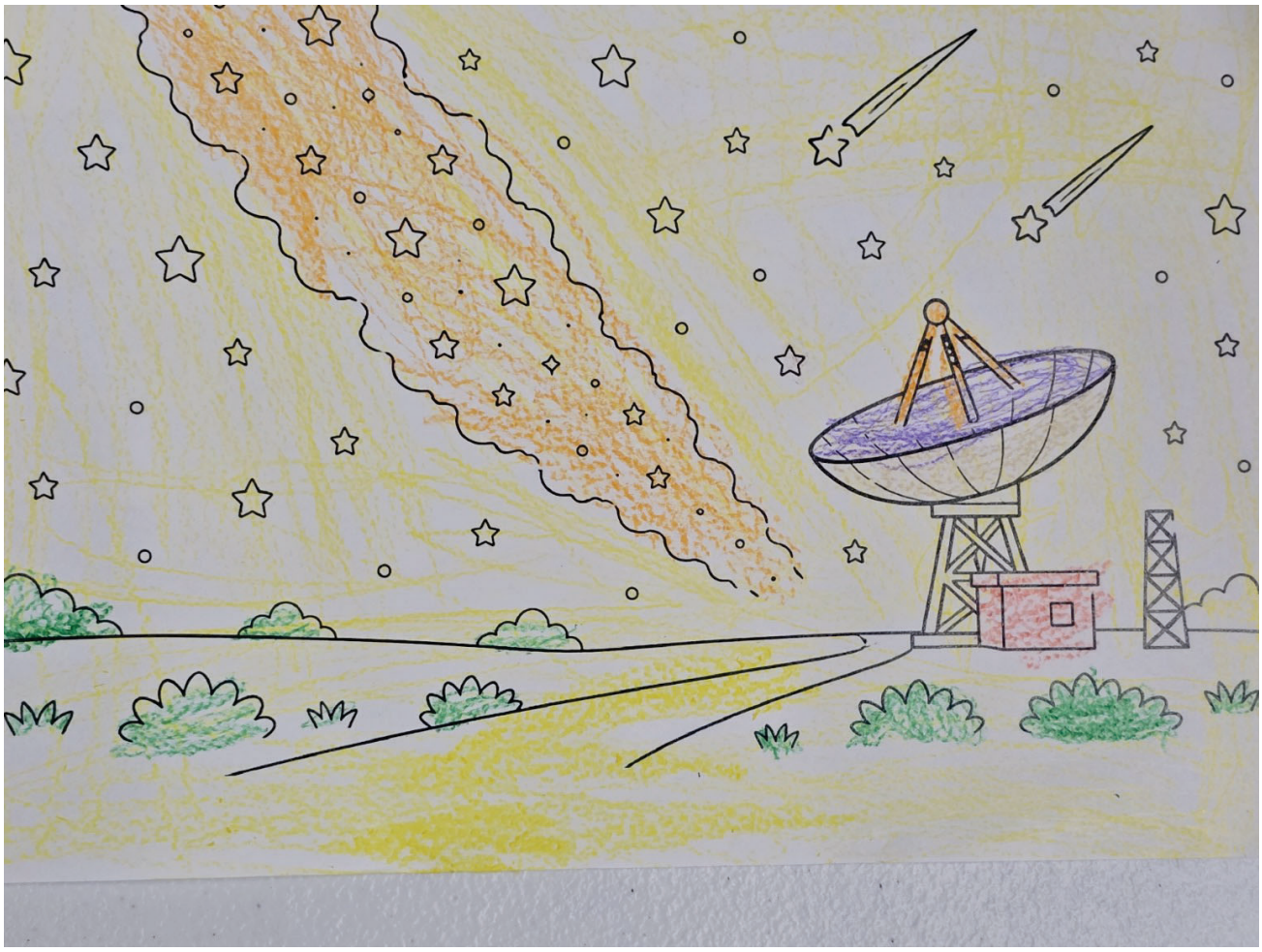
Deep Space Exploration Society (DSES)
Eads Kindergarten Educational Visit

May 12, 2026



Student-created artwork inspired by the DSES antenna and space exploration.

