

Book review July 29, 2006

Lonnie Jones Schorer has written a book with a mission. A critical mission. Turning the next generation of kids—your kids and mine—into space-farers. Inspiring our kids to dream of vacationing in orbit, of kicking up dust on the moon, of living in places life has never gone, and of being the Johnny Appleseeds of the solar system. Schorer has written a book to turn today's kids into the generation that realizes Star Trek's dreams.

Moving into space is as vital as reducing carbon emissions. Our planet is so fragile that it has experienced 146 mass extinctions—all without smokestack industries and human beings. So taking life to as many nooks and crannies of the cosmos as we can is crucial to the survival of the plants, animals, and even the bacteria who are our cousins in the family of DNA.

Schorer has given kids a personal stake in the big jump to space. She's asked 6,000 students in the US and Canada to imagine planning a trip to the moon or to a space hotel, then to think of the questions whose answers they'd want before they packed their bags and prepared for the big trek, the adventure of their lives.

The students posed a total of 18,000 questions, questions Schorer took to 80 experts, some of the top experts in their field. The contributors she snagged for Kids to Space include Richard Branson, Arthur C. Clark, Buzz Aldrin, Robert Bigelow (who launched the first inflatable hotel prototype into orbit July 14, 2006), Burt Rutan (who won the X-Prize in October, 2004, for designing, building, and launching the first privately-financed human-piloted rocket into suborbital space, landing it safely, then launching and landing it a second time in a single week), Neil deGrasse Tyson (Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City), Norman Mineta (a Democrat who served as Secretary of Transportation for President George W. Bush), and Esther Dyson (one of the world's leading emerging-technology experts).

Then Schorer tied her questions and answers together with a storyline that you can read to your kids when they're young ...and with in-depth information you and your kids can dive into as your children grow older and more curious.

Want your kids to have high aspirations, some of the highest ever dreamed by humankind? Kids to Space: A Space Traveler's Guide is the book to fire space-fever in their minds.



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Reviewed by Howard Bloom,
author of *The Lucifer Principle:
A Scientific Expedition Into the Forces of History*
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