

SCR

37

Senator Rick Uehling

Senate District H
Downtown, Elmendorf, Northeast Anchorage



Senate Finance Committee
Chair, International Trade Committee
Vice-Chair, State Affairs Committee
Labor & Commerce Committee

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Paul Fischer
Chair, Senate HESS Committee

FROM: Senator Rick Uehling *R. Uehling*

DATE: January 21, 1988

SUBJECT: SCR 37, "Relating to the Young Astronaut Program."

I have asked staff to provide the following background to SCR 37, "A Resolution relating to the Young Astronaut Program."

SCR 37 encourages school districts in Alaska to adopt the Young Astronaut Program by starting Young Astronaut Chapters in their schools.

The Young Astronaut Program is a national educational program for elementary and junior high students designed to promote the study of science, mathematics and technological subjects. It was designed to equip students at an early age with the interest and educational skills to live in the technological world of tomorrow.

Solely financed through private sector support, the program costs are minimal: only \$20.00 per Chapter per year for up to 30 students per Chapter. For that \$20.00, teachers receive high-quality, technically up-to-date teaching materials each month. In contrast, a science textbook costs approximately \$17.00 per student, thus necessitating an expenditure of approximately \$510 for a classroom of 30 students and which would become out-of-date much more quickly.

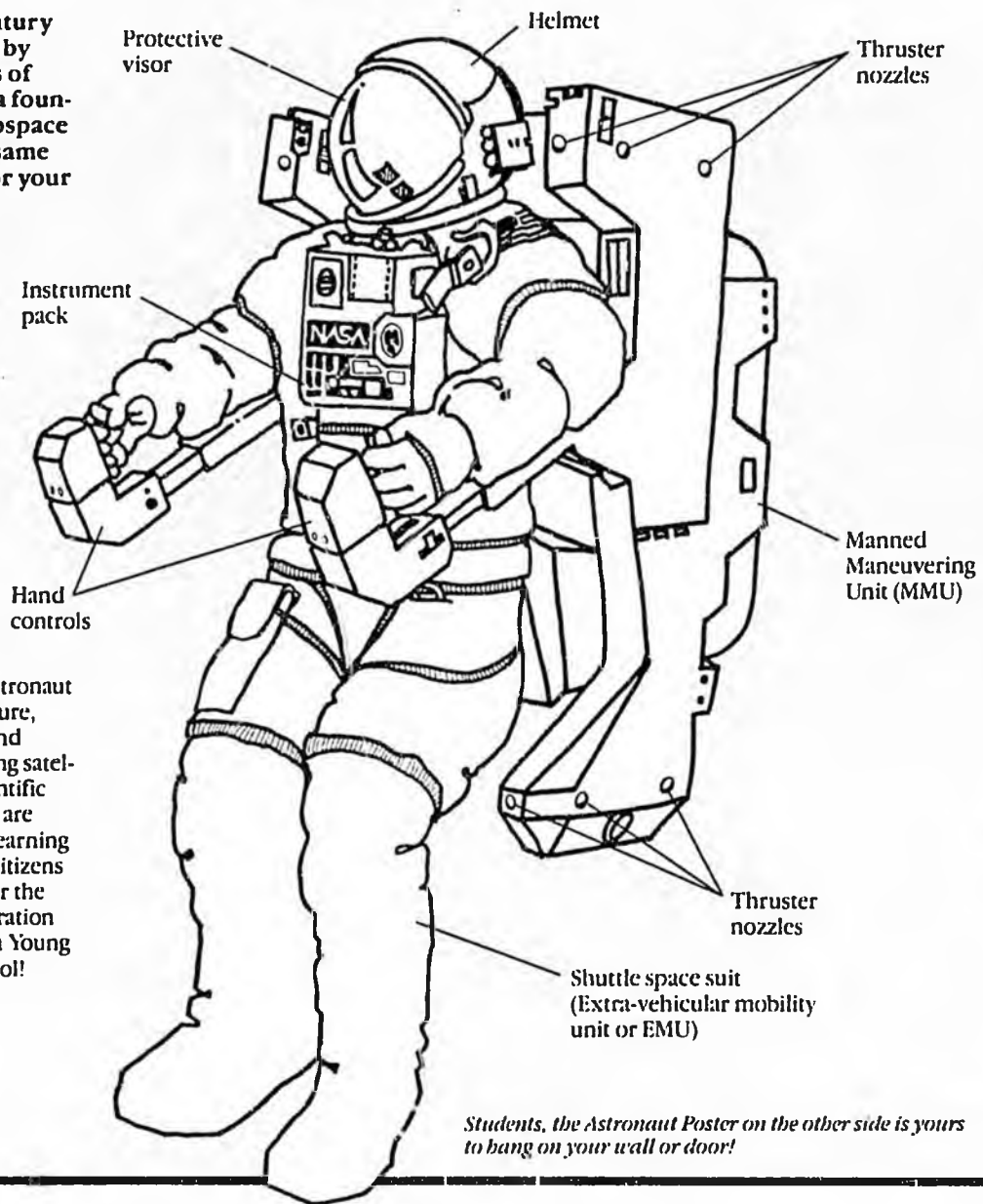
The materials that are distributed by the Young Astronaut Council are high quality as they are reviewed by the Education and Technology Advisory Board composed of representatives from leading U.S. education and space organizations. Additionally, the materials receive preview from fifty Pilot Schools before finally being nationally distributed to Chapters.

