



1  
00:00:00,967 --> 00:00:02,702  
NASA's Solar System Ambassador  
program

2  
00:00:02,735 --> 00:00:05,138  
brings NASA missions and  
science to the public.

3  
00:00:05,171 --> 00:00:06,406  
My name is Richard Stember.

4  
00:00:06,439 --> 00:00:08,841  
I am a Solar System Ambassador.

5  
00:00:09,675 --> 00:00:10,810  
NASA currently has  
730 Ambassadors

6  
00:00:10,843 --> 00:00:12,979  
across all 50 states,  
and in US territories,

7  
00:00:13,012 --> 00:00:14,714  
consulates and military  
bases overseas.

8  
00:00:17,249 --> 00:00:20,520  
We have set up our mobile  
observatory at a school

9  
00:00:20,553 --> 00:00:22,388  
in Mission Viejo.

10  
00:00:22,421 --> 00:00:24,924  
And we have set up  
our solar telescopes

11  
00:00:24,957 --> 00:00:27,927  
for the kids to

learn about the sun.

12

00:00:28,761 --> 00:00:29,629

Ah, cool!

13

00:00:29,662 --> 00:00:30,696

Yeah!

14

00:00:30,729 --> 00:00:32,565

Wow! It's so cool!

15

00:00:32,598 --> 00:00:33,666

Isn't that cool?

16

00:00:33,699 --> 00:00:36,469

There is no experience  
greater than

17

00:00:36,502 --> 00:00:38,738

a student walking  
up to the telescope

18

00:00:38,771 --> 00:00:41,808

and seeing the moon,  
or Jupiter, or Saturn

19

00:00:41,841 --> 00:00:43,609

for the first time  
through a telescope.

20

00:00:43,642 --> 00:00:46,012

It's actually seeing the sun  
really for the first time.

21

00:00:46,045 --> 00:00:48,047

I felt like it was  
a great experience.

22

00:00:48,080 --> 00:00:50,750

It's a huge opportunity for our school and for the students

23

00:00:50,783 --> 00:00:53,953

to experience something like this on a scale where they

24

00:00:53,986 --> 00:00:56,355

get to actually see and interact with

25

00:00:56,388 --> 00:00:57,990

what's going on up in space.

26

00:00:58,023 --> 00:01:00,693

And it's really exciting for them.

27

00:01:00,726 --> 00:01:02,862

Those are areas of the sun that are cooler

28

00:01:02,895 --> 00:01:04,230

than the rest of the sun.

29

00:01:04,263 --> 00:01:05,798

NASA provides volunteer ambassadors with

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00:01:05,831 --> 00:01:07,567

year-around training opportunities

31

00:01:07,600 --> 00:01:09,302

and ambassadors commit to

32

00:01:09,335 --> 00:01:11,270

holding 4 public events a year.

33

00:01:11,303 --> 00:01:15,741

So much of science is funded  
by the federal government.

34

00:01:15,774 --> 00:01:17,376

NASA is a big part of that.

35

00:01:17,409 --> 00:01:21,147

So it's really important to us  
Solar System Ambassadors

36

00:01:21,180 --> 00:01:23,616

that the public at  
large understand

37

00:01:23,649 --> 00:01:26,652

what science is being done  
because they're funding it.

38

00:01:26,685 --> 00:01:29,155

Richard's mobile observatory  
was provided by Science Heads,

39

00:01:29,188 --> 00:01:31,657

a non-profit committed  
to science literacy.

40

00:01:31,690 --> 00:01:32,792

I would not be surprised.

41

00:01:32,825 --> 00:01:35,361

We could have a future  
astronomer in our midst.

42

00:01:35,394 --> 00:01:36,595

[ laughs ]

43

00:01:36,629 --> 00:01:39,966

I think we can inspire students  
to study a little bit harder

44

00:01:39,999 --> 00:01:42,034  
to take that science class

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00:01:42,067 --> 00:01:44,470  
that maybe they wouldn't  
have taken otherwise.

46

00:01:44,503 --> 00:01:47,773  
But also adults--to learn more  
about what is being done

47

00:01:47,806 --> 00:01:51,210  
by NASA and other  
research organizations.

48

00:01:51,243 --> 00:01:53,779  
I would do it again.  
I would do it again.

49

00:01:53,812 --> 00:01:56,816  
If it was just one student  
who became a scientist

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00:01:56,849 --> 00:01:58,184  
I would be so honored to think

51

00:01:58,217 --> 00:02:00,153  
that I played a very small role.

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00:02:00,186 --> 00:02:02,955  
For more information on the  
Solar System Ambassador program

53

00:02:02,988 --> 00:02:06,526  
<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/ssa>  
/

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00:02:06,559 --> 00:02:08,027

