

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Virtual Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (VP)

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DEVELOPING A NOVEL SPACE SUMMER CAMP MODEL TO INSPIRE THE NEXT  
GENERATION OF SPACE PROFESSIONALS

**Abstract**

Education, one of the pillars of the Ecuadorian Space Program, is the platform where the wonders of space exploration are shared with the younger generations. A Space Summer Camp experience is proposed in collaboration with IAF members: the Ecuadorian Civilian Space Agency (EXA) and the Sideralis Foundation. This initiative looks to create an environment where children and teenagers are shown that technology and space exploration is within their reach and is something that can be achieved in the country and the region. The objective is to inspire young Ecuadorians to pursue careers in STEAM and develop potential EXA members. The project plans to re-invent the Summer Camp taking inspiration from the Summit Model (developed by Summit Public Schools, California), the Scout Movement, and an Engineering Curriculum. “The Science of Summit” strives to develop Cognitive Skills, Content Knowledge, Habits of Success, and a Sense of Purpose in every participant. The Engineering curriculum will provide highly technical aerospace, robotics, and programming project-based experiences. The Scout Movement will provide structure, camp culture, and outdoor life. This combination, along with the mentorship from highly qualified engineers and pedagogy professionals, will create a unique Space Summer Camp experience. A pilot camp will be trialed in the Summer of 2021 in Ecuador. If successful, it is to be replicated in other countries in the Latin American region in partnership with IAF GRULAC member organizations. The educational concept and curriculum will be tested with the preparation of pilot activities and sample projects ran throughout 2020. These will be run in Quito on a local schools Science Club and with diverse groups of volunteer groups in collaboration with the City Hall. This paper will provide a detailed description of the proposed innovative Space Summer Camp model. It will cover its structure, curriculum, project timeline, and projected outcomes. Results, pictures, and data acquired from the pilot activities and projects will be shared with the wider space community during IAC2020 in Dubai. Execution of the pilot Summer Camp is to be shared during IAC2021 in Paris.