Young Astronaut Program



Information Young Astronauts receive about life in space.

Astronauts of the 20th Century prepared for their careers by learning the fundamentals of Math and Science *early* as a foundation to the rigorous aerospace training. You must do the same or better to be prepared for your life in the 21st Century.



The EMU and MMU make an astronaut into a tiny spaceship. In the future, astronauts will be darting around building space stations, repairing satellites and servicing orbiting scientific instruments. Young Astronauts are finding out about all this, and learning about things they will need as citizens of the 21st Century. Be ready for the future. Take the attached registration form to your teacher and start a Young Astronaut Chapter in your school!

Students, the Astronaut Poster on the other side is yours to hang on your wall or door!



Young Astronaut Pledge

"I pledge my best efforts to improve my grades in science, mathematics and related subjects, to learn about space and to help others towards these goals."

GET READY FOR THE 21st CENTURY!



Get involved...

KEEP AMERICA #1

Young Astronauts and their teachers participate in many exciting activities which include:

- Receiving NEWSLETTERS, POSTERS and other educational-enriching materials
- Receiving accurate computer UPDATES on space exploration through ASTRONET™
- Taking FIELD TRIPS to space installations and other educational facilities
- Joining in national CONTESTS with exciting prizes
- Working on Young Astronaut CHAPTER activities
- Teaching each other for better grades in MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE and related subjects
- Keeping up with SPACE missions and astronomical events
- Participation in international youth exchanges

Start a Chapter!

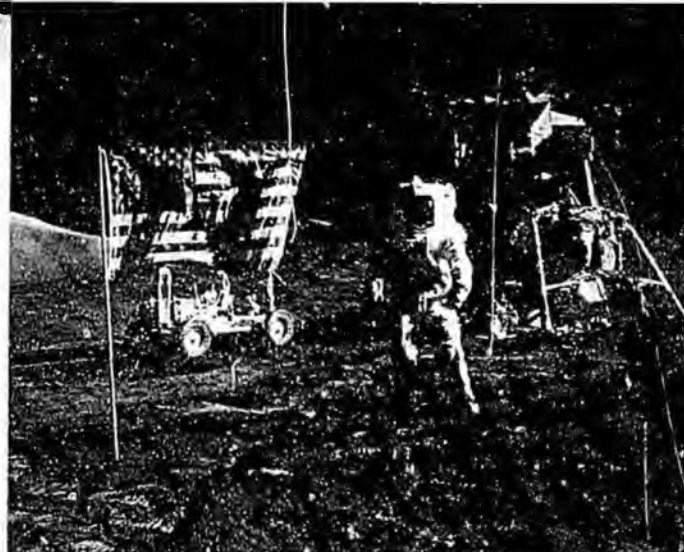
To participate in the Program fully, students should belong to a Young Astronaut Chapter. Thousands of Chapters of Young Astronauts have been set up across the country as either a co-curricular or extracurricular activity, or outside of schools by community organizations and interested adults.

