

Crew,

Welcome to the Secret Exoplanet Alliance for the Continuation of Humanity (SEARCH). First off, we would like to thank you for choosing to participate in this endeavor. You and your crew have bravely chosen to embark on an experimental journey through the stars.

SEARCH is a highly classified organization tasked with the goal of discovering extra-terrestrial life forms. We have been operational, with limited success, since 1 Jan 1974. Last October we had a break through.

As the Voyager I spacecraft surpassed the Termination Shock, we began to get non-nominal readings from the Low Energy Charged Particle Instrument (LECP) coupled with indistinguishable disturbances from electromagnetic waves operating in the 8 GHz range.

Shortly thereafter, we began to lose intermittent contact with Voyager. As the spacecraft neared the Heliopause, the anomalies increased, up until we passed into interstellar cosmic space. At this point, the signal stopped completely.

In October, the signal returned, however, triangulating the spacecraft gave us a location outside of its operational range. We believe Voyager is residing on Kepler-452b, an exoplanet 1400 light years away.

We believe alien life to exist on this planet and to have taken Voyager I. Due to the complexities of this mission we are sending several crews with the hope that at least one is successful. Your assignment is to travel to Kepler-452b and make first contact with the inhabitants.

More information to follow.

Very Respectfully,

Brandon Hufstetler
Mission Director

Andy Mathews
Secretary General

Please find the following attachments:

A.1.1 *Crew Questions*

A.1.2 *Preliminary Timeline of Training and Events*

A.1.1 Crew Questions

Q: What the heck have we gotten ourselves into?

A: *Your crew has enlisted on an interplanetary mission to discover alien life.*

Q: What should we pack?

A: *A list of recommended items will be provided on Job Assignment day.*

Q: Are we qualified for this?

A: *Is a pahoehoe a circular feature on the surface of dark icy moons?*

Q: What can we expect?

A: *Who knows? Never done this before.*

Q: Is there a prize for the winning crew?

A: *Our emphasis has been spent on rewarding the journey more than the destination. But, yes, there is a prize.*

Q: What roles are required for each ship?

A: *Each crew member will be assigned one of four positions on their ship: Captain, Navigator, Interpreter and Chef. These assignments will be determined after the physical and mental evaluations. Your ship's captain will be determined at registration.*

Q: What are our chances of survival?

A: *Slim.*

Q: Seriously, what can we expect?

A: *This journey will tax your mental capacities. You will travel to several locations along the way to Kepler-452b. At each location we encourage you to interact with your local environment and think about how each crew member's role can be of service. Successful interaction with the locals is paramount to mission completion. Upon leaving a destination, it will often be unclear which direction you should take next. A list of interplanetary rest stops will be provided upon deployment. At each of the stops, you can slow down, regroup, request assistance, get a coffee, and rack your collective brains to solve the challenge presented to you.*

Q: Puzzle Adventure?

A: *Yes. This is not a scavenger hunt, or a race against the clock. This is an adventure. The clues will not be presented as puzzles and often times your team will have to make a leap of faith without a full understanding of what you will find or expect when you arrive at the next location. A diverse team and willingness to think outside the box is the best method to ensure mission success.*

A.1.2 Preliminary Timeline of Training and Events

1 March Call for Volunteers
Open crew registration to the public.

15 March Welcome Letter
This.

1 April Orientation to the Mission (Mental)
A small set of puzzles to tax your mental abilities and give mission management an idea of each crew members unique contributions.

15 April Preliminary Health Inspection
Physical time! Turn your heads and cough, etc.

1 May Pre-deployment Training Exercise 1
Get ready for rigorous training to prepare your crew for the actual mission.

15 May Pre-deployment Training Exercise 2
More training and insight into the hazards of interstellar space travel.

1 June Team Cohesion Briefing and Job Assignments
Crew spacecraft inspection and safety briefing.

15 June ROE and Assignment Verification
Briefing from the Secretary General.

22 June Final Health Inspection (Physical)
We love these physicals!

25 June Deploy
We have yet to lose a person in space.