Participants

13 Eads Kindergarten students
Mrs. Uhland, Teacher
Coach Kaylee
DSES Volunteers: Doug, Tony & Megan

Program Overview

On May 14, 2026, the Deep Space Exploration Society welcomed the Eads Kindergarten class to the Haswell site for a day of hands-on learning focused on science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and space exploration. The goal of the visit was to provide students with an opportunity to experience a working radio astronomy facility while introducing concepts related to communications, astronomy, engineering, and scientific discovery. Through presentations, demonstrations, creative activities, and direct interaction with volunteers, students were able to see how science is applied in the real world. The enthusiasm and curiosity displayed by the students throughout the day demonstrated the value of providing STEM learning opportunities at an early age.

Educational Activities

The visit began with an interactive presentation introducing students to the Deep Space Exploration Society, the history of the Haswell antenna, and the role radio telescopes play in helping scientists learn about the universe. Students learned how signals travel through space and how large antennas can be used to receive information from distant objects. Students also listened to examples of sounds derived from signals collected from space. This activity introduced them to the concept that radio waves can be translated into sounds that help scientists study the universe. Throughout the day, students participated in space-themed coloring and drawing activities. These creative projects encouraged students to think about space, stars, galaxies, and the radio telescope while expressing what they learned through art.

Ham Radio Bunker Experience

One of the most popular activities of the day was the visit to the ham radio bunker. Students learned how radio communications work and were able to talk with amateur radio operators from around the country. For many students, this was their first experience communicating with people hundreds or thousands of miles away using radio equipment. Volunteers explained how radio waves travel and how operators use technology to connect with others around the world.

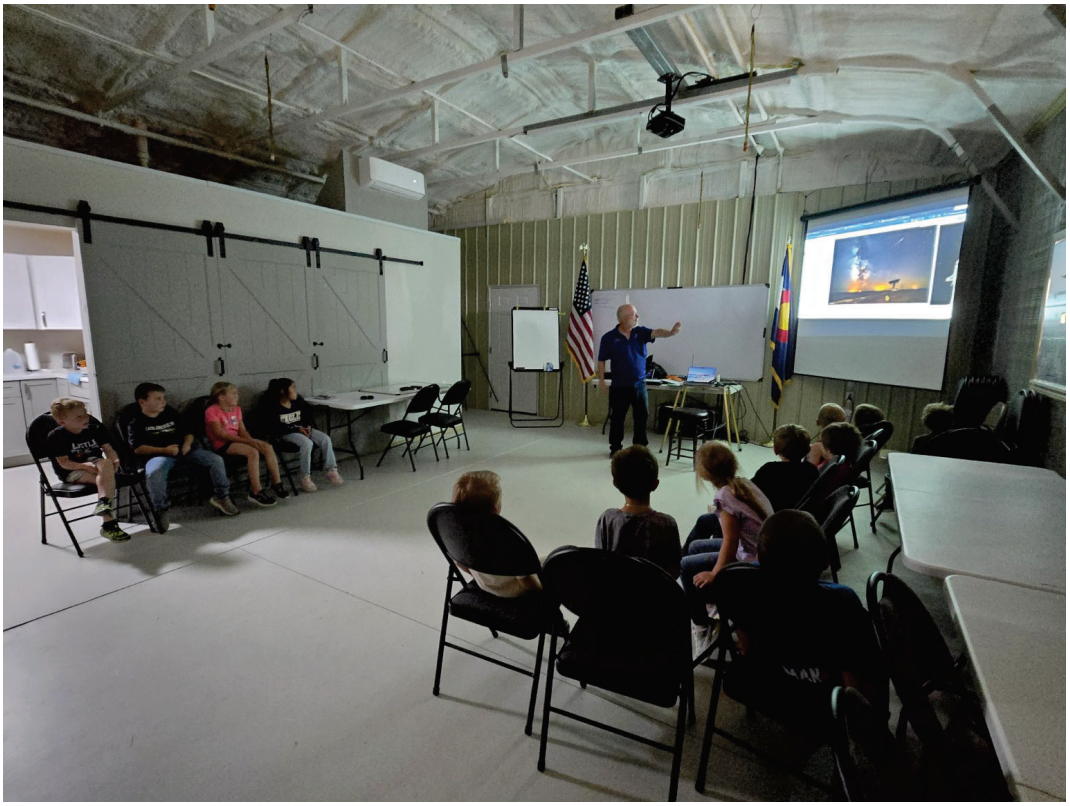
The Antenna Experience

Students toured the antenna site and were able to stand beneath the massive radio telescope dish. Volunteers explained how the antenna moves and how it can be pointed at different locations in the sky to receive signals. Students learned how the dish is controlled and observed demonstrations showing how the facility operates. They were fascinated by the size of the structure and enjoyed exploring underneath it while asking questions about how it works. After the dish was brought into its down position, students experienced the antenna 'singing.' As wind passed through the structure, it created a distinctive humming sound that highlighted the scale and unique design of the antenna. This became one of the most memorable moments of the visit.