It costs \$20.00 to start a Chapter which can have from 5 to 30 student members. This annual registration fee for each Chapter partially covers the production and mailing costs of the Young Astronaut materials and Program administration. Corporate funding covers the additional costs. Chapter leaders are also encouraged to seek local support for field trips and other supplemental activities.

Your enrollment fee covers a year of activities for your Chapter of 5 to 30 students. Chapter Leaders receive the **Handbook**, the **Adventure Series**, four color **Curriculum Posters**, **Curriculum Activity Packages**, **Contest and Competition** entrance information, **Newsletters** and access to **ASTRONET™**, the Young Astronaut computer data network with its several monthly features.

Students receive **Membership Cards**, **Certificates** and other items. Information on contests with prizes such as trips to launches, computers, etc. are provided.

1. Regular Competitions are held for Young Astronaut members. Details of these Contests are communicated to Chapters.
2. Another in-Chapter feature of the curriculum is a mentoring program, where students who are qualified assist their peers in Chapter activities. Incentives to encourage student mentoring are provided.
3. A teacher training program is currently being developed for Chapter leaders. This will consist of seminars to be held at locations all around the country.
4. A Supply Depot for Young Astronaut items is being established.



Exciting information on all space missions and aerospace developments will be sent to Young Astronauts. Above is Scientist-Astronaut Harrison M. "Jack" Schmitt, lunar module pilot of the Apollo 17 lunar landing mission, standing beside the deployed U.S. flag at the Taurus-Littrow landing site.



Two Young Astronauts learn about space exploration on a chapter field trip.

As a Teacher: Use the attached registration form to start a Chapter today for up to 30 students.

As a Parent: Give the attached registration form to an interested teacher and ask them to start a Young Astronaut Chapter in their school. This is a very tangible way to make a difference in your children's education.

As a Student: Rush the attached registration to a teacher in your school to start a Chapter today. If you move fast, your teacher will get the activities fast for you.

If you need more registration forms or information:
Write to Young Astronaut Council, P.O. Box 65432,
Washington, D.C. 20036.

Join the Space Team™ and KEEP AMERICA #1



The Young Astronaut Program is a privately sponsored, non-profit, educational organization established by the White House to develop and deliver high-quality curricular material to Chapters formed by schools and community groups. The purpose is to encourage students in elementary and junior high schools to study science, mathematics, technology and related subjects. By receiving information and activities related to the Space Program, Young Astronauts will gain the knowledge and skills they need for the coming decades.

All materials are reviewed by our Education and Technology Advisory Board, composed of representatives of all the major professional education associations as well as aerospace experts. These materials are then sent to classrooms across the country for additional review. In this way we ensure that learning and fun are effectively blended.

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Why is this so critical?

As technological challenges have increased, the educational standing of young Americans has fallen. We put up the buildings, and we hand out diplomas by the millions. But the quality of education has declined.

Warns the National Space Commission: "An estimated 90 percent of America's high school graduates may not be capable of accomplishing even the most routine high-technology tasks. While up to 90 percent of high school graduates in other countries are proficient in math and science, a mere six percent of U.S. graduates attain the same proficiency."

If this trend isn't dramatically reversed, the United States could forfeit its technological leadership and lose its superiority in the factory and the field.

