NASA Wings 2019
A Week-long Camp for High School Students

July 7-12, 2019

The Department of Aviation Management and Flight at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, in conjunction with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is excited to offer NASA Wings, a week-long camp designed to give interested high school students an opportunity to learn more about how space communications and navigation systems impact and benefit aviation. NASA is very much interested in establishing a workforce pipeline, with the NASA Wings camp as one possible first step to an exciting career!

NASA Wings offers students the chance to explore careers in aviation and aerospace by providing ground and flight training at SIU Carbondale’s facilities. Participants will attend ground school classes, fly university flight training devices and aircraft (weather permitting), and enjoy evening activities on campus.

Participants will spend a week at the Southern Illinois Airport learning about subjects including:

- History of flight and navigation systems
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Weather satellites
- Search and rescue operations
- Preflight aircraft inspections
- Communication procedures

All flights will be conducted under the strict supervision of the Department of Aviation Management and Flight faculty members. Full and part time instructors regularly employed by the University will staff the NASA Wings Program. The camp is funded primarily through a grant from the NASA Space Communications and Navigation office. Campers will be provided all meals (Sunday dinner-Friday breakfast), five (5) nights lodging in a University residence hall, supervised evening activities, dinner flight, limited accident medical camper insurance, and all flight instruction. Campers will enjoy excellent housing accommodations with two campers per room.

The camp is limited to 8 students. Students must be completing their freshman, sophomore, or junior year of high school this year. Nominations will be accepted through May 8, 2019. Nominees will be notified whether they have been accepted for the camp or wait-listed upon receipt of nomination form. An $83 non-refundable camp fee will be required to hold a camp slot. Payment in full will be required no later than June 5, 2019, for those applicants who have been accepted. Applicants not meeting the payment deadline will forfeit the camp slot. Camp check-in will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 7. Check-out will be at noon on Friday, July 12. Additional information including directions to Southern Illinois University Carbondale will be mailed along with the registration confirmation.

The Camp Director, Lorelei Ruiz, is an Assistant Chief Flight Instructor at SIUC. She may be contacted at 618-453-9265, FAX 618-453-5230, or email lemiller@siu.edu.

SIU Carbondale has been in the business of training pilots since 1960. The Aviation Flight program currently operates a fleet of 37 Cessna aircraft at the Southern Illinois Airport, situated between Carbondale and Murphysboro on IL Rt. 13. Training in the program leads to FAA certification as an instrument-rated commercial pilot in both single- and multi-engine aircraft. The program is nationally recognized as one of the best collegiate flight training programs in the country.

Major funding for this camp is provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) through NASA Headquarters/Space Communications and Navigation office and the Glenn Research Center. “Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) coordinates multiple space communications networks as well as network support functions to regulate, maintain, and grow NASA’s space communications and navigation capabilities, in support of all NASA’s space missions.” (The quoted information was accessed on March 16, 2010, https://www.spacecomm.nasa.gov/spacecomm/programs/default.cfm).

Information on NASA internship opportunities for high school and college students is available on their internship website, https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/heo/scan/communications/outreach/internships.