

# A S S O C I A T I O N O F SPACE EXPLORERS

## **Mission**

Founded in 1985, the mission of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) is to provide a forum for professional dialogue among individuals who have flown in space, to promote education in science and mathematics and inspire in students a lifelong commitment to learning, to foster environmental awareness and encourage planetary stewardship, to promote the benefits of space science and exploration and to advocate for international cooperation and operational compatibility in current and future space exploration endeavors.

## **Educate**

Every year ASE reaches tens of thousands of students, parents and teachers world-wide through astronaut visits to schools, universities and youth groups. Our members strive to inspire tomorrow's leaders, scientists, engineers and space explorers by communicating their unique experiences of living and working in space.

## **Exchange**

As the only professional association for astronauts, ASE supports the advancement of space exploration by providing opportunities for communication among space professionals at the international level. ASE works closely with other international professional space organizations to expand and invigorate international dialogue on such issues as crew safety, operational compatibility and near earth object hazard mitigation.

## **Explore**

ASE members are collectively engaged in the exploration of space and endeavor to demonstrate the necessity of an expanded human role in the long-term exploration and development of space.

## **Membership**

Membership in ASE is open to individuals who have completed at least one orbit of the Earth in space; presently, ASE is represented by over 375 current and former space travelers from 35 countries, including Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, and Viet Nam



## **What is the value of ASE?**

ASE plays an important role in this period of uncertainty about the future of human space flight. Major decisions at home will define the path and resources for future international exploration. ASE's role as the primary forum for professional exchange among astronauts and cosmonauts will be increasingly relevant, and necessary, as we leverage international capabilities to fly beyond low Earth orbit. With your support, ASE will continue to contribute both leadership and vision as humanity moves outward from our home planet and toward the stars.

# ASE Executive Summary



## Technical

As the only professional association for astronauts, ASE supports the advancement of space exploration by providing opportunities for communication among space professionals at the international level. ASE works closely with other professional space organizations to expand and invigorate international dialogue on such issues as crew safety, operational compatibility, and the potential hazards of near earth objects. ASE regularly sponsors international discussions among astronauts on space flight operations.

In addition to the annual Planetary Congress, ASE hosts regular technical symposia on topics relevant to current spaceflight operations. In 2009, ASE was represented at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at the 37th Session of the Committee on Space Rescue, at the AIAA Planetary Defense Conferences and at the International Astronautical Congress in Korea.



## Education

With respect to education, ASE seeks to stimulate interest in science and mathematics and inspire in students a life-long commitment to educational excellence. ASE provides opportunities for its members to share their knowledge and experiences with the general public, and in particular with tomorrow's leaders – the world's children.

ASE reaches tens of thousands of students and teachers each year via our Planetary Congresses and other public outreach efforts, and we continue to pursue creative ways to engage, inspire and educate the public about the benefits of our nation's human space flight program. ASE partners with the JSC Astronaut Appearances office to fulfill overflow astronaut requests across the United States from universities, schools and youth organizations. ASE educational partners include the Challenger Centers, the Technical Education Research Centers, the Euro Space Foundation, and the Globetree Foundation in Sweden.



## Environmental

ASE considers it important to provide its members with opportunities to communicate their unique perspective of Earth to help stimulate humanity's sense of responsibility for our home planet. ASE's activities in the area of environmental education include the publication of the international best-seller *The Home Planet*, lead partnership in the "Arbor Project" international forest conservation effort, and sponsorship of environmental films and videos.

ASE's Committee on Near Earth Objects is presently concluding a multi-year effort to develop and deliver to the United Nations an international decision making framework for protecting the Earth from potential NEO impacts. ASE also partners with TERC in the development of *Windows on Earth*, an interactive, 3D earth visualization system that provides museum and website visitors with the ability to explore Earth from space.



## Professional Forum

ASE members enjoy a wide range of benefits including the opportunity for networking and the development, or renewal, of personal and professional associations with other members of the international astronaut and cosmonaut community. ASE maintains on-line, restricted-access and hard-copy Global Directories, allowing instant communications with over 500 fellow space travelers in 35 different countries. ASE's weekly newsletters provide members with information on ASE and member activities as well as updates on international space programs and operations.

The all-inclusive annual ASE Planetary Congress, held in a different host country each year, has a long history as the premier forum for astronauts and cosmonauts from all space-faring nations to meet and exchange information about their respective space agencies, human spaceflight operations and future plans for exploration beyond low earth orbit.