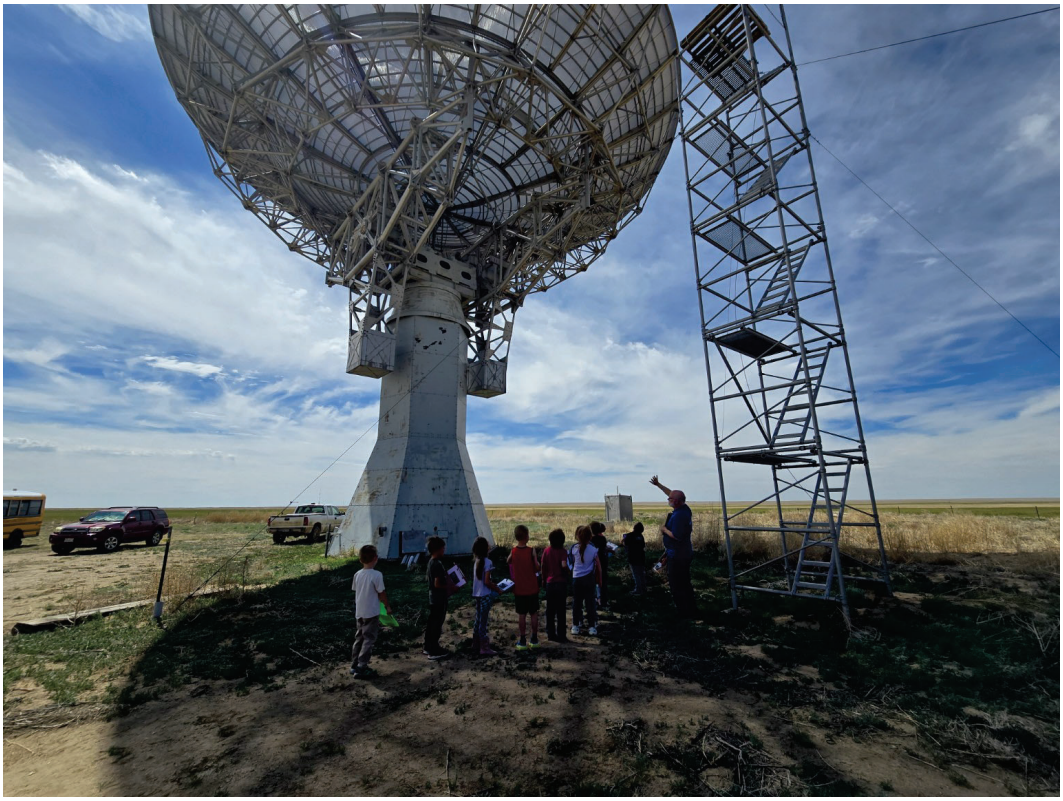
Moon Bounce Demonstration

A Moon Bounce demonstration had been planned for the visit. Unfortunately, the equipment installed on the dish at the time was not compatible with the demonstration, making it impossible to complete. While disappointing, the situation provided an opportunity to discuss how specialized equipment is required for different scientific activities. DSES plans to make Moon Bounce demonstrations a standard activity during future educational visits whenever equipment availability allows.

