

Reimbursement for Near Space Flights

NearSys uses amateur radio and not commercial radio to track near space flights. The Federal Communications Commission created amateur radio as a public service and as such, the use of amateur radio cannot be a source of income. Therefore, NearSys only uses amateur radio to provide a public service in terms of public education in the STEM field and will not and cannot ask for or accept payment for the tracking of near space experiments.

However, there are many expenses that go into near space missions and NearSys can accept reimbursement or an honorarium for them. Below is a list of potential expenses, as best understood, for which NearSys can be reimbursed. If you have any questions, please consult the latest copy of this document in case the question has been answered.

Before Near Space Flights

- Workshops and presentations (includes mileage and per diem)
- Consulting services
- Time and expense for repairing experiments
- Mileage and Per Diem for driving to launch site
- Per Diem while staying near launch site
- Time spent prepping experiments for flight

During Near Space Flights

- Mileage during the chase
- Per Diem during the chase
- Balloons and lifting gas (if not supplied by the school)
- Non-rechargeable batteries and other consumables

Note: Tracking and recovery is volunteered at no cost

After Near Space Flights

- Per Diem and mileage for driving home
- Data analysis
- Post-mission workshops and presentations

Note: Much flight data is freely available through amateur radio and NearSys always shares data collected by its experiments at no cost.

References

Background on amateur radio and public service can be found at the following website, <http://www.arrl.org/public-service>

Per Diem rates can be found at the following website, <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877>
You'll notice the per diem rate depends on the location of the launch. For example, in Boise, ID, the per diem rate in 2014 is \$83 per day for lodging and \$46 per day for meals and miscellaneous expenses.

Travel reimbursement can be found at the following website,
<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/New-Standard-Mileage-Rates-Now-Available;-Business-Rate-to-Rise-in-2015>. In 2015, the charitable mileage rate was 14 cents per mile.

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