President Reagan established the Young Astronaut Program as a catalyst to prepare our children for the future. In the words of the National Space Commission, "The privately sponsored Young Astronaut Program is effectively reaching out to elementary and junior high school students to ignite their enthusiasm for studying science, mathematics and high technology."

Young people are fascinated by space. To channel that fascination into the hot pursuit of the studies required for the exploration and settlement of other worlds, to make school work less forbidding by dramatizing that it is the key to the universe beyond, to attract students to the disciplines that are prerequisite to tackling the challenge of the stars—these are the objectives of the Young Astronaut Program.

And...

- The Young Astronaut Program is designed for in-school activities to encourage further study in math and science.
- The curriculum is timely (within months of new breakthroughs), prepared by the finest educators from multiple disciplines, and piloted in school systems nationwide.
- The curriculum focus is *activity based...doing is learning*, and designed to involve the students.
- The curriculum is interdisciplinary; students use all learning skills.
- The Program is cost efficient! The average science textbook today is \$17, yet \$20 provides annual materials for up to 30 students in the Young Astronaut Program.
- The Program includes specialized materials for the following grades:
 - Grades 1-3 (Trainee)
 - Grades 4-6 (Pilot)
 - Grades 7-9 (Commander)

President Reagan congratulates Executive Director Wendell Butler on YAC first-year accomplishments.



TEACHERS...

START A YOUNG ASTRONAUT CHAPTER AND KEEP AMERICA #1



Over 80% of Young Astronaut Chapters are led by teachers in schools around the country, directly committed to improving the science and mathematics ability of the youth of America. Get involved by starting a Chapter yourself or handing this registration form to an interested teacher or educator.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

CHAPTER REGISTRATION FORM

PRINT ANSWERS TO RIGHT ▾

DETACH HERE AND GIVE TO AN INTERESTED TEACHER IN YOUR SCHOOL

1. Chapter Leader's Name ▾ 1.

2. School Name ▾ 2.

3. Chapter Name ▾ 3.

4. Mailing Address ▾ 4.

CITY STATE

COUNTRY ZIP

5. Chapter Telephone Number ▾ 5. () -

6. Telephone Number of Chapter Leader ▾ 6. () - (Optional)

7. Grade Level (Check One) ▾ 7. 1-3 (Trainee) 4-6 (Pilot) 7-9 (Commander)

8. Number of Members in Your Chapter ▾ 8. (Chapters consist of 5 to 30 Members)

9. Sponsor's Name (if any) ▾ 9.

10. Sponsor's Address ▾ 10.

CITY STATE

COUNTRY ZIP

11. Where did you first hear of the Young Astronaut Program? 11. _____

As Leaders of this Chapter, we will maintain a spirit of cooperation, encourage the joy of learning and endorse the goals of the Young Astronaut Program.

Chapter Leader(s) _____ Date _____ [At least one signature required]
 _____ Date _____
 (Must be at least 21 years of age)

Chapter Advisors _____ Date _____
 (Optional) _____ Date _____
 (Must be at least 21 years of age)

The users of/or subscribers to educational programs and materials sponsored or supported by the Young Astronaut Council agree not to hold the Council responsible for any injury resulting from or proximately caused by the person's participation in any activity.

To form a Chapter, please submit this registration form and the \$20.00 registration fee (check, money order or purchase order) payable to the Young Astronaut Council. (Please allow 4-6 weeks for initial delivery.)

Note: All Chapter Memberships begin on September 1 and expire on August 31 of the following year. If you form your Chapter any time after September 1, you will still receive the entire school year's curriculum material, but you should expect to be billed for the next school year by September 1.

Send to: Young Astronaut Council, P.O. Box 65432, Washington, D.C. 20036



**WHAT YOU
REQUESTED
FROM THE
YOUNG
ASTRONAUTS!**



Young Astronaut Council
P.O. Box 65432
Washington, D.C. 20036

A M E N D M E N T

Offered in the SENATE

By Uehling

TO: SCR 37

Page 2, line 2, after "state;":

Insert "to the president of each local teachers association;"