

TOP TEN TEACHER TIPS - for mission

1. **Missions are an EXPERIENCE.** No two missions are identical. The group dynamic, ability, and number of students all impact what station work gets completed. What matters most is that every mission is an immersive, real-world experience in trying out careers, working through problems, and analyzing and communicating information.
2. **Advise adults in advance.** Please make sure you, your fellow teachers and aides, and your chaperones all know their job roles, and the agenda for the day, in advance.
 - We recommend that you distribute “Guidelines for Mission Day” and the Agenda of Visit prior to the mission to fellow teachers and any chaperones.
 - Advise ed techs on their level of engagement. If a student has a one-on-one adult who will work with them, please advise the adult that they will be counted as a member of the student’s job team. A student with a support adult should be at a work-at-own-pace job with no expectation of a certain level of completion. The aide should be aware that it is OK to let the student work as independently as possible. They should not worry about the amount of work the student does or does not complete.
 - You can also inform students of the adult roles in advance. (See the add-on page to the job descriptions online)
3. **Just like every other day, you play a valuable role on mission day.** We tell the students that your role is simply to observe, but this in no way means that you are irrelevant! An excited, engaged mission teacher who prepares students (even a little), and is an active observer in the mission, is the key to maximizing student engagement, overall mission experience and long-term impact.
4. **There is no one right way to prep your students for their mission.** Teachers use a variety of our prep activities and incorporate the mission into their classrooms in many different ways. Look over the options in the online resources; think about what *your* students will need to practice or discuss in advance to maximize their experience and then use the mission and resources as you see fit.
5. **Some of the best prep you can do for your students is to introduce some concepts regarding the structure and flow of the mission simulation before mission day.** For example, using one of our communication activities to reinforce the concept of remotely communicating/collaborating with a partner. Reviewing the mission vocab pre-mission activity is also a great way to minimize the number or new concepts and terms students will encounter when they arrive on mission day.
6. **Help students to understand that a data log or lab sheet is for recording information, they are not worksheets** and they do not explain how to do the job.
7. **Missions are great opportunities to reinforce guiding principles/ habits of mind.** The mission incorporates skills including collaboration, self-directed learning, problem-solving, effective communication, persistence, and thinking flexibly and interdependently.
8. **The mission will be unlike other student experiences,** so it can also help them to know:
 - Some mission jobs don’t end, they will work until the mission timeframe is complete, and handle whatever arises along the way.
 - There is more than one way to communicate. If their partner doesn’t reply to an email, use another way to get their attention. Encourage them to be creative and proactive!
 - If they are stuck, they should reread the procedure and try to work through problems before seeking assistance.
 - If they are not familiar, you might want to explain how tabs work in a binder or on screen.
 - Encourage your students to come with a positive and determined mindset...A “failure-is-not-an-option” attitude! Assure them that the mission will be challenging, but FUN at the same time.
9. **Don't worry!** Let the mission follow its course. Stand back, observe, take notes, take photos, take a moment to grab some NASA resources from our Educator Resource Center, and, most importantly, enjoy seeing your students in this unique environment!
10. **Finally, we encourage you to stay connected!**
 - Come back for a future teacher workshop. (Some people like to come back to workshop their second year, some wait for a few years, some come regularly, but whenever you do, you will understand the mission on a different level and be able to apply the information differently for future missions)
 - Stay current with updates, new resources and funding ideas through email and you can also add yourself to