to value here.

"And, I'll get the chance to learn

what Soviet children think and dream about."

In his trip, which runs from Oct. 16 to Nov. 1, Johnston and his fellow "astronauts" will visit sites few Westerners are allowed to see — among them the Soviet's mission control center in Leningrad and their primary launching facility in central Asia.

**THE VISIT** itself was made possible through a cultural exchange program agreed to during the 1985 summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Johnston was selected for the trip because of his work in the Hillsbor-

• see JOHNSTON, A16

# Johnston

---

• continued from A1

---

ough Young Astronauts chapter, his academic performance and an essay outlining why he wanted to go the Soviet Union, said Edith Westermann, director of media relations for the Washington, D.C.-based program.

"Todd wrote quite a sophisticated, thoughtful essay," Westermann said. "When he emerged as a contender, he seemed very intelligent."

Westermann said about 300 students from across the United States submitted essays.

In his essay, Johnston stressed the need for cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in the quest to conquer space.

"My generation holds the future of the space program in its hands, and (it) should not be so centered on a 'space

race,' but in a team effort in which the baton is passed between countries and the victory is achieved by the world as a whole," he wrote.

"As our expectations for space grow, we must be able to share the resources, people and technology if we are to fulfill our dreams," Johnston said in his essay.

**HE ADDED** in the essay that it has been his "childhood dream" to visit space.

Johnston said yesterday he first began writing to NASA about his dream when he was 5 and living near Cape Canaveral. He said he sent them pictures he drew of rockets.

"Then when I was 10 I wrote them and stressed the need to land a man on Venus," he said.

"When I was 12, I told them they should put children in space because that's where the future of their program is."

NASA responded by commending him for his aspirations and telling him

his ideas "made a lot of sense," Johnston said.

The Young Astronauts program, which has no connection with NASA, is a privately-funded organization sponsored by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson and designed to foster students' interests in math and science.

**DESPITE RECENT** tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union regarding the arrest of alleged Russian spy Gennadi F. Zakharov and the subsequent arrest of American journalist Nicholas S. Daniloff, Johnston said he does not believe those bad feelings will be expressed toward him or his companions.

"They may express those feelings a little bit, but I think it's mostly a game that adults play," he said.

"This exchange has too much to offer to spoil with politics.

"This is about kids and the fact that we're the future."

---

ATLANTIC CITY PRESS

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ  
DAILY 80,110

WEDNESDAY  
SEP 24 1986

**BURRILL'S**



AP Laserphoto

Todd Johnston is one of 10 'young astronauts' going to the U.S.S.R.

# N.J. 'Astronaut' To Tour USSR

<sup>B8051</sup>  
HILLSBOROUGH (AP) — Thirteen-year-old Todd Johnston's quest for the stars is going to take him on a tour of the Soviet Union as a teenage ambassador with the Young Astronaut Program.

Johnston, a student at Hillsborough Middle School, is one of 10 applicants selected in the United States for the Soviet tour by the privately funded Washington, D.C.-based program.

"When I found out, I just flipped," said Johnston, a space enthusiast who has been corresponding with NASA since age 5. "I was dancing around the room. It was crazy."

The Young Astronaut Program, founded and chaired by newspaper columnist Jack Anderson, has 250,000 members in 10,000 chapters in schools nationwide.

The program, which is not

affiliated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, offers schools supplemental space-theme curricula in math, science and technology.

Selections for the tour were based on academic performance, involvement in local chapters and an essay describing why students wanted to take a trip to the Soviet Union, said program spokeswoman Linda Long.

The Oct. 16-Nov. 1. tour is a result of the cultural exchange agreement reached at the November 1985 summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Long said.

She said the tour will be one of the few western looks at Soviet space operations, including a visit to mission control at Leningrad and the country's primary launch facility in central Asia.

**YOUNG ASTRONAUT**



B 8051

The Home News/Nat Clymer

**Todd Johnston, 13, here sitting in the bedroom of his Hillsborough home, is one of 10 American youths selected to travel to the Soviet Union in a student exchange, sponsored by the Young Astronauts Program.**



# 'Astronaut,' 13, will share his dreams with Soviet kids

By MICHAEL BOOTH  
Staff Writer

**HILLSBOROUGH** — Thirteen-year-old Todd Johnston says the first thing he has to do is buy some warm clothes. Johnston, a student at Hillsborough Township Middle School, needs those clothes after being told he will be one of 10 students from across the country chosen to travel to the Soviet Union next month as a "teenage ambassador" with the Young Astronauts Program. "I am really tremendously excited," Johnston said yesterday. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to see what the Soviets have in space — and to learn what I have to value here. "And, I'll get the chance to learn

what Soviet children think and dream about."

In his trip, which runs from Oct. 16 to Nov. 1, Johnston and his fellow "astronauts" will visit sites few Westerners are allowed to see — among them the Soviet's mission control center in Leningrad and their primary launching facility in central Asia.

**THE VISIT** itself was made possible through a cultural exchange program agreed to during the 1985 summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Johnston was selected for the trip because of his work in the Hillsbor-

• see JOHNSTON, A16

AP photo

Somerset County student Todd Johnston is one of 10 young Americans chosen to tour the Soviet Union next month.

Prince ton Times 24 Sept 86

## Johnston

• continued from A1

ough Young Astronauts chapter, his academic performance and an essay outlining why he wanted to go the Soviet Union, said Edith Westermann, director of media relations for the Washington, D.C.-based program.

"Todd wrote quite a sophisticated, thoughtful essay," Westermann said. "When he emerged as a contender, he seemed very intelligent."

Westermann said about 300 students from across the United States submitted essays.

In his essay, Johnston stressed the need for cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in the quest to conquer space.

"My generation holds the future of the space program in its hands, and (it) should not be so centered on a 'space

race,' but in a team effort in which the baton is passed between countries and the victory is achieved by the world as a whole," he wrote.

"As our expectations for space grow, we must be able to share the resources, people and technology if we are to fulfill our dreams," Johnston said in his essay.

**HE ADDED** in the essay that it has been his "childhood dream" to visit space.

Johnston said yesterday he first began writing to NASA about his dream when he was 5 and living near Cape Canaveral. He said he sent them pictures he drew of rockets.

"Then when I was 10 I wrote them and stressed the need to land a man on Venus," he said.

"When I was 12, I told them they should put children in space because that's where the future of their program is."

NASA responded by commending him for his aspirations and telling him

his ideas "made a lot of sense," Johnston said.

The Young Astronauts program, which has no connection with NASA, is a privately-funded organization sponsored by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson and designed to foster students' interests in math and science.

**DESPITE RECENT** tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union regarding the arrest of alleged Russian spy Gennadi F. Zakharov and the subsequent arrest of American journalist Nicholas S. Daniloff, Johnston said he does not believe those bad feelings will be expressed toward him or his companions.

"They may express those feelings a little bit, but I think it's mostly a game that adults play," he said.

"This exchange has too much to offer to spoil with politics.

"This is about kids and the fact that we're the future."



# Hillsborough's Young Astronaut set for USSR

By Kate Murphy  
Staff Writer

Hillsborough has a star, a Young Astronaut who is going to visit the Red Star — Russia.

Todd Johnston, 13, a resident of Neshanic Station who attends eighth grade at the Hillsborough Middle School, will travel to the Soviet Union from Oct. 14 to 28. He is one of 10 Young Astronauts selected nationally from applications and interviews for the Young Astronaut Exchange Program. His teacher in the gifted and talented program at the middle school is Barbara Oldenburg.

"In the spring, Ms. Oldenburg told us about a program called International Exchanges, and we were going to have one with the Soviet Union. If we wanted to, we should write a 200- to 400-word essay saying half on why we want to go, and what we thought was the main thrust of the United States' space program in the next two decades. With that, we should send an application, academic record and what we thought qualified us to go."

He reached the top 30 under consideration for the 10 posts, and was asked to send "another essay on feelings we might have had to that point, things we

might have left out of the essay or thought of after the essay."

He was selected in August, but "There wasn't a moment this summer that I wasn't thinking about it," he said.

"The itinerary has not been set yet at this point in the negotiations with the Soviet Union and Young Astronauts. Moscow will be on the itinerary. Star City is one of their main launching points and we hope to see that."

