



To: Whomever it may concern
Subject: National SEDS Conference Proposal
Date: June 18, 2004

Proposal: The University of Arizona chapter of the Students for the Exploration and Development of Space propose that the National SEDS conference be held at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Factors we believe are in favor for holding the conference at the University of Arizona include: Location, on campus facilities, Departmental support, local attractions, and potential speakers.

Location: One of the primary arguments for the University of Arizona to serve as host for the National SEDS conference is the central location when compared with the other two possible host sites, Hawaii, and Massachusetts. Arizona is by far a more central of a location than either MIT or University of Hawaii. In researching for this proposal, the following fees were calculated for flights from 8 SEDS chapters to conferences potentially held at MIT and Arizona.

Parameters for this search include round trip during the month of September.

Conference at MIT:

From:	To:	Passengers:	Cost:
Tucson, Arizona	Boston, Mass	1	\$373.50
Chicago, Illinois	Boston, Mass	1	\$156.70
Boston, Mass	Boston, Mass	1	\$0
Honolulu, Hawaii	Boston, Mass	1	\$591.04
Miami, Florida	Boston, Mass	1	\$262.70
San Diego, California	Boston, Mass	1	\$373.50
		Total:	\$1757.44

Conference at Arizona:

From:	To:	Passengers:	Cost:
Tucson, Arizona	Tucson, Arizona	1	\$0
Chicago, Illinois	Tucson, Arizona	1	\$216.70
Boston, Mass	Tucson, Arizona	1	\$373.40
Honolulu, Hawaii	Tucson, Arizona	1	\$554.20
Miami, Florida	Tucson, Arizona	1	\$393.90
San Diego, California	Tucson, Arizona	1	-Minimal cost- (Driving distance)
		Total:	\$1538.2

Note: Costs could FURTHER be lowered if Hawaii SEDS members flew into California and then car pooled down to Tucson with the Cal Tech participants. Also, these prices were all calculated using American Airlines.com, merely for ease of use; actual total prices will be much lower if using discount airlines.

On Campus facilities: The University of Arizona stands at the forefront of recent discoveries in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy, Lunar and Planetary Sciences, Optics, and Astrobiology. Attendees to the SEDS conference will be able to receive full tours of all of these facilities. Of key interest is the Steward Observatory Mirror Lab, where the second mirror for the Large Binocular telescope is under construction. These world famous facilities recently played host to the FIRST EVER International Astrobiology conference at the revolutionary 'La Place' Astrobiology department. Furthermore on campus there are more than sufficient facilities, within the Lunar and Planetary department and the local Marriot to handle all needs of the conference, with conference rooms, lecture halls, and more.

Departmental Support: Since its founding, UASEDS has maintained a firm relationship with the administration of the Lunar and Planetary Department on campus, and today this relationship is as strong as ever. Recently our President and Vice President proposed to Doctor Drake (Director of the department), that the UofA host the SEDS National conference. Dr Drake received this proposal with enthusiasm, and has graciously offered to provide funds to help provide food, drink, and other amenities for the conference, as well as assisting in obtaining speakers from across the campus and scientific community.

Local Attractions: For the aero-space devotee, Tucson is close to heaven. As it stands currently, a van would transport SEDS conference attendees from the University to the Titan Missile Museum, Pima Air and Space Museum, Kit Peak, and Mount Graham. A short description of each attraction is listed below.

Titan missile museum: Tucson processes the only Titan missile silo open to the general public. This silo has been preserved as a relic of the cold war for all to view. At the silo you will be able to view a real Titan I missile in the silo, along with the launch engines and return vehicle.

Pima Air and Space Museum: The Pima A+S museum has on display over 250 aircraft, ranging from NASA's Guppy, to a SR-71 Blackbird. This is one of the largest collections of military aircraft on display, second only to the Smithsonian.

Kitt Peak: Kitt Peak National Observatory stands as one of our national treasures, built by the government on one of the best observing locations in the world. A few of the telescopes on the mountain include: the Mayall 4 meter telescope, WIYN 3.5 meter telescope, and the McMath-Pierce Solar observatory.

Mount Graham: Currently under construction on this mountain is the Large Binocular Telescope. This telescope will eventually consist of two huge 8.4 meter mirrors mounted in a single building. One mirror is already in the building, while the second is currently being ground in the Steward Mirror lab. If there is sufficient interest, SEDS can arrange for a guided tour of this revolutionary facility, up close, before visitors are forced to view the telescope from behind Plexiglas.

Above all, SEDS as an organization needs this conference. We need to gather and ratify a new constitution, in addition to forming the bonds of friendship that will precipitate greater interaction between chapters. Whether the conference occurs in Arizona, or MIT, the important thing is that it happens.