

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth - Space Outreach to the General Public (6)

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ONE WEEK SPACE – LESSONS LEARNED FROM 25 ANNUAL HUNGARIAN SPACE CAMPS

Abstract

Hungarian Astronautical Society (MANT) is the oldest Hungarian non-profit space association, founded in 1956. This society gathers Hungarian space researchers, users of space technology and everyone who is interested in the interdisciplinary and state-of-the-art uses and research of outer space. The aim of the association is to raise public awareness about space exploration and uses. It also provides opportunity for space enthusiasts to meet, exchange ideas and work together. MANT, through its members from various fields of science, organizes conferences, youth forums, summer space camps, issues periodicals, releases media material and holds lectures about space research and connected scientific fields. The association is a voting member of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) since 1959.

In 1994, MANT started the series of the Hungarian Space Camps. The founder's intent was to introduce the space research and astronautics to the youth during a one-week-long summer camp. Currently, the participants are students between 13 and 18 who are interested in space and science. In the camp, known Hungarian space researchers give lectures and students are working on a one-week-long project. Many of our former student campers became later space researcher, including the authors of this abstract as well. Although we operate our camp on a non-profit bases, we will organize the 25th annual space camp in summer of 2018. In our paper, we will focus of lessons learned from the Hungarian experiences. We shortly introduce the organization structure, the schedule of the camp with its main activities, and the different selection process for students and lecturers. We highlight some challenges we met during organization and lessons learned in different fields.