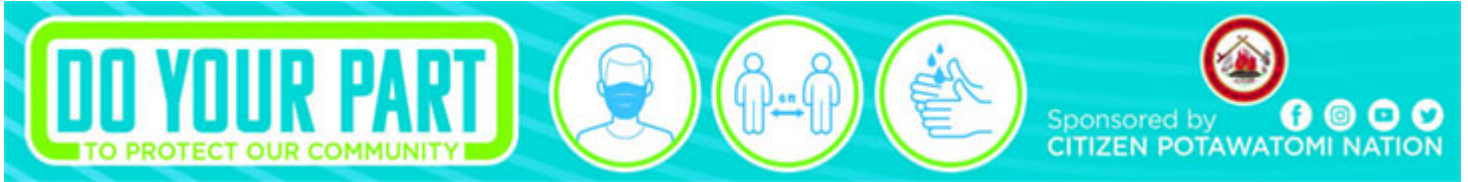


Countywide & Sun - Pottawatomie County's ONLY locally owned Newspaper. Connecting you to the community where you live, work & play!



Tecumseh Students Call Space Station

By [GLORIA TROTTER](#)



THS Jr Kegan Howard asks the first question while Billy Crow hold the mic.

What would you ask an astronaut? Especially if that astronaut was actually up in the Space Station, answering you in real time?

Ten [Tecumseh](#) students had a chance to do just that last week when astronaut Dr. Shannon Walker answered an amateur radio (often called ham radio) call just a week after she arrived at the Space Station.

But the radio call was months in the making. It was the brainchild of Billy Crow, a retired [Tecumseh](#) assistant police chief who now teaches part-time at [Tecumseh](#)'s STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) campus housed in the former Krouch Early Childhood building on Park Street.

Long an amateur radio buff, Crow led the students to form their own club. And then he set about putting together the very special project - with the help of Assistant Superintendent Robert Kinsey.

It was Kinsey who kicked things off last Friday at the Alumni Center, welcoming the students, their families and some assorted friends to the invitation-only event which was available to the rest of the community online.

"This is a once in a lifetime experience," Kinsey said. He explained that ARISS - Amateur Radio on the International Space Station - has been around about 20 years, but [Tecumseh](#) is only the second school in Oklahoma to be selected for the program.

He and Crow started working on their proposal last February and were notified in May that they had been selected, based on the questions submitted by the students. Many questions were submitted, but only the top 20

were selected. That's two per student.

The students, in grades three through twelve, were Scottlynn Danner, Kaylee Davis, Dallas Goodman, Kegan Howard, Ryleigh Jolly, Harrison Kinsey, Kambri Peacock, Baylee Schimmel, Aries Stout and Tyler Williams. They lined up to wait their turn to ask their questions during the nine minutes the space station was in position to take the call.

"International Space Station NA1SS, this is Kilo Five Tango Hotel Sierra," said Crow when the time arrived. He was greeted with static the first few times, and then suddenly the clear voice of Dr. Walker said "K5THS, this is the International Space Station November Alpha One Sierra Sierra, how copy?"

It was loud and clear. The K5THS team, led by Crow, had been working with the local amateur radio groups to build the stations needed to contact the station orbiting 254 miles above the earth. The hard work paid off.

So what did the students ask? Here were the questions for astronaut Shannon Walker:

1. Kegan Howard (11th grade): If you could go back to high school, what is one thing you would make sure you paid more attention to? OVER
2. Dallas Goodman (fifth grade): What was the scariest part when traveling through the atmosphere? OVER
3. Tyler Williams (12th grade): Are you longing for the day you'll return to earth or already putting on your brakes so that you can stay on the ISS longer? OVER
4. Ryleigh Jolly (fifth grade): What is one skill that every astronaut should have before entering the astronaut program? OVER
5. Aries Stout (seventh grade): Have you seen any changes in your circadian rhythms, or those of any plants or animals on board the ISS? OVER
6. Kaylee Davis: (sixth grade): How does NASA train you to deal with zero gravity? OVER
7. Scottlynn Danner (third grade): How do you get dressed without your clothes floating away? OVER
8. Kambri Peacock (fourth grade): How does NASA prepare you for walking on earth after months of being in space? OVER
9. Baylee Schimmel (11th grade): Is there a sight in space that was breathtaking the first time you saw it, and what was it? OVER

10. Harrison Kinsey (sixth grade): If there is a small space particle that penetrates the ISS, how is that handled? OVER
11. Kegan Howard (11th grade): What are some of your favorite experiments in which you are involved? OVER
12. Dallas Goodman fifth grade): How much training do you need before going into space? OVER
13. Tyler Williams (12th grade): What happens if you become sick on an EVA or inside the ISS? OVER
14. Ryleigh Jolly (fifth grade): What is the most challenging plant to try to grow in space? OVER
15. Aries Stout (seventh grade): Does time change in space? OVER
16. Kaylee Davis (sixth grade): How do you sleep in space? OVER
17. Scottlynn Danner (third grade): How do you maintain body heat in and out of the ISS? OVER
18. Kambri Peacock (fourth grade): If someone is injured on the ISS, how do you respond? OVER
19. Baylee Schimmel (11th grade): If a free-floating one-ounce drop of water were to freeze in the ISS, would it be rough or smooth in shape? OVER
20. Harrison Kinsey (sixth grade): What are some of the personal items you brought with you to the ISS? OVER

Want to know the answers? Look for K5THS contact with the International Space Station Stream on YouTube.

Connect With Us

Countywide & Sun

PO Box 38
Tecumseh, OK 74873
Ph: (405) 598-3793

© 2020 Countywide News, Inc.

Powered by [ROAR Online Publication Software](#) from Lions Light Corporation

© Copyright 2020

Rendered 12/10/2020 13:21