

NASA on the Square

The Greater Huntsville Section of AIAA supported the 1st “NASA on the Square” event in downtown Huntsville on June 21st, 2014. NASA on the Square was a hands-on way of telling the public what NASA and the aerospace community is doing for them. Several aerospace companies and the US Space and Rocket Center attended. Many exhibits (a flown Space Shuttle Main Engine, new engine components, SLS & Orion spacecraft mockups and other items of interest) covered the square. Each was presented and discussed with the public by NASA and industry experts. More than 8,000 people attend over 5 hours. We engaged in extensive hands-on STEM and outreach activity. Kids made hundreds of Straw Rockets and launched Stomp Rockets over 2000 times (many stomp rockets ended up on the rooftops of nearby buildings by the time we closed). Our water rocket, launched right next to a live band was a great hit with kids! We displayed and discussed the section’s 1st flown microsatellite (part of our “Kids in Space” program) and other aerospace artifacts. The section handed out cards, each affixed with a small amount of material flown on the Space Shuttle Columbia during the STS-40 mission in June 1991. Our Russian Space Helmet was very popular. Several hundred people took pictures wearing it. We signed up teachers to be Educator Associates and discussed benefits of being an AIAA member with the public. It was great fun.