Todd has some of the usual teen concerns.

"I'll need a totally new wardrobe. You always need to have a hat on to keep your ears warm," he said.

"Young Astronauts was one of the first programs President Reagan tried to do with private sponsors," said Todd. "Some of the original sponsors were Commodore Computers, Monogram Models, Adidas and Coleco." The Young Astronaut Council has put together a licensing program as the major means of raising funds for the program, according to their fact sheet, which also states:

"The Young Astronaut Program is a national educational program for elementary and junior high school students designed to promote the study of science, mathematics and technological subjects. It was initiated to assist the



Staff Photo-Kate Murphy

Todd Johnston with his teacher, Barbara Oldenburg

Teachers of America in bringing high quality, timely and easy to teach materials into the classroom."

After his orbit around the Red Star, our Young Astronaut gets to come back to Earth in Hillsborough.

MUNDOEVILLE, PA  
ADVANCE LEADER  
PLUM EDITOR  
WEEKLY

SEP 17 1986

BURRELLE'S

## Astronaut club meets

The Young Astronauts Club of Penn Hills will begin its fall session at Churchill Academy on Saturday, Sept. 20. All members—past and new—are asked to report at 10:30 a.m.

Following registration, group members will be making Young Astronauts Club T-shirts. The fall schedule for meetings will be distributed at this time.

Although the school did not open this fall, the facilities remain available for meetings until a decision is made on whether to sell the property.

Young Astronauts Club membership is open to all interested youngsters, regardless of where they live. For additional information, call the school at 242-4000.

A-8 Somerset Messenger-Gazette—September 18, 1986  
Hillsborough Edition

# Youngster to blast off to USSR

By EILEEN SCHWALB

HILLSBOROUGH — He may not yet be as famous as John Glenn or Buzz Aldrin, but 13-year-old Todd Johnston of Longfield Drive has become quite a celebrity since he was among 10 students nationwide to win a trip to the Soviet Union last month.

The eighth grader from the Hillsborough Middle School was a winner in an essay contest sponsored by the Young Astronaut Council in Washington, D.C. and will journey to the Soviet Union for two weeks next month, where he will visit their space facilities, escorted by a NASA astronaut.

The Board of Education took time off from its usual business Monday to laud the youth's accomplishment. Pointing to Todd, gifted and talented teacher Barbara Oldenburg and gifted and talented coordinator Pat Taussig sitting in the audience, Superintendent of Schools Carl Hesse joked it was nice to see smiling faces at a board meeting.

The goal of the gifted and talented program, Taussig said, is to expand on a student's current interests. The interests of students, she said, are matched with challenges for them.

In addition to their regular classroom time, the students also have flexitime, which allows them to work in-

dependently or in a group on projects, she added.

The essay contest Todd won was open to all students in gifted and talented programs nationwide.

Two other local students — Tyra Fahsbender of Kilmer Drive and Katy Eisenmann of Amwell Road — were among the top 30 finalists out of 800 students who applied, Oldenburg noted. "We were the only school district with more than one child in the top 30 and we had three," she said.

Oldenburg said she had a strong feeling Todd would be going overseas when she submitted his essay because he had a vast array of past achievements.

Board members viewed a recording of Todd's appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America" program, filmed last month. He was interviewed by host David Hartman with two other winners — a ninth grader from Pennsylvania and a 15-year-old Texas youth.

"I want to experience their culture and see how it's different from ours, and to check out their technology," Todd told Hartman.

The Neshanic teen-ager said he is interested in the vastness of space. "To space we're so small; we know very little about it. There is more to come," he said.

Todd said he wants to become an

aerospace engineer or an aerospace architect.

He said he is interested in finding out how the Soviets see the two countries getting along.

"Space is too valuable to us in a military standpoint and a civilian standpoint," he explained to Hartman. "There is a lot we can achieve through peace. I hope we treat space differently than our world — I hope we treat (space) with peace."

The trip is slated for Oct. 16 through Nov. 1. The itinerary for the voyage has not been finalized yet, but Todd told the board he hopes to visit the Kremlin and to meet Soviet cosmonauts.

Before they leave the United States, the students will be briefed by officials

from the State Department and NASA and they will be taught some basics of the Russian language.

"They are trying to fix a dinner with us with President Reagan the night before we leave, but the White House won't comment until the last minute for security reasons," he added.

The local youth was excited about seeing the Soviet Union first hand. "It will be a different environment than ours," he noted. "We have to have an exchange with another country to value what we have here."

Board member Ronald Tofel chimed in, "Don't forget to bring a 'Hillsborough, the Good Life' bumper sticker when you go."

**TODAY**  
Hi — Hi 90s  
Lo — Mid 60s  
Outlook — Sunny

Physiologist Ivan P. said, "Learn, compare and the facts!"

# The Daily

25 CENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1986

## Students at Kino have their own 'shuttle flights'

805 | By DOUG HAWTHORNE  
Territorial Staff Writer

Students at Kino Learning Center, 6625 N. First Ave., make regular "flights" into space aboard their own "space shuttle orbiter."

The Catholic elementary and secondary school has a full-scale mock-up of the orbiter, in which students regularly take simulated flights into space.

The orbiter's exterior is being plastered and painted to give it a more authentic look. Two parents — Gary Ballou and Phil Ingraham — did the planning and initial labor on the orbiter. Both are carpenters.

"We wanted to make the shuttle Mission 51-L flight as experiential as possible," said Sister Judith Bisignano, the founder and a co-administrator of the center. "So we made a life-size shuttle of plywood covered with stucco."

Sister Judy was one of five state finalists for NASA's Teacher in Space project. Had she been selected as one of the two finalists, she might have flown aboard the ill-fated Challenger mission that killed teacher Sharon Christa McAuliffe and six other astronauts.

"Had the 51-L crew gone into space, Kino students would have been inside the mock-up to conduct a simultaneous flight," she said.

"The students would have been connected via satellite dish to a Westar satellite in Earth orbit, to keep them in touch with crew activities aboard the shuttle in space."

Scott Clark, a 13-year-old Kino student, is a member of the Tucson chapter of the Young Astronaut Council. He will be one of 10 U.S. youngsters who will travel to the Soviet Union Oct. 12-26 to tour the Star City space complex near Moscow.

By reciprocal agreement, the Soviet Union will send 10 Young Cosmonauts to the United States. They will spend their time in Washington, D.C., and in Florida.

The Kino shuttle is an exact replica of the forward section of the orbiter. The middeck is 13 feet long, as on the real orbiter, and a connecting tunnel leads to a lower flight deck and an upper flight deck.

A flight aboard the shuttle simulator is the culmination of an independent study program related to the space program, Sister Judy said.

The class culminates in a simulated launch and space mission. During the class, students apply what they've learned over a three-week period.



**ASPIRING ASTRONAUT** — Scott Clark, 13, a student at Kino Learning Center, points out some of the features inside the school's mock-up of a space shuttle orbiter. Scott is one of 10 youths in the Young Astronaut Council who will travel to the Soviet Union in October to tour that country's space facilities. By reciprocal agreement, 10 Soviet youths will simultaneously tour U.S. space facilities. (Territorial photo by Doug Hawthorne)

Please see Page 2 A

# Guaynabo boy preparing for trip to U.S.S.R.

**ROLF OLSEN**  
the STAR Staff

80 51

When 14-year-old Juan Carlos Calzada was asked to write an essay to compete for a trip to the Soviet Union, the writing came to him easily. He then forgot it, thinking there was little chance of being chosen among hundreds of students in the national Young Astronaut contest.

But in July, while the Antilles High School freshman was on vacation in Wisconsin, he was notified that he was among 15 finalists. He was asked for another essay, one much shorter than his first 300-word paper explaining why he wanted to visit that nation.

This time it took him two long hours to write a few short paragraphs.

The rough copy was like a page long," the youngster, known as J.C., said during an interview. "I took out about half of it." In the second essay, he wrote about his one-week stay at Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

He sent the essay in, and officials suggested he forget about the contest and enjoy his summer.

