CALL FOR APPLICATIONS for the 2016 International Space Camp

Application Deadline: **June 6, 2016**

The U.S. Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria is now accepting applications for the 2016 International Space Camp which brings together educators and students from all over the world to build relationships and challenge themselves as learners and teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This year, we will select one educator and two students (ages 15 – 18) to represent Bulgaria at the International Space Camp from July 9 to July 15, 2016 in Huntsville, Alabama.

International Educators participate in a comprehensive program to promote interest in space science and exploration as well as global cooperation. International students will be challenged both academically and physically through extended-duration missions and experiencing microgravity in the Underwater Astronaut Trainer. For further information about Space Camp, you can visit: http://www.spacecamp.com/

All expenses will be covered by the Embassy of the United States in Sofia.

APPLICANT DESCRIPTION:
Applicants should have a strong interest in and academic aptitude for STEM or STEM teachers. Record of relevant academic achievements or professional excellence will be considered an advantage. Applicants must exhibit serious commitment in pursuing leadership opportunities in their home countries, and demonstrate flexibility, open-mindedness, good social skills and maturity. Applicants must also understand that, if selected, they will be expected to fully and seriously participate in all program components during the week, as well as in follow-up activities afterward in their home countries. **English fluency is required for both students and educators.**

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:
a. Be 15, 16, 17, or 18 years of age as of July, 2016 (for students) and full-time teachers in STEM (for educators);
b. Highly proficient in English;
c. For students, committed to enrolling in high school or university in their home countries;
d. Demonstrate strong leadership potential and interest in STEM/continuing to teach STEM;
e. Sustained high level of academic achievement or professional excellence, as indicated by academic and other awards;
f. Demonstrate a commitment to community and extracurricular activities;
g. Have had little or no prior U.S. study or travel experience in the United States;
h. Be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;
i. Willing and able to fully participate in an intensive summer program;
j. Comfortable with campus life, shared living accommodations, travel and interaction with a multinational group of participants from all over the world. Able to adjust to cultural and social practices different from those of their home countries.

In order to apply, please submit the following information to the email listed below:

- full name
- date of birth
- address
- institution/school and position for educators
- a motivation letter (max. 500 words) explaining your involvement with STEM, past achievements and future aspirations, why you want to participate in Space Camp and how this would help your personal development, your school, your community.

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Vanya Ivanova
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Public Affairs Section
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NB Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.