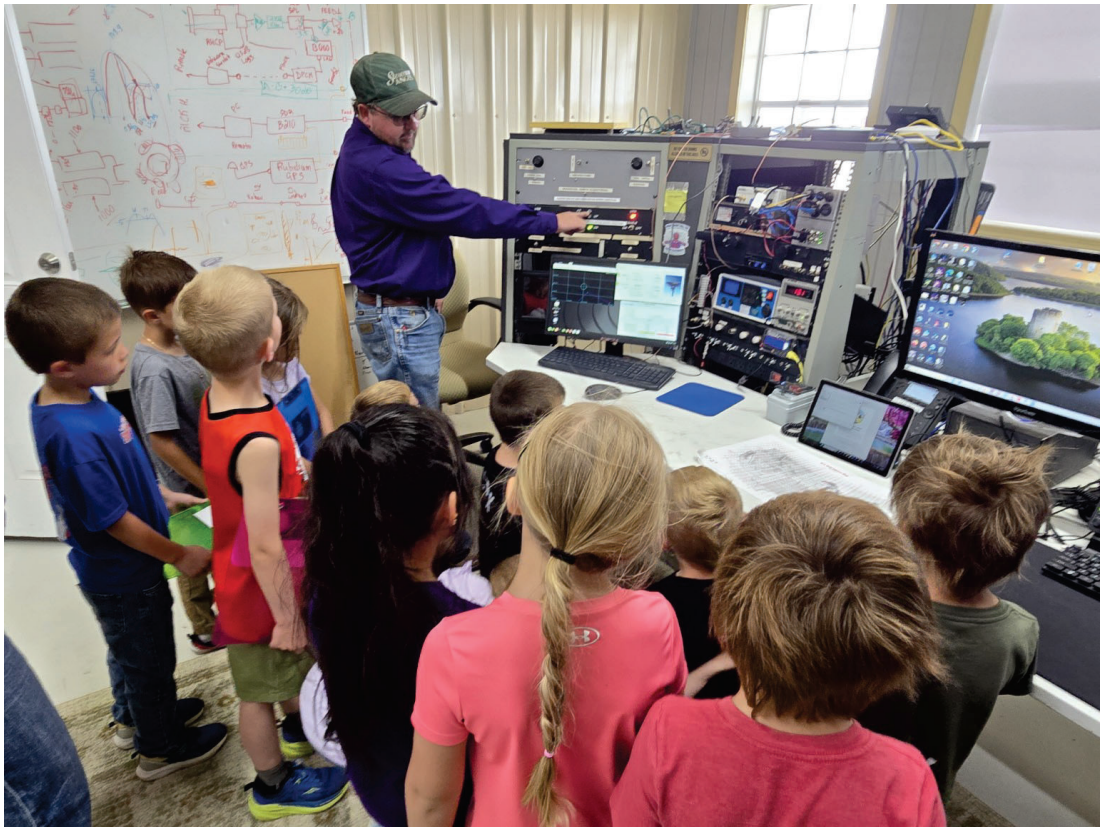
Photo Highlights



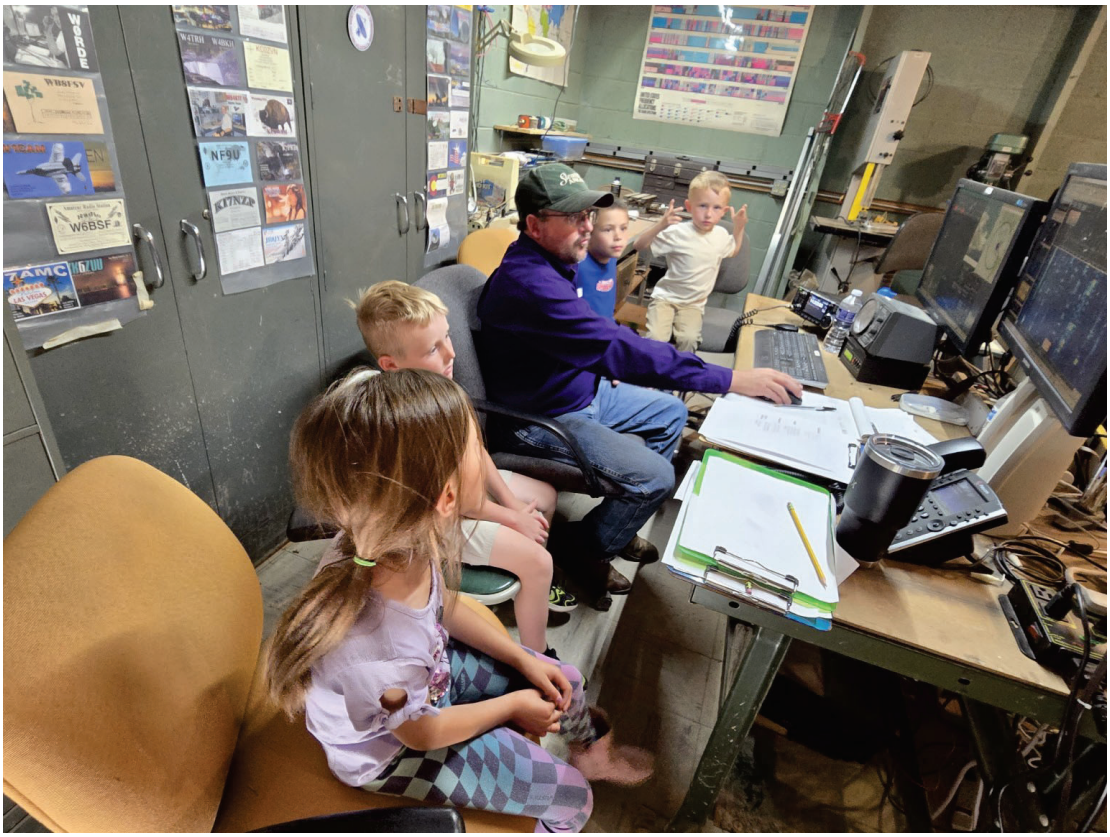
Students participate in a space and astronomy presentation.