Then on Aug. 14, as Calzada arrived with his mother, only, at their Guaynabo home, his sister said in a serious tone that his father, Rafael, wanted to see him. It sounded like he was in trouble.

But Elissa, 7, was kidding. As her brother went to see her, she whispered the truth to Mom: contest officials had called to say Juan Carlos was one of ten students chosen for the Oct. 14-28 visit to the Soviet Union.

"I was shocked," said the smiling youngster. "I didn't think I was going to win."

Competition was open nationally to Young Astronaut Club members in grades 7 to 9. The clubs, organized by the Young Astronaut Council in Washington, D.C., foster a study of math, science and related subjects. Calzada is in the club sponsored by Antilles Middle School teacher Pamela Woodard, who encouraged the student to write the first essay.

Woodard notes that this trip will be the initial step in the first annual exchange of youth delegations agreed on by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the summit in Geneva last November. The journey will start with a White House tour and wraps up a meeting with President Reagan, who launched the Young Astronaut program in 1984.

There was concern that the trip might be canceled as a result of the dispute between the two superpowers over the case of the Las Daniloff, accused by the Soviet Union of being a spy. However, organizers told the family last



STAR photo by Tony Pacheco

Juan Carlos Calzada, 14, of Guaynabo, a freshman at Antilles High School chosen to go to the Soviet Union out of hundreds of applicants in the Young Astronaut program, poses in his Alabama Space Camp suit in front of his school in Fort Buchanan. Calzada was chosen on the basis of two essays he wrote on why he wanted to visit the U.S.S.R.

week that plans for the trip were still on.

A detailed itinerary is not ready yet, but the council says students will visit museums, schools and historical and cultural sites. "We might go to Star City," Calzada said with obvious interest. "It's like Kennedy Space Center."

Pamphlets full of facts about the Soviet Union were sent to Calzada, and he's gotten a taste of that country's language courtesy of a friend's Russian-speaking parents.

"I know a lot about their space program," Calzada said, eagerly reciting information he picked up during a lecture at Space Camp.

He'd like to be an astronaut, but now his sights are set on becoming a pilot. "I want to go to the Air Force Academy," says Calzada, a member of the junior varsity soccer team and an "A" student.

There is much to do to get ready for the trip, including getting a passport and finding a winter coat and cold-weather boots. He has been advised that the temperature in the U.S.S.R. in October ranges from 34 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit and he could find himself trudging through snow. He is allowed one pair of jeans and T-shirts must be plain, with no political messages.

The trip is free, except for souvenirs. Requests so far include "a lot of postcards," he said. "My P.E. teacher wants a T-shirt. He told me he didn't want an ashtray."

Calzada said his social studies teacher has already agreed that he will make up his missed schoolwork by giving a 20-minute lecture about his trip.

His mother, whose grandparents came to the United States from the Soviet Union, has mixed emotions about the visit, but says she realizes it is an opportunity her son can't pass up. "He wants to go," she says. "He earned the right to go."

"Visiting Russia could be an adventure that I would never forget," Calzada wrote in his first essay. "I would like to go there as a symbol of peace between our quarreling countries and try to strengthen better relations."

"If I had the opportunity to visit the Kremlin," he continued, "I would try to show the world's leaders hope for the younger generation — tomorrow's doctors, lawyers, teachers and leaders. I would try to show that we could make a difference in the world; if the younger generation can get along, imagine how it will be when we take control of our countries."

"If I went, I would feel that I had done my part to bring our countries closer together in our pursuit of world peace."



# SPACE

# CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 15 - 21, 1986

408-988-0592

Weekly

Vol 5, No 37

## American Space Education

- **Young Astronaut Council, Washington DC:** Ten winners of the "Letter to a Young Cosmonaut" contest are preparing for a two week trip to the USSR which is the first a part of the Young Astronaut/Young Cosmonaut exchange program. According to Edith E. Westermann of the YAC, the ten 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students will leave on 16 October accompanied by former astronaut Chapter Leader/Teacher Rusty Schweickart and various media representatives. Among the highlights of their their fourteen-day tour of the Soviet Union will be visits to Soviet Space Facilities. On 2 December, ten Young Cosmonauts will begin their two-week tour of the U.S. starting with Washington DC and visiting other US locations such as Cape Canaveral FL, Space Camp in Huntsville AL, NASA Johnson Space Center, and a Rockwell International Space Shuttle plant in Los Angeles CA. The Young Astronaut/Young Cosmonaut exchange program is the first country-to-country exchange which is a direct result of the summit meeting last year between President Reagan and Soviet Premier Gorbachev.

Info Edith E. Westerman, YAC, 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 800, Washington DC 20036, 202-682-1986.

- **Center for Aerospace Sciences, Grand Forks ND:** Space Studies Program offering its first series of space courses in Spring 1987. Dr. David C. Webb, current chairman of the Space Studies Program at the CAS, University of North Dakota and former member of the National Commission on Space, says he is looking to aerospace corporations for financial assistance and information on what training aerospace companies expect future employees to have. In addition to offering courses at the CAS, the Space Studies Program—which according to Webb is the only one of its kind in the world—will provide videos of the courses to other universities who want to offer a space studies curriculum. The courses are multi-disciplinary and in the beginning, Space Studies Pro-

gram will be a minor. Dr. Webb expects that eventually a graduate department in Space Studies will be established. Developing the program with Dr. Webb is former astronaut Buzz Aldrin who is acting as a consultant.

Info Center for Aerospace Sciences, Gerri Saylor, University of North Dakota, Box 8216, University Station, Grand Forks ND 58202-8216, 701-777-2791.

- **"Reach Out For the Stars"**, New song in tribute to the Challenger seven astronauts. The song, which was recently played at several Spaceweek '86 events in Houston, is available from songwriter/performer Tish Munton who explains "Christa McAuliffe would have always hoped that her students as well as other children would not be afraid to 'reach out for the stars' in their journeys through life."

Info Tish Munton, Box 269, New Castle NH 03854, 603-436-1655 (Tape of "Reach Out For the Stars" is available at a nominal cost to cover postage and handling.)

- **Space Age Publishing Foundation / Progressive Space Forum / California Space Program, San Francisco Bay Area CA:** Preparing for first meeting of Bay Area Space Education series "America's Future in Space: The Next 50 Years". Meeting will be held 30 Sept at De Anza College in Cupertino CA at 19:00. Future meetings will be held in October at UC Berkeley and in San Francisco in November. Info 408-988-0642 or 415-673-1079.

SPACE CALENDAR  
SEPTEMBER 15 - 21, 1986

# N.J. boy's Soviet trip in jeopardy

By MARLENE MONFILETTO  
Press Staff Writer

## HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP

— Todd Johnson has been dreaming about space, astronauts and shuttle missions since he was 5 years old.

Todd's dream of becoming an astronaut was furthered when he was among 10 young people accepted into the Young Astronaut Council to visit Soviet space centers next month. Todd, 13, an eighth-grader at Hillsborough Middle School in this Somerset County community, is the only youngster in the state to be chosen for the Soviet trip.

Although recent events that have strained U.S.-Soviet relations have raised doubts about whether the trip will be made, Todd and his family, as well as officials from the Young Astronaut Council, remain optimistic.

White House officials have considered halting cultural exchanges between the two nations because Nicholas Daniloff, a reporter for U.S. News and World Report, is being held in a Soviet prison on espionage charges.

"Obviously we're concerned," said Linda Long, assistant to the council's executive director. "There are rumors

floating about that all cultural exchange programs with Russia may be canceled. But I haven't been notified by the White House."

Ms. Long said she expects a decision after a meeting between Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze scheduled for Sept. 19.

Todd, however, said he is not concerned about the trip, which is scheduled for Oct. 16 to Nov. 1.

"We would be guests of the Soviet Union, not journalists," Todd said. "It means too much to both our countries from a peace standpoint to stall this."

Todd's parents, Barbara and Bill Johnson, are concerned about whether the trip will be canceled. But they said they have faith in the Young Astronaut Council officials to make the right decision.

Mrs. Johnson, a secretary for a real estate agency, said although she feels a "motherly concern for my son traveling so far away . . . we think it's too important an educational opportunity for him."

The Soviet trip is to include visits to space centers, museums, schools and historical sites, meetings with cosmonauts and talks with Soviet stu-

dents about their science curricula.

