



Pima County Public Library



News Release For Immediate Release



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August 5, 2008

Outer Space? Here in Pima County, it's just a library away, thanks to a downlink with NASA

TUCSON -- Kids and teens will experience a bit of space with the help of a downlink between NASA and the Pima County Public Library on Friday, Aug. 15.

Up to 150 nine- to 13-year-olds, parents and teachers will participate in a live in-flight educational downlink with the International Space Station from 11:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. MST. Students, who took part in a week-long Outer Space Base at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave., will participate in a live question-and-answer session featuring Expedition 17 astronaut Greg Chamitoff during the downlink.

Pima County Public Library is the first public library system in the United States to host a downlink, and this is the first time an Arizona organization has hosted such a downlink.

The Outer Space Base was a series of events presented at the library featuring various space themes. The sessions were the product of a training partnership between the Library and NASA, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and the Mars Education Program (Arizona State University). Librarians presenting the programs underwent 40 hours of training from those institutions.

To prepare for the downlink, Outer Space Base participants engaged in the week-long series of hands-on programs focusing on human spaceflight and the Vision for Space Exploration. The Outer Space Base celebrates the 50th anniversary of NASA by promoting science, technology, engineering and math skills among kids and teens.

NASA's education downlinks support the agency's efforts to encourage students to study and possibly pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. These events, facilitated by NASA's Teaching From Space Office, use the unique experience of human space flight to promote and enhance STEM education.

(more)

The downlink will air live on NASA Television and be streamed on the NASA Web site at:

<http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>

For information about NASA's education programs on the Web, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/education>

For additional information please check www.library.pima.gov, or call 791-4010.

Please note: Due to the nature of the mission work taking place on the ISS, the time of the downlink may change. Media will be alerted to such changes as quickly as possible.

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