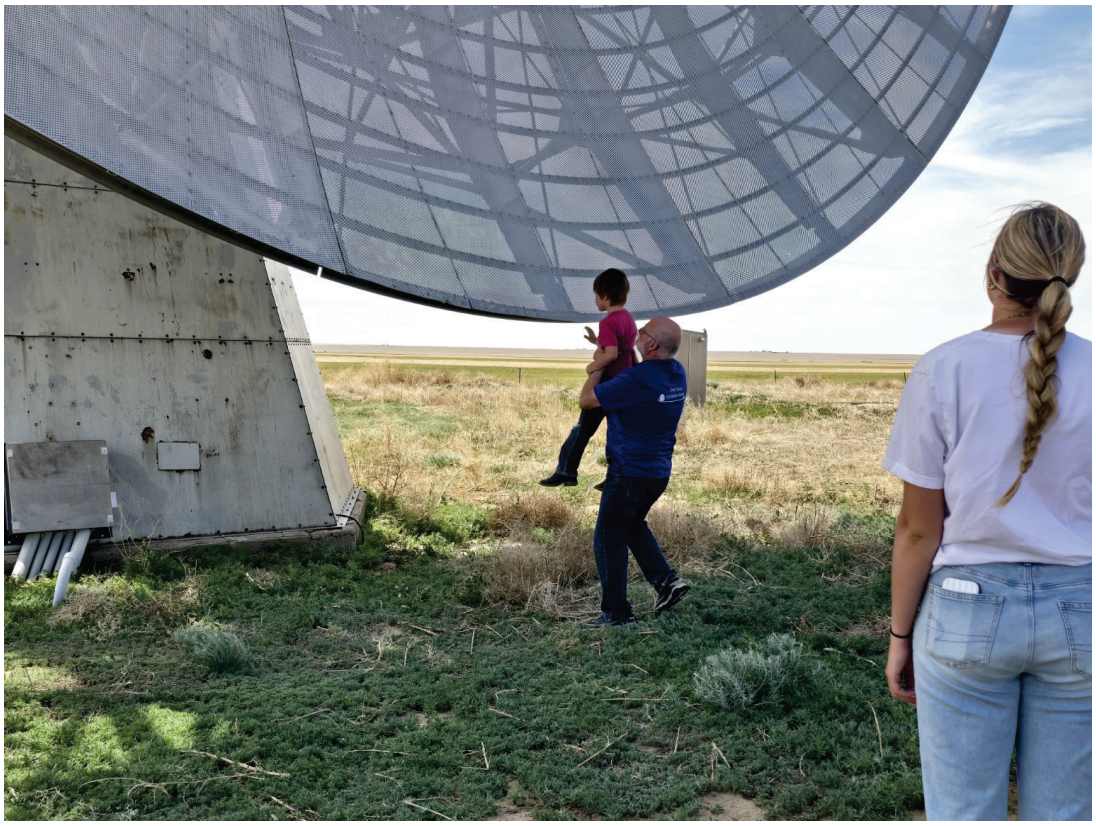
Learning about the scale of the radio telescope.



