



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE

Dana Backman
**Director of Outreach for SOFIA (Stratospheric
Observatory for Infrared Astronomy)**
January 12, 2017

Airborne Astronomy Ambassador Flights on SOFIA Aircraft

Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors (AAA) are funded as part of the competitively-selected NASA Science STEM Activation activities. They include STEM immersion activities & professional development at NASA's research aircraft facility in Palmdale and other Southern California locations.



Photo Credit: NASA AFRC

October 2016 AAAs from Massachusetts, Maine, & California.



Photo Credit: NASA AFRC

November 2016 AAAs from Missouri & Ohio onboard SOFIA

Tapping current technologies to connect community to NASA assets, AAA Eric O'Dea presents a live tour of the SOFIA hangar to the Boston Museum of Science.



Photo Credit: Boston Museum of Science

NASA AAA Larry Grimes from California explains, “One direct off-shoot of my involvement with the SOFIA program is the establishment of an astronomy course at our site, and the creation of three Star Parties a year at our district headquarters for over 600 students and their parents per year. It is no exaggeration to say that SOFIA has totally changed the focus on astronomy and space sciences in our district.”