



“SPACE WARRIORS” AND STEM EDUCATION

At the heart of Walden Media’s mission is our commitment to “recapture the imagination” and “rekindle curiosity.” We have always been and will always be committed to connecting entertainment with education. We are proud that the new Walden Family Theater film, “Space Warriors,” offers many examples that link to the principles of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We have gathered together a collection of educational activities, resources and suggested books that further extend that connection.

Educators in the United States and around the world agree: as society becomes ever more technologically advanced, it is ever more urgent that students gain access to education in STEM fields. This applies at all levels in the educational system. Organizations such as the National Science Teachers Association, NASA, and the National Science Foundation are leading the way in encouraging the development of this curriculum in the United States, and making it accessible to all children. In “Space Warriors,” STEM principles are underscored in a number of sequences, such as:

- When Jimmy writes the winning essay about the International Space Station (ISS) and secures a spot on the team. He’s had to synthesize what he knows about **science** and **technology** into a coherent essay and thus demonstrate his knowledge of both to experts who then judge his essay’s merit.
- When the Titans sabotage Jimmy’s vehicle in one of the competitions, Jimmy applies his knowledge of **engineering** and **technology** to fix his vehicle and stay in the competition.
- When an urgent crisis threatens the International Space Station, the Warriors (Jimmy’s team) combine their knowledge of computer technology, robotics, piloting skills, plotting of coordinates and rocketry (**science, technology, engineering and mathematics**) to assist Commander Phillips with saving the lives of those on board the ISS.

The material provided here is only a beginning. To find out more about these vitally important subjects, please visit our partners’ education pages.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL (rocketcenter.com) for their generous assistance in the making of “Space Warriors” and for providing educational content. Home to Space Camp and Aviation Challenge, The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is recognized as one of the most comprehensive U.S. manned space flight hardware museums in the world. An official NASA Visitor’s Center, their facilities include Spacedome Theater, Rocket Park, the Education Training Center, which houses NASA’s Educator Resource Center, and more.

Walden Media is also grateful to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), for permission to make use of its extraordinary educational resources. NASA’s mission is “to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research.” To do that, thousands of people have been working around the world -- and above it -- for more than 50 years, trying to answer some basic questions: What’s out there in space? How do we get there? What will we find? What can we learn there, or learn just by trying to get there, to make life better here on Earth? For more about NASA, and also to make use of NASA’s educational materials and programs, please see: <http://www.nasa.gov/home/index.html>

HOW TO USE THESE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: THEMES AND GRADE LEVELS

The activities in this online education guide focus on four key components represented in the film “Space Warriors”: Space Exploration History; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics); Careers in Space; and Life in Space. Activities are recommended for students in Grades 4 through 8.