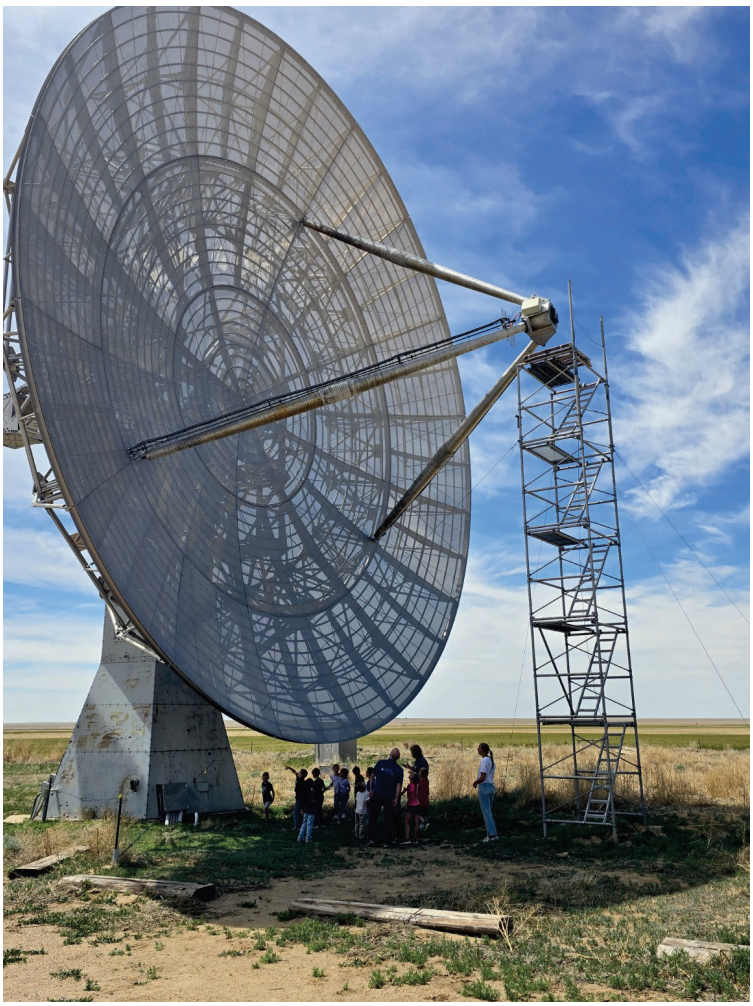
Exploring antenna control and communications equipment.



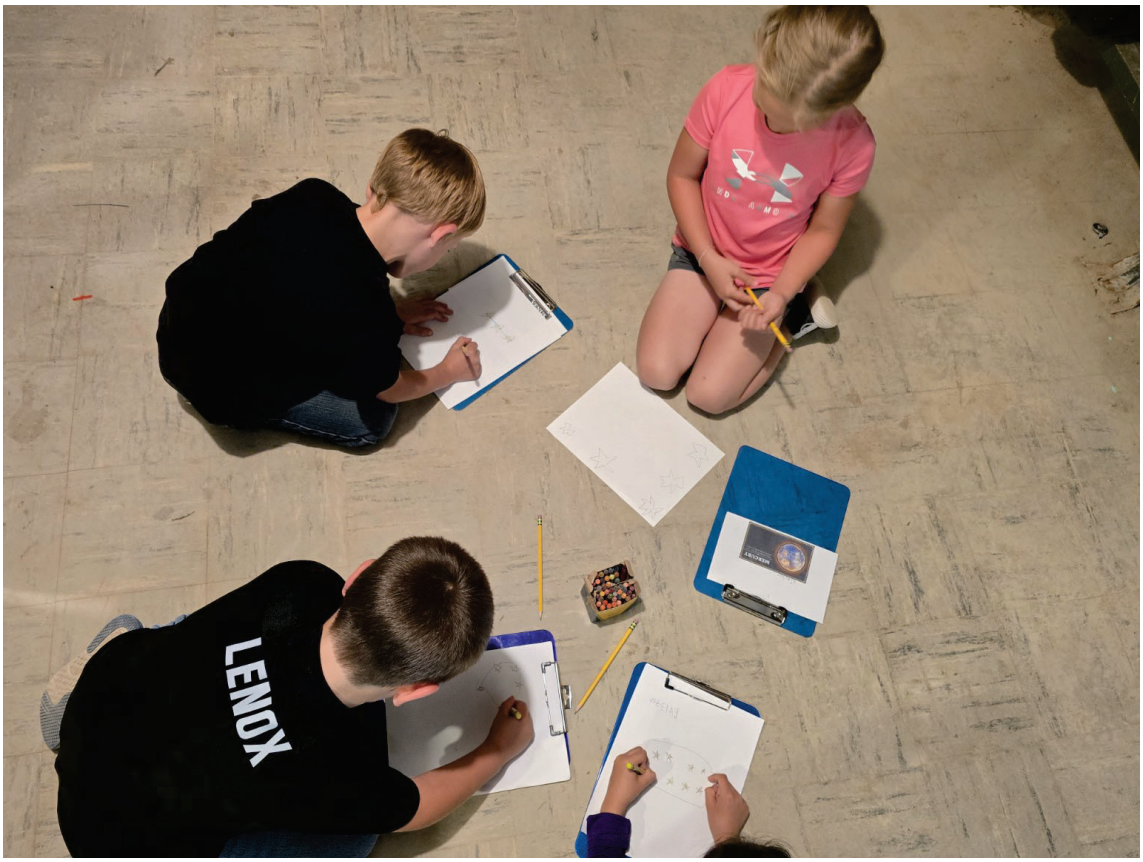
Students visit the ham radio bunker.



