

Start Your SWISE Chapter



Hello! My name is Bianca Vasquez. I created the **Society of Women in Space Exploration (SWISE)** to promote and encourage more women, diversity, and inclusion in multidisciplinary fields of space exploration. Through organization, networking, and volunteering, SWISE empowers individuals to grow and challenge themselves personally and professionally.

Once your chapter is approved and ready for launch, you will be sent a confirmation email with your school's SWISE logo and the SWISE Chapter Package- a series of documents with all you need to get your chapter going. This includes a constitution, marketing material, an ideas guide, and more!



Backstory

How I got this idea is a lovely story I love sharing.

In the fall of 2018, I attended the Grace Hopper Celebration for women in computing- a massive conference for women in tech. Thousands of people from all over the world traveled to the 3-day conference to network, attend workshops/talks and share ideas. I really wanted to visit NASA Johnson Space Center- something that had been on my bucket list. I didn't want to go alone, so I posted on the conference Facebook page asking if any other conference attendees wanted to join. I received about 20 responses. We gathered in the hotel lobby and arranged Uber rides to NASA Johnson Space Center. Let me tell you... amazing things happen when you gather ambitious, excited and motivated women together.

While we were all from different parts of the world, spoke different languages, studied various subjects... we had one thing in common- excitement for space exploration and the thrilling future it holds. We are now lifelong friends. This gathering re-sparked our love and passion for space.

As you know, STEM is a male-dominated world. We need to change that. Many little girls absolutely love science- but fall out of pursuing it over the various unfortunate circumstances that come with being a female in a man's world. Those who do continue pursuing it, experience many negative aspects of being a woman in a man's world. When women have a support system and a strong network, we thrive.

SWISE is designed to allow anyone, anywhere, to hold the opportunity of creating a chapter and represent SWISE and its mission. Whether you live in a location with no space exploration industry around you or live in a huge city with many companies nearby, our requirements for creating a chapter

are fair and simple. You will acquire leadership skills, network with other students and professionals, and be a part of a large, growing network of women in space!



Start

- A) Leadership: Appoint a president, vice president and secretary. Any other leadership positions are up to your chapter, feel free to be creative and create positions!
- B) We highly recommend making a social media account. The most popular is Instagram and Twitter. This is a great way to showcase your chapter and have a portfolio-type of display of your activities. In the SWISE Chapter Package you will find document with a list of all existing SWISE chapter social media accounts. Feel free to follow all, connect with the other girls, inspire each other! Write down the login information so that it can be passed on to the next person if the same person will not be running it next semester!
- C) Become an official club at your school. Different schools have different processes for this. Attached in the SWISE Chapter Package is the SWISE constitution for you to present to your school when creating the club chapter.
- D) Recruit! Don't feel pressured to have a million members. Anyone is welcome to be a part of SWISE no matter their gender, major, etc. We welcome anyone and everyone that supports our wonderful mission of diversifying space! Attached in the SWISE Chapter Package is a document with marketing posters you can use to advertise your chapter. It has space for you to type in your chapter info, whether it is the social media handle you've created, an email, etc.



Your Chapter

Different schools are in different locations. Some chapters will easily be able to communicate with industry in the area easily, while others don't have that luxury- and that's okay!

There's infinitely many ideas for your chapter's activity:

- Watch space movies together for fun, or even talk about the scientific accuracy behind it (or sometimes, lack of it)
- Social events for members to get to know each other better- bowling, sports, pizza nights, etc.
- Contact local professionals and ask them to come talk to your chapter (or if you're feeling ambitious, host a guest speaker event at your school and advertise to the entire school, a great opportunity to recruit more members as well).

- Contact local companies (and remember, not every location has aerospace/space exploration industries, you can even contact manufacturing, engineering, or computer companies. Don't be afraid to venture off to other STEM related fields. Learning is learning!)
- Volunteering! This is something anyone can do anywhere. Go to an elementary school and host a science night! Hold an event for young girls to learn about space and rockets! Inspire the youth around you to get and stay interested in STEM.
- The power of the internet. Remember, professionals love what they do. Find a professional online, ask to schedule a video conference call with your chapter.
In the SWISE Chapter Package is a document with a longer list of ideas.

How do you connect your chapter activity and progress with us?

- Create a google doc and share with
SWISEnational@gmail.com [U.S. Schools]
SWISEinternational@gmail.com [Outside U.S. Schools]

Name format: SWISE [School Name] [Semester] [Year]- ex. "SWISE Santa Barbara City College Spring 2019"

- This is where you can share with us anything about your chapter- name of leaders and positions, chapter activity, photos, etc. How you use this document is up to you! *Think of it as a chapter resume.*
- Putting all chapter info and updates on one document allows for us to be able to use it as reference when we are asked about specific chapters, want to share chapter activity on social media, etc.
- As mentioned earlier, social media is the BEST way to showcase your chapter, although a single, official document with a summary of your chapter's progress, big or small, is very useful for your own record and ours.

In Summary,

- 1) Become official at school + appoint leaders
- 2) Plan your semester and recruit!
- 3) Social media + one google document ("chapter resume") for your chapter



Begin!

You get the gist of it. We have no strict, specific, impossible guidelines. Anyone can open a SWISE chapter. The number of members or lack of resources should not stop you. And at the end of the day, you'll have a great resume builder!

We can't wait for you to blast off with us! Welcome to the family.



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