



Proposal Submission Form for Projects to be Funded from Club for the Future Gift

The right column may contain reference to another document or spreadsheet. All documents referred to should be submitted in a single email to cffproposals@nss.org along with the completed proposal submission form.

<u>Proposed Project Title:</u>	GIS: Inclusive Space Academy Scholarship (<i>ISA</i>)
<u>Project Lead:</u>	Dan Deevy
<u>Lead Phone/Email:</u>	dandeivy@gaaaysinspaaace.org
<u>Project Description:</u>	The <i>ISA</i> Scholarship program will send LGBTQIA+ students (ages 15-18) interested in pursuing a career in STEM and/or the Space Industry, to Space Academy. Each recipient will receive an all-expense paid trip to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama for a weeklong Advanced Space Academy training experience. Winners will be chosen by our elite panel of judges comprised of both leaders in the space & scientific communities as well as renowned members of the science fiction film & television industry. In addition to the winners, all applicants will be invited to participate in mentorship zoom conferences hosted by each of our judges.
<u>Project Objectives:</u>	Our goal is to guarantee that all these remarkable young people are shown that they DO in fact have a place in the space industry and that countless people (including some of the finest, most respected members of the scientific community as well as the actors who portrayed their childhood heroes on screen), believe in them and value the truly unique contributions they have to offer the future of humanity. In short, we want to empower the next generation of scientific leaders by proving to them that the career in both STEM and the Space Industry they have dreamed of is not the unattainable goal they may believe it to be.



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<u>Anticipated Beneficiaries:</u>	The immediate beneficiaries of this program will be the LGBTQIA+ student recipients who will be given the opportunity to grow and explore their potential in a way that they may have never considered possible. In addition, their experience and success will inspire other young people to set aside the self-doubt that society has instilled in them so they can confidently pursue their dreams now that they have seen proof that others just like them have actually done it! The exuberance, determination, and passion these young people will bring to this program will also inspire their mentors as well. The ability to open this door of opportunity for kids who have been overlooked, undervalued, and needlessly excluded will be an incredibly gratifying experience for our mentors. Also, for ISA's mentors to be able to watch them as they continue their journey and ultimately achieve that elusive dream of working beside them, is something that will no doubt inspire them as well.
<u>Anticipated Visible Impact Events:</u>	The visible impact of the ISA will be far reaching. Our panel of science and celebrity judges will use their enormous social media reach to promote the scholarship, call for entries and spread the message of inclusivity for underrepresented communities within the STEM & Space Industries. Furthermore, the winners will be announced during GIS' first 3-day long convention called, the '<i>Galactic Diversity & Inclusion Convention,</i>' aka <i>D&I Con</i> from May 5th-7th 2023 in Philadelphia, PA. <i>D&I Con</i> will be the first convention to bring together superstars from the science and sci-fi worlds under the banner of promoting the importance of inclusion of underrepresented communities in both areas. As such, there will be a significant amount of media coverage surrounding the event, both local and national highlighting our shared mission of inspiring future generations to pursue careers in STEM & the space industry to help invent the future of life in space! We also intend to use this opportunity to introduce thousands of our attendees and followers to the NSS Postcard program and encourage their participation. Given the demographics of our audience, the idea of having a direct, physical connection to something that has actually been in



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<u>Growth Potential:</u>	Following a successful and widely publicized inaugural launch of our program, we intend to expand beyond an annual event and instead make it a quarterly one. In addition, we will further develop our mentorship program which will be comprised of both virtual sessions as well as in person meetings. Eventually, we also intend to establish makers spaces in underserved neighborhoods in both cities and towns across the country. Once again, we want to create new opportunities and provide the resources for those passionate about pursuing a career in the sciences. This program is the beginning of what will become a mainstay conduit for members of underrepresented communities to break into the space industry and one day become mentors themselves to the generations that follow.
<u>Alignment with Club for the Future Vision and Goals:</u>	Club for the Future is working to inspire future generations to pursue careers in STEM and to help invent the future of life in space. The unique perspectives and experiences that the youngest members of the LGBTQIA+ Community have to offer are an untapped resource that can be invaluable in that effort as we work towards becoming an interplanetary society. Our chances of successfully creating the future we all long for is made infinitely more possible when we embrace and harness all the wildly different and inspiring gifts that humanity, as wonderfully and brilliantly diverse as it is, has to offer by working together.
<u>Project Plan:</u>	The ISA dedicated website will be launched the first week of February 2023 and will contain the application as well as detailed instructions on how it is to be completed. Immediately following its launch, we will begin a demographically targeted advertising and promotion campaign to kick off the call for entries. The final deadline for applications is April 1, 2023. The Judges deliberations will conclude on May 1st and the winners will be announced during 'D&I Con' May 5th-7th in Philadelphia, PA.



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<u>Budget:</u>	Venue \$10,000.00 Audio / Visual \$6,000.00 Marketing / Advertising \$5,000.00 Food / Beverage \$2,000.00 Transportation / Lodging \$2,000.00 Total \$25,000.00
<u>Reporting to NSS:</u>	Will provide quarterly reports as needed.
<u>Expected Challenges:</u>	Since announcing our intent to create this scholarship we have received an astounding amount of support from our ever-growing list of distinguished judges, media outlets anxiously awaiting the go ahead to publish articles and interviews, as well as educators across the country in the name of eagerly excited students who want to apply. The only major challenge we expect to face as we work to transform this endeavor whose initial goal was to send 4 kids to space academy thanks to a \$20K endowment we received from a dedicated follower and believer in the <i>Gaays In Spaaace</i> organization, is the additional funding necessary to send enough of our kids to qualify for a separate session consisting of only our winners. This is a crucial and necessary aspect of achieving the goals of the ISA. This will undoubtedly be the first time that many of our scholars will have traveled away from the familiarity of their homes and daily routines. The last thing we want is for anyone to deny themselves a potentially life changing opportunity for fear of potential bullying and or violence perpetrated against them by their Space Academy classmates. To achieve our goal, they must know they are going to a completely safe, respectful, supportive & embracing place surrounded by people just like them who are there for the exact same reasons. With the proper funding and support we will be able to make this the first in an ongoing series of uplifting and inspiring experiences for all involved.