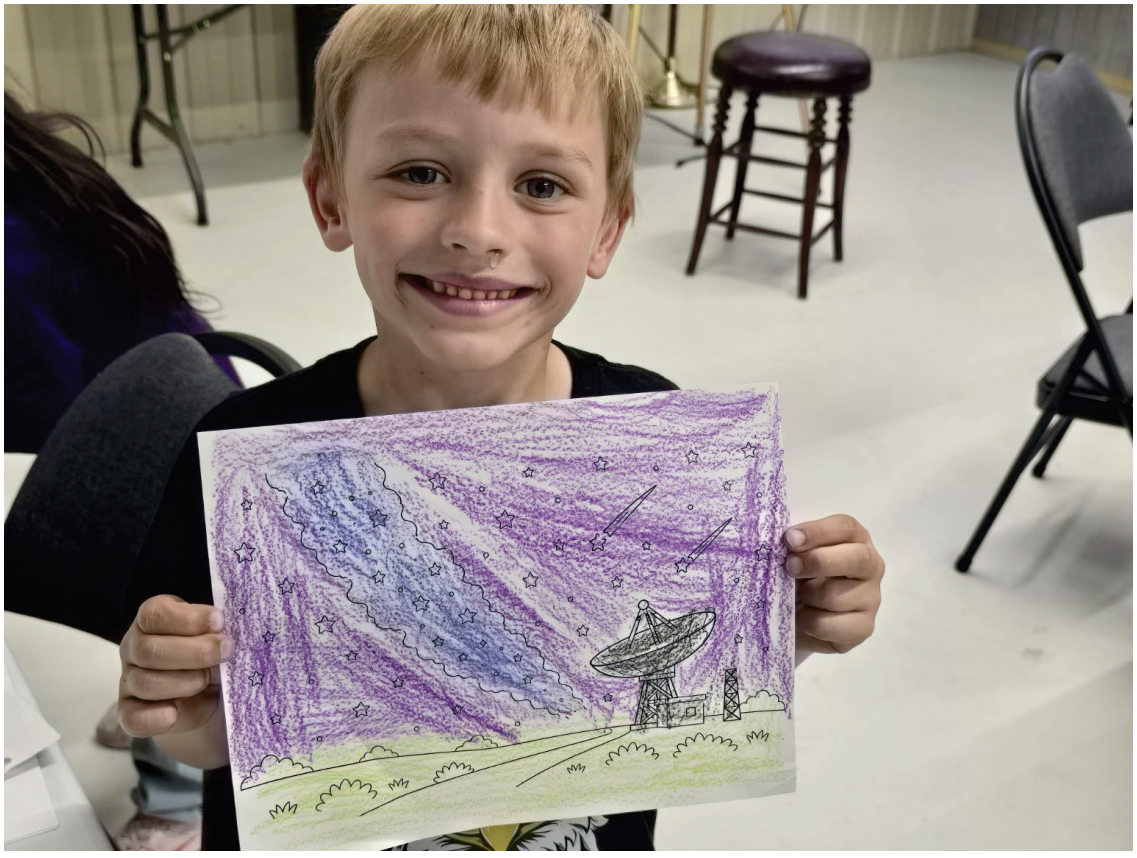
Exploring beneath the antenna dish.



