EarthKAM: A Classroom With The Ultimate View!

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Introduction

Sally Ride EarthKAM @ Space Camp (Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle school students) is a NASA educational outreach program initiated by Dr. Sally Ride. Using a Nikon DSLR camera students and teachers request images along the orbit of the ISS during one of the 4-6 annual missions, which are supported and operated by UAH students at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL.

Research Opportunities

Although geared toward middle school students, EarthKAM also offers opportunities to older students as well.

- Undergraduate and graduate students play a critical role in operating and maintaining the program through website and software development
- Outreach and communication with participating schools through a help desk
- Create educational images through annotations
- Assist in the creation of a variety of EarthKAM STEM / Geo modules
- Use photo editing software to create panoramas from a series of photos taken directly from EarthKAM
- Gain experience working with a variety of geospatial professional software

Impact

Since the program’s creation in 1995, cameras aboard the space shuttle, and later the ISS have taken thousands of photographs of Earth, supporting nearly 8000 schools and their participating students in gaining valuable knowledge in geography, mathematics, as well as space and environmental sciences. Photographs are archived and available to anyone through the EarthKAM website, which currently contains just under 80,000 photographs taken over the past 53 missions.

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