The youngsters are to travel with T. Wendell Butler, executive director of the Young Astronaut Council; Col. Frederick D. Gregory, an astronaut; and two outstanding council leader teachers from two of the 6,500 elementary and middle schools around the country that have established councils.

Ms. Long said the Young Astronaut Council was launched by President Reagan Oct. 17, 1984. At last year's summit meeting, Reagan and Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed a cultural exchange agreement to encourage such groups as the council to visit the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is the principal sponsor of next month's trip, Ms. Long said, with some aerospace companies contributing money for air fare.

More than 200 youngsters who have reached the level of "commander" in the council applied for the 10 spots. A commander must be in grades 7, 8 or 9, Ms. Long said. The youngsters were required to write an essay on why they want to visit the Soviet Union and what they think is the main thrust of the space program.

After Todd was chosen as one of 15 finalists, he was required to write another detailed essay. He also had

two telephone interviews with Ms. Long.

Todd and some other finalists appeared on "Good Morning America" Aug. 14. Afterward, the group was treated to dinner at the Russian Tea Room in New York.

The Johnsons think Todd was born to be a part of the space program. The day he was born, Dec. 19, 1972, the last Apollo mission came back to earth, Mrs. Johnson said.

Todd said, "I learned mostly from seeing the launches on TV. I had large posters of space in my room and I would look at them when I lay down in my bed at night."

The teen-ager has kept abreast of the space program since he began corresponding with NASA with drawings at age 5. Since then, he has written numerous letters to the agency and has collected information and memorabilia on the space program.

"I wrote them saying how much I really liked space and that I felt kids should be able to go up to space as civilians because children are the future of the space program," Todd said. "That was when the shuttle was still in its test phases. It's always been quite easy for me to write to them because I have a lot of thoughts on the subject of space."

Asbury Park, NJ  
ASBURY PARK PRESS  
September 11, 1986  
Cont'd

Asbury Park Press/Thursday, September 11, 1986 **A13**



Associated Press

13-year-old Todd Johnson goes through his collection of military patches.

This fall, a cultural exchange program for Soviet and American high-school students who aspire to be astronauts will take flight for the first time.

The American and Soviet delegations will each number 10 high-school students who have shown an interest in mathematics, science, and space technology, said Wendell Butler, executive director of the Young Astronaut Council, the private, nonprofit group that is organizing the exchange.

The Americans will visit the Soviet Union from Oct. 14 to 28, and the Soviets will arrive here for 10 days on Dec. 2, Mr. Butler said at a June press conference in Washington.

# Teen astronaut to visit Soviet Union

<sup>3051</sup>  
The 14-year-old daughter of a former Johnstown couple is one of 10 American students who will spend two weeks in the Soviet Union in October as part of the Young Astronaut International Exchange Program. She is Heidi Riffle, a veteran of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Space Camp at Huntsville, Ala., and daughter of William and Joanne (Andolina) Riffle of Dayton, Ohio, both Johnstown natives.

Heidi, a straight-A student, is one of hundreds who applied for the chance to go to the Soviet Union through the exchange program. She is a sophomore at Colonel White High School in Dayton. Those who applied had to write essays on why they wanted to participate in the program and what they thought the U.S. space program would be like by the year 2010.

The Young Astronauts program is a private, non-profit educational program directed to elementary and junior high school students to encourage youngsters to become more proficient in math and science, using the excitement of the space program as a catalyst. There are more than 250,000 Young Astronauts in 7,500 chapters.

Because of her father's career in the Air Force, Heidi lived in Delaware, Texas, Alabama, West Germany and Georgia before her parents moved to Dayton. Now retired from the service, Mr. Riffle, son of Margaret Riffle of the Town House Towers, and the late Francis Riffle, works as a contractor at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Mrs. Riffle's (Joanne's) late parents were James and Katherine Andolina.

## Passing through

Like to research and write about local history? If the answer is yes, Pennsylvania Heritage, the popularly styled and illustrated magazine of Pennsylvania history, art and culture would like to hear from you.

The quarterly magazine published by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, the commonwealth's official history agency, is seeking free-lance articles on a wide variety of historic people, places and events significant in development of Pennsylvania.

According to Michael J. O'Malley 3rd, editor, submissions are sought on varied topics, including fine and decorative arts, architecture, archaeology, historic sites, travel and folklore, natural history, transportation, industry and technology, ethnic history, landmarks and political and social history.

Writers interested in submitting articles should request copies of Guidelines for Contributors and a sample back issue by writing to Mr. O'Malley at Pennsylvania Heritage, P.O. Box 10226, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108-1026.

\* \* \*



## Iowa youth wins trip to U.S.S.R.

MT. PLEASANT, Iowa (AP) — A Mt. Pleasant high school sophomore and space buff will be going to the Soviet Union Oct. 10, compliments of the Young Astronauts program.

Tad Dockstader, 15, is one of 10 students nationwide who won the free trip, which will include visits to Soviet space facilities, schools, museums and historical and cultural attractions. The Young Astronauts also will meet and talk with Soviet cosmonauts and students.

"I want to see what kind of people the Russians are, and how we can relate to them," Dockstader said.

Chicago, IL  
DAILY SOUTHTOWN  
ECONOMIST (CHICAGO EDITION)  
September 9, 1986

---

## Glimpses

---

**HEY BIG GUY...:** The chaplain of the Texas House opened Monday's second special legislative session on the state budget crisis with a prayer that was brief and to the point. The prayer by the Rev. Gerald Mann of the Riverend Baptist Church in Austin was, "Our Father, here we are again, and we sure hope you are too."

□□□  
**BLASTING OFF FOR MOSCOW:** A Mount Pleasant, Iowa, high school sophomore and astronaut buff from Mount Pleasant will get a first-hand look at Soviet cosmonauts next month when he tours the Soviet Union as part of the Young Astronauts program. Tad Dockstader, 15, qualified as a finalist for the trip after entering the competition through his high school's chapter of the Young Astronauts. The organization involves junior high and high school students and promotes such subjects as space exploration and rocket-building. Dockstader said he wrote an essay explaining why he wants to visit the Soviet Union and his ideas about the thrust of the U.S. space program.

□□□

## Iowan wins trip to Soviet Union

MOUNT PLEASANT <sup>0051</sup>(AP) — A Mount Pleasant high school sophomore and space buff will be going to the Soviet Union Oct. 10, compliments of the Young Astronauts program.

Tad Dockstader, 15, is one of 10 students nationwide who won the free trip, which will include visits to Soviet space facilities, schools, museums and historical and cultural attractions. The Young Astronauts will also meet and talk with Soviet cosmonauts and students.

"They had me write an essay on why I wanted to go and what I

thought the main thrust of the U.S. space program would be in the next 10 years," he said.

After winning the first round in the essay contest, Dockstader was asked to write a second essay on what he did during the summer.

"I want to see what kind of people the Russians are, and how we can relate to them," Dockstader said.

"I'd like to see the U.S. and Soviets working together on space projects instead of treating each other as adversaries, just to see how much we could accomplish."

## *Mount Pleasant sophomore wins Soviet trip with essay*

8051  
MOUNT PLEASANT (AP) — A Mount Pleasant high school sophomore and space buff will be going to the Soviet Union Oct. 10, compliments of the Young Astronauts program.

Tad Dockstader, 15, is one of 10 students nationwide who won the free trip, which will include visits to

Soviet space facilities, schools, museums and historical and cultural attractions. The Young Astronauts will also meet and talk with Soviet cosmonauts and students.

"They had me write an essay on why I wanted to go and what I thought the main thrust of the U.S. space program would be in the next

10 years," he said.

After winning the first round in the essay contest, Dockstader was asked to write a second essay on what he did during the summer.

"I want to see what kind of people the Russians are, and how we can relate to them," Dockstader said.

"I'd like to see the U.S. and Soviets working together on space projects instead of treating each other as adversaries, just to see how much we could accomplish."

# High school 'astronaut' gets to visit Russia

By LISA WOZNICK

Register Staff Writer

8051

A young astronaut buff from Mount Pleasant will get a firsthand look next month at the space program in the Soviet Union.