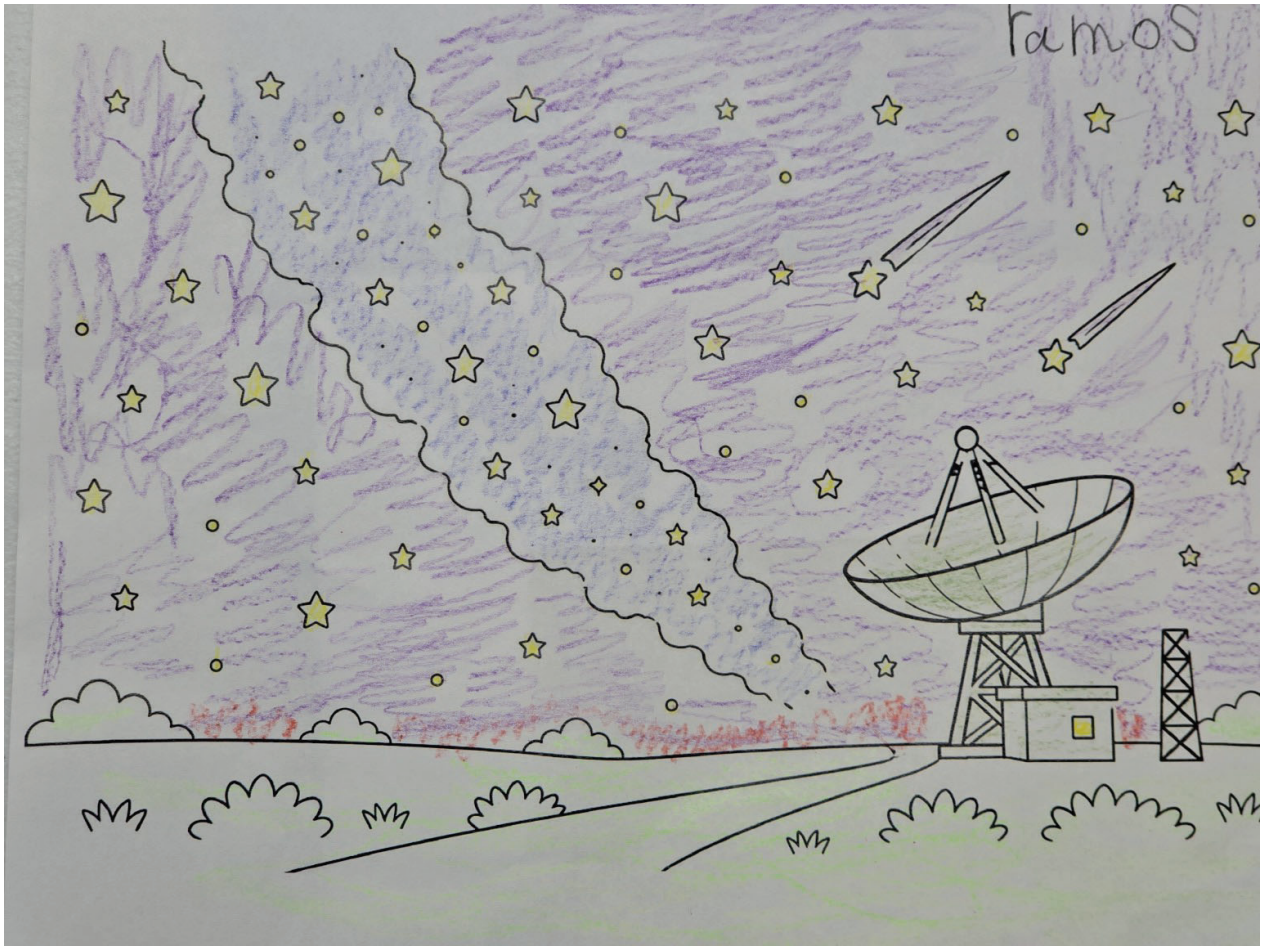
Students gather beneath the telescope during the site tour.



Space-themed educational art activities.



Student proudly displays completed artwork.



Student-created artwork inspired by the DSES site.

Educational Impact and Outcomes

The visit successfully introduced kindergarten students to concepts in astronomy, communications, engineering, and scientific exploration through direct participation and observation. Rather than simply reading about science in a classroom, students were able to interact with real equipment, communicate with people across the country, hear examples of data collected from space, and experience one of the largest radio astronomy facilities in the region. The event also highlighted the importance of partnerships between DSES and local schools. By providing hands-on educational experiences close to home, DSES helps inspire curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and create positive early experiences with science and technology. DSES extends its appreciation to Mrs. Uhland, Coach Kaylee, the Eads School District, and the 13 kindergarten students who participated. Special thanks are extended to DSES volunteers Doug, Tony & Megan for planning and leading the activities that made the visit possible.