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NASA recognized the outstanding academic achievement of students from across the nation by announcing the winners of the 2004 NASA Student Involvement Program (NSIP) academic and engineering design competitions. Over 3600 students from across the nation submitted more than 1500 entries to this year's six different NSIP competition categories.

NSIP is NASA's annual series of science, technology, engineering, geography, and journalism competitions for students in kindergarten through twelfth grades. NSIP involves students in the same intellectual challenges that NASA scientists and engineers face on a daily basis by engaging them in scientific investigations and engineering design challenges that develop the intellectual skills and habits of mind that will enable these students to become the next generation of NASA scientists and engineers.

"A key goal of NASA's Education Enterprise is to inspire and motivate students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics," said NSIP's Project Manager Lynn Marra, "and NSIP represents a key means for fulfilling this goal."

NSIP consists of six different academic competitions. Students in grades 5-12 study changes on Earth's surface using NASA data in the Watching Earth Change competition. Middle school students (grades 5-8) take on the role of a design engineer in the Aerospace Technology Engineering Challenge competition as they design and test a rocket launch platform. Younger students (grades K-4) systematically study their local environment and report their discoveries in the My Planet, Earth competition. In the Design a Mission to Mars...and Beyond competition middle (5-8) and high school (9-12) students identify a research question about Mars, or other parts of the solar system, and then design a mission to answer their question. Kindergarten through twelfth grade students take on the role of a journalists writing articles or producing videos on the theme of the hundredth anniversary of powered flight in the Science and Technology Journalism competition. High school students (grades 9-12) design and build experimental payloads that fly on board a NASA sounding rocket or the International Space Station in the Space Flight Opportunities competition.

A judging team consisting of NASA scientists, engineers, educators, and journalists selected the NSIP winners.

NSIP's Program Manager, Lynn Marra emphasized that, "NASA is proud of every student who participated in NSIP. We particularly honor the outstanding achievement of those students who created winning entries."

NSIP winners earn a variety of different awards, depending upon the competition entered and their grade level. First place high school winners attend a three-day National Symposium at the NASA Ames Research Center and Space Flight Opportunities winners spend a week building their experiments at the NASA Wallops Space Flight Center.

Complete listing of the 2004 NSIP student winners:

[www.nsip.net](http://www.nsip.net)

Additional information about NSIP:

[www.nasa.gov/education/nsip](http://www.nasa.gov/education/nsip)