High school sophomore Tad Dockstader, 15, is one of 10 young people who will depart Oct. 14 to tour the Soviet Union as part of the Young Astronauts program.

During the two-week trip, he will visit Soviet space facilities, schools, museums and historical and cultural sites. The Young Astronauts also will meet and talk with Soviet cosmonauts and students.

"The first thing I said was 'Wow.' It was surprising," Dockstader said. "I hadn't suspected I'd be chosen, but my mom had faith in me."

He qualified as a finalist after entering the competition through his high school's chapter of Young Astronauts. The organization promotes subjects such as space exploration and rocket-building to junior high and high school students.

"They had me write an essay on why I wanted to go and what I thought the main thrust of the U.S. space program would be in the next 10 years," he said.

After submitting the essay, Dockstader was notified he was one of 15 finalists. He wrote a second essay on what he did over the summer, which was required to narrow the field of candidates. He was then chosen as one of the 10 to take the tour.

Dockstader said he has more in mind for this visit than simply learning about the Soviet space program.

"I want to see what kind of people the Russians are, and how we can relate to them," he said. "I'd like to see the U.S. and Soviets working together on space projects instead of treating each other as adversaries, just to see how much we could accomplish."

The 10 students will be accompanied on the tour by the executive director of the Young Astronauts Council, two chapter teachers and an American astronaut. The cost of the trip, except for spending money, will



— Daily News Photo by William A. Ross, Staff Photographer

Amy Grubb and David Razorsek Actively Pursuing Interest in Great Beyond

## Space Community Youth Congressmen Launched From Young Astronaut Club

BY CAROLYN CLOSSIN  
Daily News Staff Writer

David Razorsek designed a self-supporting space colony shaped like a doughnut and Amy Grubb a space-age garbage truck powered by recycled waste.

Far fetched? No More like resourceful.

These were projects they designed as participants in the Space Community Youth Congress this summer at the University of Southern California.

Projects like these grow out of brainstorming ideas, a technique both 14-year-olds learned to do as students with Pat Palazzolo in the Gifted and Talented Education program at Clairton High School.

Now, both students are registered at other schools and Mrs. Palazzolo, who was a candidate for the Challenger space shuttle's Teacher-In-Space Program in January, teaches social studies in the ninth grade in the Upper St. Clair School District.

Both of these space-age students were in the gifted program from their first years in the Clairton system and were members of the Young Astronaut Chapter here. Their bid to attend the Space Community Youth Congress seemed a natural outgrowth of their common interests.

They were nominated by their former teacher but they had to come up with their own sponsors.

David wrote to Willard Rockwell, whose company, General Space Corp., a subsidiary of Astrotech International, was quick to underwrite his trip. Amy lined up her father's company, Magdic Precision Tooling, Inc., in East McKeesport, Western Pennsylvania Water Co. and Vengura Tool, Inc., in Clairton, plus U.S. Industrial Fabricators in Jefferson as sponsors.

They were the only two students from Pennsylvania among 180 at the Space Community Youth Congress.

Amy also is one of 10 students chosen to visit the Soviet Union next month as part of the Young Astronaut Council cultural exchange pro-

gram, an idea that grew from a suggestion made during President Reagan's summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva last year.

David wanted to be part of that program, too, but he had opted for an exchange with Japan.

Although not one of the lucky candidates, he will watch closely the experiences Amy has on her two-week tour that will give her an inside view of the U.S.S.R.'s space program and its training facility.

Amy, who would like to be a veterinarian, thinks veterinarians should be part of the space program: "They will be needed because people will probably take their pets into space when they build space stations in the future."

"After all, the very first space travelers were animals," she said.

She has two dogs at home, Manfred, a female German shepherd, and Sissy, a beagle "who is boss," she said.

Amy, an only child, now is a student at Elizabeth-Forward Junior High School because her father, Donald, recently bought a house on Rock Run Road, Elizabeth Twp. They soon will move there from their home on Independence Drive.

David, son of Edward and Nancy Razorsek, lives about a block away, at 637 Thompson Ave. He has a sister, Nicole, also in the gifted program at Clairton Central Catholic.

"To punish him, if he does something I don't approve of," David's mother said, "I take away his computer time."

David has his own computer in his bedroom and can access the Pittsburgh Alpha Space Bulletin Board for international news about space programs.

He says it's hard not to be interested in space because it's always been a part of his life.

"Back in the early days when I first saw people floating in space, I thought it was neat. With the shuttle launches, I got more interested. The work that astronauts do interests me, too."

Both students are challenged by the problems of space. David loves to kick around ideas and develop projects. The space station he designed during his California trip was the result of just such an idea.

"It's broken down into two parts," he said. "There would be a doughnut-shaped ring that would orbit the

fugal force that would hold it in space, and a center pole that would be the station's axle which would include things like research laboratories and warehouses for the colony. Rods would connect the two parts to move things and people back and forth between them."

Then, the would-be astronaut got down to the physics behind his idea and his eyes began to shine as his mind envisioned even further uses for his space station.

Amy, being practical about it, feels all the people and things in space will create a lot of garbage and something will have to be done about it. So she and another girl who represented Arizona put their heads together and designed a waste station.

"All the waste would be collected and dumped into a dome container and the methane gas that would develop from its decay would be used to fuel the garbage truck that collects the waste. In this way, all the energy would be constantly recycled," she said.

"It's a small thing, maybe, but these are things no one thinks about when they develop the really big ideas."

To win her space in the Russian-bound group, Amy wrote an essay describing what direction she thought this country's space program will take in two decades.

She feels there will be more joint participation between the United States and the Soviets. "I think they will team up to make a trip to Mars," she said.

She'll fly to Washington, D.C., Oct. 13 to meet other students in the exchange program for her trip to Russia, Oct. 14-28. She hasn't received her itinerary yet to know just where she'll be going inside the Soviet Union.

She says she knows it will be exciting and eagerly awaits the new experiences.

Mrs. Palazzolo, who organized the Young Astronaut Chapter called AD Astra while at Clairton High School, is continuing the chapter at Upper St. Clair and will widen it to include her current and former students.

As a teacher-in-space candidate, she will participate in the adult program of Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala., Sept. 28-29, that will give



# Aspiring astronaut to visit Soviet Union

By DAVID PILLA

**HILLSBOROUGH** — Todd Johnston's future is up in the air. Or at least that's what the 13-year-old Neshanic resident hopes.

The eighth grader from Hillsborough Middle School is one of 10 students from across the country to be chosen by the Young Astronaut Council in Washington, D.C., for a two-week trip to the Soviet Union this fall.

"I always really wanted to be an astronaut," said Johnston, "or something to do with aeronautics and space travel. Whenever I thought about a job, aeronautics was always in the back of my head."

Johnston said he once thought about architecture as a profession, and recently considered going into law, "but if you wanted to bet on it, I will probably be an astronaut."

The students chosen to go to the Soviet Union are scheduled to leave Oct. 14 and return on the 28th. Johnston and the others will be going to Washington two days before departure to learn protocol, how to get along in the Soviet Union, and to pick up some information about the Russian space program and language.

"I'm learning some phrases," said Johnston of Russian. "It's a very hard language. My dad knows some people who speak it. They say things very fast, with emphasis on different accents."

Johnston is studying the language with a Russian-English dictionary given to him as a gift. He also is brushing up on Soviet culture with a book about getting along in the Soviet Union, given to him by his parents.

Does Johnston expect to have any difficulty getting along among the Russians? Not really.

"I think they're going to treat us



TODD JOHNSTON

nice," he said. "They'll want to show us they can be friendly. They may put on a show, and try to make us feel communism isn't so bad. I have no experience with that, but I like our way of doing things here in the U.S."

There are some things a visitor to Russia cannot do, that Johnston is already aware of. "You can't bring roubles (the Russian monetary unit) into or out of the country," he said. "They don't allow you to take pictures of their highways or railroads. And there are certain things you can't take out of the country."

