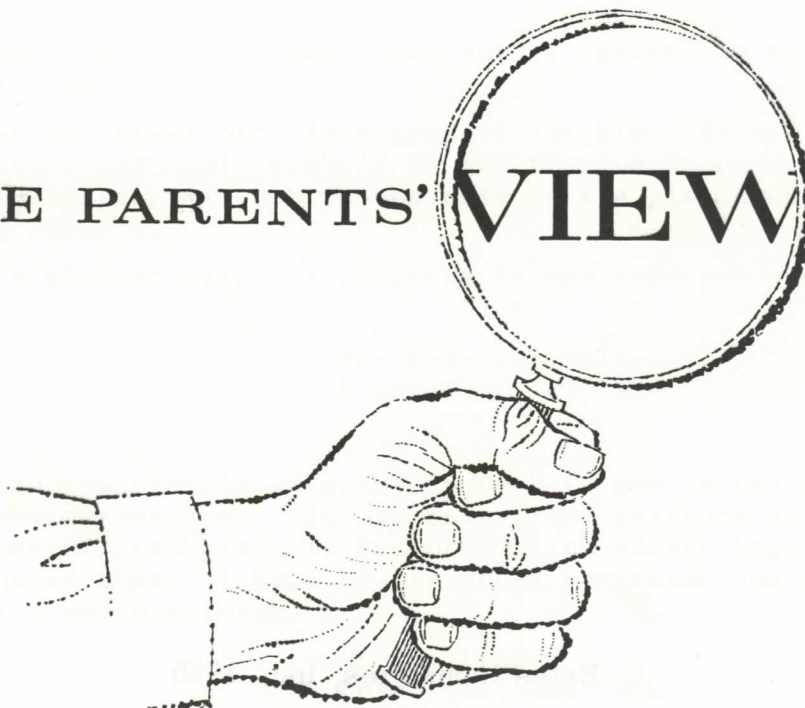


MODEL

ROCKETRY --

THE PARENTS' VIEW



MODEL

The letters and excerpts from letters in this booklet are typical of the reaction of parents to model rocketry. They were selected more-or-less at random. (Letters that said: "I think model rocketry's great, furthermore I think model rocketry's wonderful, in fact, I think it's terrific," were encouraging to us, but were omitted.) In assembling these, our goal was to bring out the reasons behind the parental approval model rocketry has received. The letters which follow point out some of these reasons.



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Dear Sirs:

We feel that model rocketry has many benefits for today's youth. Our son is very interested and we are too, for we know that the things learned from model rocketry may play an important part in his life. We were very concerned with the safety of such a sport, but after reading safety reports etc., we were very pleased with our findings.

We wish more parents could find out the good qualities of model rocketry. We are sure other parents would agree with us. Summed up, we are glad to say we support model rocketry for use with today's modern youth.

Mr. & Mrs. L. Petersen
Salt Lake City, Utah

Gentlemen:

I have watched with great interest my son's application on his rocket project.

The program is not only educational but it appears to be a great help in his attitude.

Each rocket or "blast off" is a project for him. He has to plan, learn nomenclature and apply himself to get the job done. It has been very helpful in shaping his habits not only in the pleasurable aspect but in getting results.

We are very pleased with the progress he has made and with your program.

Mr. F.R. Cromwell
Plantation, Florida

I am pleased that Gary's interest in rockets has lasted so long. He is more interested than ever. It has taught him patience as well as the methods to construct rockets. It has brought us closer together at times and I have enjoyed that. I hope his interest continues and that some day he may benefit from this hobby.

Mr. T. Drago
Leicester, New York

We feel that rocketry is a very fine forerunner of thinking for our youth of today just as model airplanes were when I was a youngster. We are amazed at the technical aspects of this hobby and believe it very educational.

We are quite pleased that our son is so interested in it and that he enjoys it so much. We would say "keep up the good work".

Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Seidle
Durango, Colo.

...To put it briefly, I am very happy that my son is so highly interested in the idea of model rocketry, as the educational side effects are very valuable. Also, it ties in with his other interests in astronomy, physics, and photography. I am extremely pleased that a firm such as yours exists, so that he can purchase materials that are safe to use rather than experimenting with dangerous explosives and fuels. Model rocketry is, in my opinion, an interesting, educational, and highly practical hobby, and your progressive company is to be commended for its contribution.

M.M. Pique
Washington, D.C.

I don't think my son has left much to be said. I just want to say that his father and I are proud of what he has done with his rockets, and we hope he will continue his interest in them.

Some of the younger boys in the neighborhood have watched him working with his rockets, and he always tries to impress on them the necessity for being very careful and taking safety measures.

Mrs. Clay Brown
Fort Wayne, Indiana

It is hard to express my appreciation for your excellent program. It is set up with a definite goal which is beneficial to all age groups. The problem of working a hobby into an educational program without making it dull and uninviting primarily to the teen-age group who would immediately rebel if they actually realized that the model rocketry program is a furtherance of their education. In my estimation it takes a far-sighted man or group of men to do what the Estes Industries has done--and done with little recognition and no praise, the adults who, by and large, are too near-sighted to ever comprehend the true meaning of your efforts. I would like to express my appreciation and admiration for you, V. Estes and your very competent staff---and this is from an adult who "rockets".

