

North Dakota Space Grant Consortium
2017 Near-Space Balloon Competition
Final Details

Reminders:

- Our **Go or No-Go call** for the November 18th launch will be made by **3 PM on Wednesday 11/15/17**. We will send an email notification to all schools at this time to inform you of our decision. *Let's hope for clear skies and low winds!*
- Free parking can be found at the Hilton Hotel parking lot. If you would like a parking pass, please contact Marissa Saad.
- Remember to bring your **signed forms!**
 - NASA Media Release Form (adults and minors)
 - We will provide W9 forms so we can process receipts! (If personal purchases were made)
- Please inform us if your students have any **dietary restrictions** as pizza will be served for dinner on Friday night.
- If anyone has an allergy to **latex** (both balloons), please let us know.
- Going to the launch? **Dress Warmly!**

Integration and Launch Details:

1. **Integration Night – Friday 11/17 at 4pm**
 - a. **Teachers and students** will meet in Clifford Hall, Room 210 at F4/F5 on **campus map**.
 - b. Pizza will be served (Please note: *officially*, we can't have food in the auditorium. Administration is "looking the other way" for us. **Please tell all students that we must be extra careful with our pizza.**)
 - c. Each team will then give a 5-minute **presentation** about their payload. This talk will not be judged, but a time to show the rest of the students their hard work. Please include the following:
 - i. *Team introduction*
 - ii. *Main overall scientific/engineering objectives*
 - iii. *Hypothesis*
 - d. Please send the 1-3 PowerPoint slides with the group image, payload close-up,
 - e. Bring your payloads! They should be launch ready.
 - f. The UND team will give a short overview for the rest of the night while we eat.
 - g. We will rotate through stations throughout the entire night. We're trying to keep it as engaging and educational as possible.

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- h. Students can participate in a **bursting estimation competition**. Students will guess the altitude at which their balloon will burst on launch day. The closest student will win a **prize!**
 - i. We will have a separate judging station this year. Students should reread the page 30 of the handbook to be familiar with the judging criteria.
 - j. Please, make sure your payload has the **vinyl tubing** in place BEFORE integration night. Refer to the NSBC handbook under payload schematics for details.
 - k. The UND launch team will string together the payloads at the end of the night. If you need extra time to work on anything, feel free to stay after.
2. Judging
- a. This will be a separate station, where students will present to a small group of judges.
 - b. This talk can be more detailed, with a more personal Q+A session.
 - c. Detailed rubric is included in the NSBC handbook.
3. Travel and Hotels
- a. When you check in at the [Hilton Garden Inn](#), tell them you are with the **NASA Space Grant** group.
 - b. Your rooms will be direct-billed to UND. You will not have to pay for your hotel rooms. They will ask for a credit card, just in case of incidentals.
4. Launch Day
- a. If you are staying overnight in Grand Forks:
 - i. Teams meet promptly **at 6:45 am** in front of **Hilton Hotel**
 - b. If you are meeting us at Northern Cass School in Hunter, ND:
 - i. Teams meet **no later than 8:00 AM** near the football field
 - c. Students attending launch must be accompanied by their teachers.
 - d. Designate one *Payload Specialist* for each team
 - i. This student will be in charge of the team's payload on launch morning. (For example, if there are electronics that need to be powered on immediately before launch, this student will take the lead on this task.) *If your payload is finalized on integration night, this student can join the other students.*
 - e. Balloons will be **launched at 9am**. The gymnasium will be open in case it gets a bit cold for bystanders.
 - f. We hope to return to Northern Cass School by **3 pm**.

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- g. We will hold a short closing ceremony upon arrival. If parents are picking up students (*probably just Northern Cass students*), pickup is scheduled for **4pm**.
 - i. If we arrive earlier, we'll be done!

Chase Plans

- h. After we fill the balloon, attach payloads and release it, you will then get in a chase bus. UND students will ride in the chase vans. The busses will follow behind.
 - i. Each team will be assigned a spot on one of two **school busses for the chase**. Personal vehicles will remain at Northern Cass. This is a new method for this year's competition due to the high number of teams participating.
 - ii. School bus assignments will align with payload placement on one of the two balloons.
- i. If we realize the balloon chase will take longer than expected, we will call it a day and hold our closing ceremonies at Northern Cass School. We want to make sure all students get home at a reasonable hour. The UND grad students will continue the search. **It may be wise to have a set of directions for the UND chase team in case they have to retrieve it without your own students present.**
- j. Only members of the UND team will retrieve the payloads on foot once found (*especially on private property*), **students must remain in school busses.**

If we must postpone anything, the next set of dates will be scheduled for **December 1st and 2nd**. Everything else will stay the same (meeting place, arrival times, presentations, activities, etc.)