(Please turn to page A4)

## Inside

42 pages

Business Directory.....B-4

Business Page.....B-4,5

Community Calendar.....A-11

Somerset Messenger Gazette  
4 Sept 86

---

# Aspiring astronaut

(Continued from page A-1)

Johnston got the chance to make the trip through his involvement with the gifted and talented students' program at his school. "The students in that program are automatically eligible for the Young Astronaut Council," said Johnston. "One day Mrs. (Barbara) Oldenburg (gifted and talented teacher) came in with a form that was mailed to each Young Astronaut Club, saying that at the time negotiations were on between the U.S., Japan and Canada for a student exchange. It involved a pretty detailed application."

The application Johnston filled out included information about the student's school records, grades and scores, and knowledge of foreign languages. "On the flip side, you had to write a 200- to 400-word essay on why you wanted to go and what you thought of the U.S. space program," Johnston said.

What does Johnston see happening in the U.S. space program? "NASA just dropped about 15 scheduled missions," he said. "With the recent shuttle tragedy, they're rethinking their plans, but by 1990 they should be working on a modular 'Tinker Toy' space station with detachable pods. That should be the main project within the next 30 years."

With that kind of project going on, Johnston thinks it may be possible for him to combine his earlier interest in architecture with aeronautics. "There are many possibilities," he said.

Johnston was one of "about 50" finalists selected in July, along with fellow Hillsborough students Tyra Fahsbender and Katy Eisenmann. As a finalist, Johnston had to submit another essay, explaining "your current feelings, things you might have left out, and again why you wanted to go." By that time, an agreement was reached with the Soviet Union for a student exchange.

Johnston expressed a lot of gratitude to Barbara Oldenburg and the Hillsborough school system, saying the credit for his selection lies there. "We just recently moved here, and I would not have made it without them," he

## to operate ergy plant

The resource-recovery plant is expected to be operating by 1991.

Recycling, now required of every household in the county, is an im-

said.

The itinerary for the trip hasn't been fully established yet. According to Johnston, it has pretty much been a matter of U.S. officials making requests to the Russians to see certain things. "I know we'll be staying in Moscow a long time," Johnston said. "The NASA press secretary, Miss Linda Long, has been negotiating with them. We've asked to see Star City, one of their launch sites, and the Cosmodrome. We're also requesting to see the Russian Ballet and the Moscow Circus."

Going along with the 10 Young Astronauts will be Long, other State Department officials, and Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart, according to Johnston.

To complete the student exchange, 10 young cosmonauts will be coming to the U.S. around Dec. 2, Johnston said. "They have a nice schedule. They'll be going to Disney World, the Houston Space Center, Cape Canaveral, a space camp in Georgia, and wind up with a two-hour shopping spree at Macy's in New York."

"I think they'll really like our country," said Johnston. "I think I'll like their country, too. We have to experience different cultures to appreciate our own."

Johnston sees the importance of the student exchange program as going beyond the mere learning of each other's culture and space program. "This is not only to learn about each other's space missions, but for peace," he said. "This is to show we can get along. I'd like to see their kids, and learn what their dreams are, and their hopes for their space program. I want to know what they think, and if they like us."

Cooperation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union will be a key to future space exploration, in Johnston's view. "I'm forecasting a combined U.S.-U.S.S.R. mission to Mars," he said. "I know they're going to send probes there now. I think we can learn a lot more together, and prove a lot more."

To prepare for joint space missions, Johnston suggested American and Russian teams could lay the groundwork for cooperation right here on earth. "We should do an Antarctic mission together, to see how well we can work together," he said. "Both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. are interested in Antarctic exploration."

"Space is too valuable to whittle away on military and business aspects," he said. "We shouldn't waste it like we did with things here on Earth. We should

## Girl chosen for Moscow trip

8051  
A 13-year-old Florissant girl is one of 10 youngsters in the United States who will travel to Moscow in October through the Young Astronauts Program.

Mandy Heideman, commander of the Young Astronauts chapter at Hazelwood Central Junior High School, was chosen from among 2,000 people ages 13 to 16. The trip is a result of an exchange agreement reached during the November summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet Leader Mikail Gorbachev.

The eighth-grader is the only Missourian chosen for the trip. The students, accompanied by three adult chaperones and a translator, will be in Moscow from Oct. 14 to Oct. 28. Mandy said the students will tour historic sites, a museum and possibly visit the site where the Soviets launch their space vehicles.

The student said she was excited about the trip, but not scared. She said she plans a career producing medicine in space, and would like to ride on a space shuttle one day.



Mandy Heideman

# Student Plans To Launch Career With Soviet Trip

By Cynthia Todd  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Who would have thought that fascination with the dissection of worms at an early age would net Mandy Heidemann a history-making trip to the Soviet Union?

Probably no one — except Mandy Heidemann. It was three years ago that Mandy, now 13, dissected a worm.

"I thought that was really neat," she said. So neat, in fact, that Mandy began to think she might become a pediatrician. "But I decided not to. It was too boring."

Instead, Mandy has chosen to seek a career in space technology. That decision has paid off.

Mandy is an eighth-grader in the gifted program at Hazelwood Junior High School, and she is the youngest of 10 students in the first group of astronaut hopefuls who will travel to Moscow in October.

The trip is part of a cultural agreement President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev reached during the

Geneva summit meeting last year.

On Dec. 2, a group of young aspiring cosmonauts from the Soviet Union will arrive in the United States to begin a 10-day stay.

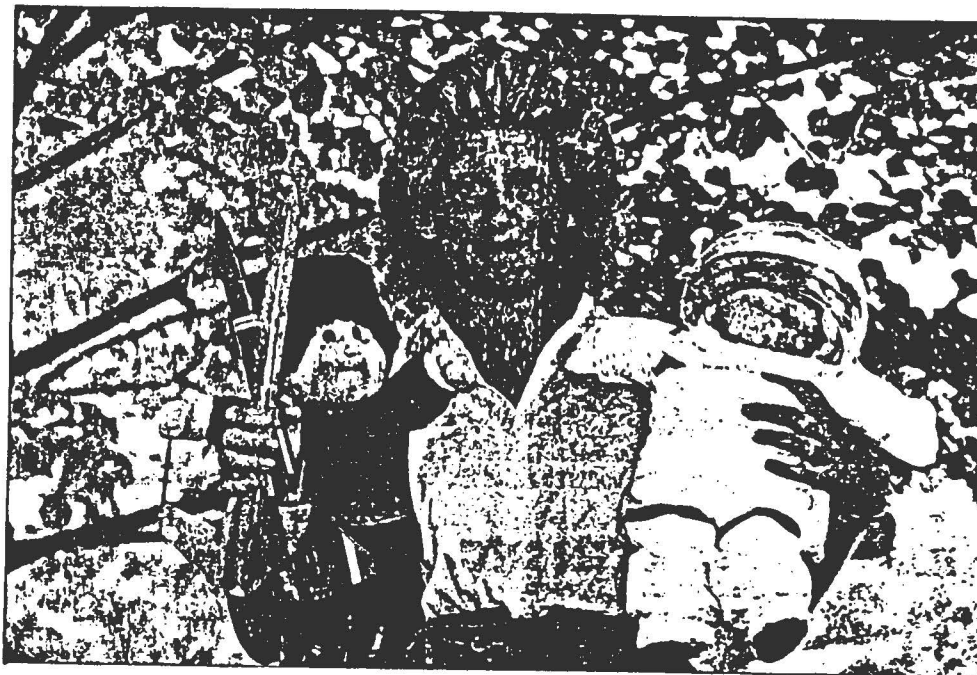
The program is sponsored by the Young Astronauts Council in an effort to prepare the next generation for world cooperation. Twenty private corporations are paying for the students' trip.

Mandy was at Walt Disney's Epcot Center — touted as a prototype of the community of the future — when she learned of her selection 10 days ago. She had been in Florida visiting her grandmother. Earlier, she visited the Kennedy Space Center.

She said she was prepared to take the upcoming trip even before the selection process had been completed. She tried to cajole her mother, Marilynn, into helping her apply for a passport in June.

Two Cabbage Patch dolls commemorate the excursion are seated in a chair at the Heidemann

See STUDENT, Page 10



Amanda J. Heidemann, who will travel to the Soviet Union, shows off her model rock-

Lynn T. Spence/Post-Dispatch  
ets and Cabbage Patch dolls, one in Russian costume, the other in astronaut garb.

