

SOARING DREAMS

MISSION STATEMENT

Soaring Dreams mission is to educate people, inspire youth and promote aviation by emphasizing the importance of history, math, and science; thus creating an interest for aeronautical studies and professions.

Soaring Dreams was created to educate people, inspire youth and promote aviation through history, math, and science. The historical phase of Soaring Dreams illustrates the history of African Americans in aviation from 1916 through present. It highlights pioneers who were aviators, and despite hardships placed on them by society, achieved great significance. Those who have chosen careers in aviation need only to look back to see whose shoulders they stood on. These men and women, some who gave their lives, should inspire anyone to strive to greater heights of achievement and success.

SOARING DREAMS OUTLINE



Beginnings and Early Pioneers: Early pioneers faced many obstacles during the beginning stages of aviation. Yet in spite of racism and segregation, they achieved the dream of flying. Texas born Bessie Coleman earned her wings in 1921 and became the first black American woman to earn her license and fly an airplane.

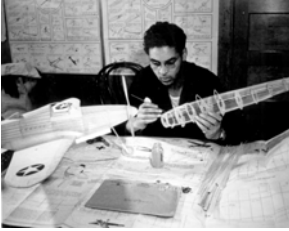
World War II: Because African Americans were not allowed to fly with their white counterparts, Tuskegee Institute in Alabama trained black pilots to fly in World War II. This set the stage for what history remembers as the Tuskegee Airman.



For more information contact:

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Post War and Commercial Aviation: With the integration of the armed forces and the Korean War, you will observe the careers of those who served in military and civilian aviation.

The 1960's, Era of Change: From the Vietnam war came several African American heroes. Here you will see how they made an impact on the view the world had for African Americans during the time of change. Daniel "Chappie" James, a former Tuskegee Airman, went on to become the Air Forces first Black four star general.



Space and Beyond: In 2006 Stephanie Wilson became the second African American woman to travel into space via the space shuttle, however, Major Robert Lawrence Jr. was the first African American Astronaut in the 1960's.

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Astronauts of Today



Attired in a training version of her shuttle launch and entry suit, astronaut Stephanie D. Wilson, STS-120 mission specialist, awaits the start of a post insertion/de-orbit training session in one of the full-scale trainers (out of frame) in the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility at Johnson Space Center.



Astronaut B. Alvin Drew Jr., STS-118 mission specialist, dons a training version of his shuttle launch and entry suit in preparation for a training session in the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility at Johnson Space Center.

Space Shuttle Discovery and its seven-member STS-120 crew head toward Earth-orbit and a scheduled link-up with the International Space Station.



New Age Pioneers



From 14 year old pilot Jonathan Strickland to Blue Angle flight surgeon Mark Lambert, African Americans contribute to the dream of flight. We look beyond today and see tomorrow.

