

HSWT Program Summary

Spring-Summer 2013

The Heinlein Prize Trust Russian Sokol spacesuit was brought to the following schools, teacher professional development programs, and summer camps for presentations about the human body in space, living and working in space, and science in space:

5/14/13 Presentation on living and working in space to 235 8th graders at Western Heights Middle School in Hagerstown, Maryland (Washington County). This is a Title 1 school with a significant percentage of the students considered high-risk from low-income families.



Students at Western Heights Middle School had the opportunity to learn about space travel and examine the Heinlein Prize Trust's Sokol spacesuit during a visit on May 14, 2013.

- 5/21/13** 2 presentations on the human body in space to fifty 10th and 11th grade students at Bowie High School (Prince George's County).
- 5/24/13** Presentation on spacesuits and space travel for 22 4th grade students at Halstead Academy, a public school in Baltimore, Maryland. This is a Title 1 school as well.
- 5/29/13** Presentation on living and working in space to 175 6th graders at La Fayette Junior High School in La Fayette, New York, located just south of Syracuse. An additional 30 Native American students attended the presentation from the neighboring Onandoga Nation Territory School.
- 5/29/13** Presentation on spacesuits and living and working in space to 125 6th graders at the Lincoln Middle School, an inner-city school in Syracuse, New York.



Sokol spacesuit on display at Lincoln Middle School in Syracuse, NY.

- 5/31/13** Presentation on living and working in space and the design and function of spacesuits to 15 representatives of the national Project ASTRO Team meeting at Towson University. Project ASTRO is an ongoing partnership between astronomers and educators and encourages amateur and professional astronomers to join with teachers in order to improve science education, with a strong emphasis on hands-on learning.
- 6/3/13** HSWT Program school visit to Fallston Middle School. A total of 45 6th graders read *Have Spacesuit Will Travel* and 20 of them participated in a special on-line book club set up by the coordinating teacher, Elizabeth Blackwell. Five of the students completed projects related to improving the design of spacesuits for future space travelers. Two of these students had the opportunity to try on the Sokol spacesuit during this visit. Seven parents attended the project reviews and observed their students trying on the Sokol spacesuit.
- 6/25/13** HSWT was invited to present a program at the Rockville Science Center summer science camp. Fifteen students in grades 6-8 participated and heard a program about living and working in space and then were able to examine the Heinlein Sokol spacesuit.
- 7/2/13** Program on spacesuits and living and working in space was presented to 40 students in grades 6-7 attending the Maryland Summer Center for Space Science held at the Applied Physics Lab located in Laurel, MD. This two-week summer camp is run by the Maryland State Department of Education and targets gifted and talented students.
- 7/2/13** Program on spacesuits and life in space for 25 students in grades 6-8 attending the Rockville Science Center summer science camp in Rockville, MD.



Students attending the Rockville Science Center summer camp on space science were thrilled with the opportunity to examine a Russian Sokol spacesuit up close.

- 7/10/13** Program on spacesuits and life in space to 20 middle and high school teachers from across Maryland participating in a summer professional development program at Towson University.
- 7/22/13** Program on spacesuits and living and working in space to 45 students in grades 5-8 attending the Maryland Summer Center for Space Engineering Robotics program at the Howard B. Owens Science Center in Lantham, MD (located directly across from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center). This two-week summer camp is run by the Maryland State Department of Education and targets gifted and talented students.
- 7/30/13** Program on spacesuits and life in space was presented to 70 children ages 8-12 and 30 adult counselors participating in the Mountain Top Bible Camp in Jarrettsville, MD, just outside Baltimore.

8/28/13 Two presentations on spacesuits and life in space to 60 high school students in grades 9-10 at Gwynn Park High School in Brandywine, MD (located outside Washington, D.C.).

Upcoming Programs for Fall, 2013

Once again this fall we are working with South River High School and North County High School just south of Baltimore. These two schools have participated in the HSWT program since 2009. Nearly 250 students will have read *Have Spacesuit Will Travel* as part of their summer reading requirements. I will be making six visits to South River and four visits to North County during October-November. Students will hear a presentation on spacesuits and then a few of them will be permitted to try on the Sokol spacesuit. They will work on various art projects related to future spacesuit designs and as well as designs for future lunar bases. Once completed with their projects I will return to hear presentations of their work and review their designs.

Originally we were scheduled to present a family day program at the National Air & Space Museum on November 16 in conjunction with a special on-going exhibit titled "Suiting Up for Space". I just recently was informed that funding for the Saturday program fell through and thus will not take place.

Programs for 2014

Looking ahead to 2014, Fallston Middle School, another HSWT partner for the past 3 years is interested in continuing the program again this school year. Tentative plans are for school visits with the spacesuit in the March-April timeframe.

Don Thomas
September 10, 2013