St. Louis Post Dispatch  
Sunday Aug. 24, 1986

## From page one

home at 2270 Orleans Lane in Florissant. One doll is dressed like a Soviet citizen; the other is wearing an astronaut's garb. Mandy bought the astronaut doll with money she earned shoveling stones and cutting grass in her uncle's yard. Her mother bought the Soviet doll after the family learned Mandy had been selected for the trip.

Much of Mandy's exposure to the space program has come through the Young Astronauts program at Hazelwood, which recently ended its first year. The program, a nationwide one, began nearly two years ago to stimulate student interest in math and science and space-related careers.

Last year at Hazelwood, students built and launched rockets and hot-air balloons. They also heard Charles Walker, an employee of McDonnell Douglas, describe his experiences on two space missions.

At the end of the year, the students picked Mandy as the school's Outstanding Young Astronaut of the Year.

Mandy and her mother credit her teacher, John Davis, for identifyi

the girl's interest in space and sparking her interest.

He said he knew Mandy had an excellent chance of being selected for the exchange "because she met all of the qualifications."

It was Mandy's essay about how she could come to understand the people of the Soviet Union that sold the selection committee.

"I hope to meet people my age from their country who are interested in space. They're called pioneers," she said. "And I hope to learn what they want to accomplish in the future."

"Maybe I will meet someone who I might work with on a space project in the future. If we kind of find out what they're doing, people won't be so scared of them trying to blow us up," Mandy said.

Mandy wants to pursue space medicine. And she says she would like to participate in a space mission one day. Her ultimate aspiration is to invent something that will save time and money.

"But I have no idea what it would be," she said.

THE SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER, August 24, 1986

# Young 'astronaut' flies high over trip to Soviet

By JAMES BERZOK

Thirteen-year-old Todd Johnston speaks glibly about his upcoming trip to the Soviet Union as a member of the Young Astronauts Program.

The Hillsborough lad is a loquacious sort who exudes self-assurance; the kind of kid who dreams about reaching for the stars and ultimately ends up snatching one from the heavens.

Johnston was the only New Jerseyan of the 10 junior high and high school students selected nationally to tour Russia to promote peaceful uses of space while fostering amiable relations between the superpower nations.

For young Johnston, who moved to the Garden State from Louisiana last year, the chance to participate in a journey halfway around the world only confirms his desire to pursue a career in the aerospace industry as either an astronaut or engineer.

"I've always enjoyed things dealing with space exploration," he said.

## Hillsborough lad going on tour to promote peaceful uses of space

"Ever since I was old enough to comprehend books and television, I've been interested in space."

In May, Johnston learned of the Young Astronauts Program through his teacher at the Hillsborough Middle School. Todd said he had to fill out a complicated application, submit a battery of standard test scores and write an essay on what attracted him to the program.

"I essentially told them I wanted to learn more about the Russian space program, but just as importantly meet the Russian children," he said. "I really think we're skeptical of the Russians because we don't know that much about them and they don't know that much about us."

The Russian itinerary remains in-

complete, but Johnston said plans include stays in Moscow and Star City, where the Soviet space program is headquartered.

"They have a different system of doing things than we do. I think to value what we have, we have to know what they have," he explained.

When he learned in July he was one of 25 finalists, the knots in his stomach began to tighten a bit. Then earlier this month he received his acceptance notice.

"I was just ecstatic," Johnston recalled. "The stakes were very high. I had never been involved in anything like this."

"I really wanted to be involved in a mission of peace. I think as children we may be able to help find a way to agree on how to best utilize space," he added.

Johnston has had an informal yet long association with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which helps support the Young Astronauts Program.

"I began corresponding with NASA when I was five," he said. "When I was older I wrote them suggesting that all ages are interested in space, and particularly that children are this

country's future in space."

Johnston said he would be ready to "go up there" tomorrow, but noted the Challenger space shuttle tragedy in January gave him time to reflect on his feelings about the space program.

Like many schoolchildren on that clear winter morning, Johnston was watching the launch when the Challenger exploded over the Atlantic Ocean, killing all seven astronauts aboard. His class was preparing to conduct experiments—testing the efficacy of toys as teaching instruments in space—similar to those scheduled to be carried out by Christa McAuliffe, the New Hampshire schoolteacher who died in the shuttle explosion.

"When the Challenger blew up it took a piece of all of us because for so long everything had gone so smoothly. I couldn't believe it had happened. But now I think it has given everyone more spirit to continue and I don't mean that in a macabre sense," he noted.

"This has given us time to reassess our technology. I think that people realize space is valuable to us. I think that space will become more valuable to us."

"As time goes on, we need to boost morale in the space program," he added. "I believe there still is a future in space. We don't know that much about space. If the truth be told we know very little."

Although the role of space exploration in the next century remains speculative, Johnston is certain it will be a prominent one.





Photo by Kevin Murlagh

**Surrounded by science fiction images, Todd Johnston will get a taste of the real thing when he travels to Russia as a member of the Young Astronauts Program**

"At the beginning of this century we couldn't even fly. More and more people will be in space. It's inevitable. Either they'll be living on permanent space stations or be involved with long-term space exploration," he said. "I can safely say that somehow I'll be involved with the space program."

# Teen is on Cloud 9

## Would-be astronaut is going to Soviet Union

By PATRICIA VOWINKEL  
Courier-News Staff Writer

B-8651

**HILLSBOROUGH** — Thirteen-year-old Todd Johnston dreams of becoming an astronaut, and in October he'll be going to the Soviet Union to hang out with Soviet and American space travelers.

He was among 10 students from across the country who were chosen by the Young Astronaut Council in Washington, D.C., for a two-week tour of the Soviet Union.

From Oct. 14 to 28, they will visit space facilities, schools and museums, a spokeswoman for the council said this week. The exact itinerary has not been established.

Johnston, of 46 Longfield Drive, said he received a call from the council last week.

When he was told he would be going on the trip, he said, "I just went crazy. Immediately, I kind of went up on a cloud."

But that wasn't the full payload.

T. Wendell Butler, executive director of the Young Astronaut Council, also told him he would be one of three students going to New York City to appear on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" the next day.

"I was running around the room like a howling banshee by then," Johnston said. "I'm really so excited,



**TODD JOHNSTON**

... to visit Soviet Union.

so pleased, so thankful. It all came true."

In July, Johnston and two other students from Hillsborough, Tyra Fahsbender and Katy Eisenmann, were among 35 finalists selected from around the nation.

The students were selected on the basis of an essay competition, recommendations from a teacher and telephone interviews, said Dick Funkhouser, director of international

activities for the Young Astronaut Council.

The Young Astronaut Council is a nonprofit organization aimed at increasing student interest in math and science.

Funkhouser said Johnston received an "A plus plus" from judges. One judge, he said, remarked that Johnston was "some sort of genius."

He said Johnston had been writing to NASA since he was 5 years old.

The council also was impressed by Johnston's essay, Funkhouser said. He said Johnston "used some Russian words, which is quite unusual."

But Johnston said some of the credit belongs to Hillsborough schools.

"I owe a tremendous amount to my school system and (gifted-and-talented teacher) Mrs. Oldenburg," Johnston said.

To prepare for his trip, Johnston said he bought a Russian-English dictionary and his parents, Bill and Barbara Johnston, gave him a book about how to cope in the Soviet Union.

"I'm learning a little bit of Russian," he said, after trying out a few newly learned phrases.

He said he and the nine other students will spend Oct. 12 and 13 in Washington, learning protocol and getting a cram course in Soviet culture.

# Clairton teen selected for Soviet tour

8051

Amy Grubb of Clairton is an All-American kid.

She is one of 10 American teenagers selected nationwide for a two-week tour of the Soviet Union that will likely include visits to a rocket-launching pad, cosmonaut training facility and mission control center.

She attended a space conference for teenagers in California last month, and her winning application for the October trip to the U.S.S.R. included an essay predicting what the next 20 years of the space program would be like.

Besides thinking and writing about astronauts, she also sometimes talks like one.

Amy said of her upcoming visit to the Soviet Union, "I really kind of think that it's a small step to putting the nations closer."

