



STELLARXPLORERS



STELLARXPLORERS is a National High School Challenge which provides a challenging, space system design competition involving all aspects of system development and operation with a spacecraft and payload focus. **STELLARXPLORERS** is an Air Force Association education program currently beginning its fifth season. During the past two years, we have only had a small CAP participation (8 units), but both years, the Aurora Composite Squadron from Portland, Oregon has qualified for the National Finals. Their team is composed of home schooled students and two cadets on their team are Middle Schoolers. The first thing which needs to be emphasize is you **DO NOT NEED TO BE A SPACE EXPERT** to become a Team Director. You only need to find cadets interested in learning about space and we will provide all the assistance needed to field a team. Total cost is a nominal \$200 fee payable by 1 December.

How does it work?

STELLARXPLORERS provides specific training in the use of system simulation software, Systems Tool Kit (STK) as well as an online textbook as a curriculum supplement and study resource for online “team” Quizzes given during the competition. The actual competition is accomplished from the team’s home location. Teams are given a scenario describing the system’s mission and constraints and they provide a solution to a typical space design problem, such as orbit determination, satellite component selection, and launch vehicle planning. Practice Rounds begin in October with Qualification Rounds in November and December that determine which teams advance to the Quarter-Final or Prestige Round in January and Semi-Finals in February. The top 10 teams from the Semi-Finals will receive an all-expense-paid trip the National Finals in April 2019. As mentioned above, a CAP team has qualified the past two years.

How do you get started?

Go to the StellarXplorers Website at <http://stellarxplorers.org/>. Register your team under the Registration Tab. You will not need to identify cadets until after the school year begins. Under the Competition Tab, click on STLX V Starting Checklist. This gives a step-by-step for getting ready to field a team. Also, we are here to help, so do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Benefits for CAP cadets

Exciting hands-on learning experience that develops commercially valuable skills and increases appreciation for the critical role of space in our daily lives ... and it is **FUN!!!**

Benefits for CAP Instructors

Relevant and stimulating addition to your classroom with hands-on, real-world applications of science and technology that is widely embedded into your cadet’s lives.

Bill Yucuis
Chief, Academics and Training
stellarxplorers@afa.org