

Team Columbus Patch

The Team Columbus 2011 patch is shaped like an orbiter to represent our two successful team missions on the Atlantis and Discovery orbiters. It also symbolizes reaching beyond the bounds of Earth. The center of the patch features the names of the countries in gold in a shape reflecting the upward astronaut symbol of previous explorers. The country names represent the international composition of Team Columbus. The top of the patch features Columbus's ship the Santa Maria, the flag ship of exploration. This was chosen to represent the name of Team Columbus. The gold star at the top of the mast completes the traditional astronaut symbol. Additionally the ship is sailing off of the orbiter to signify the future of space exploration as the shuttle program is retired, and we embark on new endeavors beyond low earth orbit. The open book at the base of the patch signifies the knowledge we as educators have received at Honeywell Educators at Space Academy and will go on to share with our students. The pages of the book signify the nine women and eight men of Team Columbus. The covers of the book signify our two team mentors who have guided us through this adventure. Our mission motto at the bottom of the patch is "Inspiring new explorers." The red dot over the first "I" represents Mars because the students in our classroom are the Mars generation, and our goal is to inspire them to take the next steps in human space exploration. Beneath it is six dots with 2011. The dots represent the five days of space academy and the Civil Air Patrol educator training day. The red, white and blue of the patch represent the colors of the team members' home country flags. The solid blue of the background also represents vastness of space, and the red also represents Mars. The gold is in the patch to follow previous patch traditions.

Team Columbus believes this patch reflects our passions, goals, and team camaraderie. Throughout our missions we have overcome obstacles, discovered new friends, and explored new ideas. During this experience we revived our childhood curiosity, humor, and sense of wonder. We hope to continue this enthusiasm as we inspire new explorers.