Amy also wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

Odd, you say? Not so odd, she says, explaining that when a lunar base is built in the future, its occupants will want to take their pets with them.

"You need someone to take care of them," she noted.

Linda Long, assistant to the executive director of the Young Astronaut Council, describes Amy as the "All-American kid... probably what is best in the young astronaut program."

Amy learned over a week ago that she had been selected to participate in the council's exchange program, in which 10 young cosmonauts will visit the United States in December.

Since she heard the good news

she's had a whirlwind tour of New York, including an appearance on "Good Morning America."

After her television appearance, Amy spent a day sightseeing, returning to Clairton Saturday night in time to baby-sit.

"(Amy) is a child who has a lot of ambition, a lot of drive and a lot of energy," said Ms. Long.

That drive was a key reason she was selected from about 200 applicants, ages 13 to 16, to visit the Soviet Union.

The 10 young astronauts may also meet President Reagan before leaving for the Soviet Union.

The exchange was the idea of the Young Astronaut Council, a private, non-profit organization, and was discussed as part of a general cultural exchange during Reagan's summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva last November.

She said she hopes the United States and Soviet Union cooperate more in space, rather than compete. She said she thinks the nations should share satellite operations and eventually work together to land on Mars.

Amy answers questions about her appearance on television and her trip to the Soviet Union politely, but casually.

Her father, though, has a hard time containing his enthusiasm and doesn't even try.

Donald Grubb, a tool and die maker, has taken care of Amy for the last 3½ years since Amy's mother died.

"It's a trip of a lifetime. I'm just so excited for her," he said.



Ross A. Catanza/The Pittsburgh Press

Amy Grubb, 14, heading to U.S.S.R.

Mt Pleasant News Aug 18, 1986

## Tad Dockstader one of just 10 going to Russia in exchange program

Tad Dockstader, 15, the son of Bruce and Sue Dockstader, Mt. Pleasant, is one of just 10 youths who will visit Russia in October on a trip involving the Young Astronauts Council in this country and the Young Cosmonauts in the Soviet Union.

He is one of just 10 youths ages 14-16 who will be on the Oct. 14-28 trip. They will visit space facilities, museums, schools, and historical and cultural sites. Also, the 10 youths will meet cosmonauts and have the opportunity to exchange information with Soviet students.

Dockstader said he assumes they will visit Moscow, but a complete itinerary is not available.

In order to be chosen for the trip, applicants had to write essays on why they wanted to go and what they saw as the "main thrust in the space program" in near future, Dockstader said. Once the finalists were narrowed down to 15, he had to write an essay on what he did during the summer.

Dockstader, who will be a sophomore at Mt. Pleasant Community High School this fall, has been interested in aerospace engineering for a long time. He has launched 18 inch model rockets, some of which went 750-1,000 feet high. Those rockets run on solid propellant fuel.

When the fuel is finished, an ejection charge is fired, and a parachute comes out, he said.

The rockets take about two to three days, Dockstader said. Some of the parts, such as the engine, are commercially available.

He also built a wind tunnel that was one of the exhibits at the Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair in Cedar Rapids two years ago.

A group of 10 Russian youths will visit the U.S. in December.

The exchange program will be the first annual exchange of youth delegations agreed upon by the two nations' leaders during their summit in November, 1985.

The Young Astronaut program was inaugurated in October, 1984, by President Reagan. Among its goals is increasing interest and skills of students in mathematics, space, and related subjects, by providing them with curricula, activities, and materials, for use both inside and outside the classroom.

About 7,000 Young Astronaut chapters exist in the U.S., with 250,000 members. The local chapter has about 15 members, Dockstader said.

has been occupying himself with Kino's space camp, for which he was one of three student teachers.

He helped with activities that included a rocket launch and a 24-hour simulated shuttle flight, and he gave a talk on the past 25 years of space research.

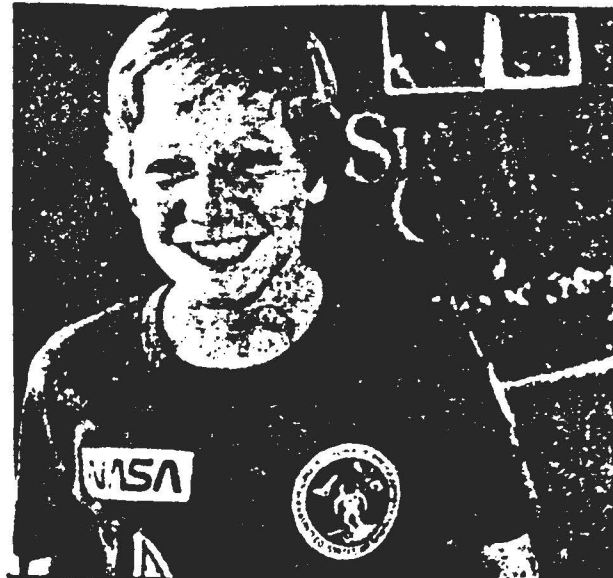
#### **Predicts future of exploration**

He has definite ideas about what the next 20 years of space research will be like, and that was one of the topics of the paper that helped him earn the trip.

Once the space shuttle's safety systems have been refined, he predicted, the United States will unite with other countries for research on space habitats, "either a space station or biosphere on the moon."

About the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger, he said: "You can't accomplish a goal as great as entering space without some risk. It's kind of frightening, but I understand the risk involved."

Scott, the youngest of four children, likes to draw and enjoys drafting, strategy games and working with computers, in addition to his fascination with chemistry and aerospace engineering.



**Scott Clark**

Ren Medvescek, The Arizona Daily Star.

"They both want peace."



# Aspiring astronaut bound for Russia for glimpse of Soviet space effort.

By Pam Parrish  
The Arizona Daily Star

You might say Scott Clark has space on the brain. Except that the Soviet Union is on his mind a lot, too.

The 13-year-old Tucsonan, the son of Drs. Marvin and Sandy Clark, is one of 10 youths in the United States chosen by the Young Astronauts Council to travel to the Soviet Union in October.

It's a good start on his life's dream — to become an astronaut — but Scott is very conscious of the program's goal, too: To promote cooperation and understanding between children in both countries.

## Both countries have hopes

"I believe they have a lot in common," he said in an interview Saturday, two days after learning he had been chosen for the trip.

"They both want peace, and both have hopes, fears."

He's thinking of having his classmates at Kino Learning Center write messages for a card he can give

to his Russian counterpart.

The Young Astronauts Council, established by President Reagan in 1984, is a privately funded program intended to encourage young people's interest in space sciences and to promote peace.

Scott hasn't been given details on the trip, except that it will be from Oct. 12 to 26, with the first two days spent in Washington, D.C. He's hoping to meet some of the youngsters in the Young Cosmonauts program. "But whatever I'm going to do, I'm going to enjoy it and learn from it — I'm sure of that," he said.

## Has lived in Saudi Arabia

After living for two years in Saudi Arabia before moving to Tucson a year ago, "I'm used to traveling," Scott said. "But I haven't been to Russia. I'm looking forward to it."

"Scott is a wonderful kid, and the most wonderful thing about him is he thinks he's so normal," said Sister Judy Bisignano, leader of Kino's Young Astronauts Council chapter. "His sincerity is so nice."

Since entering the competition at her urging, Scott

## 805 **Young Astronauts' tour**

Ten "Young Astronauts" from across the USA have been chosen to tour the Soviet Union Oct. 14-28, the Young Astronaut Council announced Thursday. They'll visit space facilities, schools and museums.

In December, 10 "Young Cosmonauts" will visit the USA. Young Astronauts is a non-profit organization aimed at increasing student interest in math and science. Headed for the Soviet Union:

- Rica Buxbaum, 13, New York City
- Scott Clark, 13, Tucson, Ariz.
- Tad Dockstader, 15, Mount Pleasant, Iowa
- Juan Calzada, 15, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
- Amy Grubb, 14, Clairton, Pa.
- Mandy Heldemann, 13, Florissant, Mo.
- Todd Johshon, 13, Neshanic, N.J.
- Chris Lapp, 15, Monahans, Texas
- Heidi Riffe, 14, Dayton, Ohio
- Antonlo Smith, 14, Memphis, Tenn.