C.A. Jones, Jr., DDS
DeRidder, Louisiana

I would like to inform you that my wife and I heartily support our son's interest in model rocketry especially since his initial experience with one of your kits. We are convinced that he can learn a great deal with your rockets, and do it without endangering his and others health.

Our congratulations to you for providing to the youth of America a most timely and worthwhile hobby.

C.F. Schlueter
Tyler, Texas

I think it is a very nice hobby for a boy. It is something to keep them off of the streets and out of bad company.

Mrs. Bea Ballard
Baltimore, Md.

I think it gives the young men and boys of today something to do, that could be very useful later on in life for them. It is just a shame that more boys aren't doing this kind of a thing, and then maybe we would be more advanced in space than what we are right now.

Roy P. Ballard
Baltimore, Md.

I will try to promote this hobby and education in rocketry all I can in this community. I think it is swell for Dad and Son. I have been a pilot for several years, built model airplanes (control line all classes) and in my opinion model rocketry has it all over any other hobby in education and enjoyment.

A. C. Dowd
St. Augustine, Fla.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the attached completed questionnaire and request by my son, Raymond B. Frank III. Chip, as we call him, has just recently developed a genuine interest in building and launching model rockets, even to the point of designing and building from scrap components his own launch platform and control.

As parents, we feel that this is a healthy interest, and if general safety rules are followed, a safe one. We have gone thru your catalog and were impressed with the wealth of items available for a progressive education in rocketry.

We intend to encourage his interest in the hobby and him to use his spending money for purchase of materials from you.

R. B. Frank Jr.
Watertown, New York

Dear Sir:

I as a parent appreciate the simple safe and inexpensive way you people make it possible for boys to become a part of this modern rocket age.

J. M. Farrell
Houma, La.

. . .This is the first activity that Tom has taken the complete initiative of sending his own orders, and building his own models; but I have insisted that I be invited to all launchings to act as range safety officer. His attention span on most activities is 15 to 45 minutes, but for your models I have seen him work for several hours at one time. He is a normal ten year old boy, but your models, and the fine instruction you provide with them have made him more than ordinarily enthusiastic. . .

W. T. Wells
Detroit, Mich.

. . .Tom has manifested a keen interest in model rocketry. Initially, he read much upon the subject. The next step was to convince me that model rocketry could become a safe pastime. Then came the first construction job and launching. It was successful and both son and dad were elated.

I am for Tom's participation in model rocketry. He maintains a scientific approach to each undertaking, which requires thinking and mechanical skill. This makes a busy boy and, I believe, the beginning of a good citizen.

In short, I want Tom's extracurricular activities to be educational and satisfactory. Model rocketry seems to supply him a good measure of both. Thanks for your interest.

T. A. Barnes
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sirs:

At first I was against Richard building and setting off rockets but since you have provided information to prevent accidents, I feel it can be a safe hobby.

His interest in rockets has helped him to decide that he would like an education beyond a high school diploma.

Mrs. W. Kautter Sr.
Lebanon, Penna.

Gentlemen:

At my son's request I am enclosing this letter with his questionnaire. I am quite pleased with both his enjoyment and progress since he joined your program. In particular your emphasis on safety and "the right way" have been very valuable and have helped my program against dangerous experimentation with home-made engines made from all manner of cap-powders, etc. I think that these aspects of your program as well as the technical explanations are excellent and beneficial to the boy.

R. J. Melhado
Pittsburgh, Pa.

...I have been filing out the questionnaire enclosed and am enclosing with a further order. Our principle reason for encouraging him is that he has to stop and read!

Mrs. L.R. Fischer
Rossford, Ohio

...I heartily approve, and so does my husband, of the interest our Son has shown in the rocket models. I also approve very much of your company's products and the courteous service we have received.

Our son has an exceptionally keen, studious mind, and one which takes pride in doing things. This rocket program is a very constructive, worthwhile cause, and you are to be commended highly for the same.

It is very gratifying to have our son at home with a good, clean interest, than to have to wonder what corner he may be standing on, inviting or getting into predicaments...

Mrs. B.D. Machen
Reno, Nevada

Gentlemen:

In July, 1961, our son Jimmy developed encephalitis, and has been recuperating ever since. We are very much in favor of his rocket activities--in fact anything which will stimulate his mind. His attention span is short and he may not stay with it for long, but anything any of us can do to help him we are in favor of...

Mrs. W.C. Breakey
Spokane, Washington

Dear Mr. Estes:

Donnie wanted me to write and tell you how we feel about his new interest in rocketry. We're very pleased, to say the least. It just carries through the interest he has had in airplanes, etc., since he was four years old. His ambition is to go to the Air Force Academy and we feel this is just another step in his life toward his ambition. We also feel that a boy with an interest such as this is less likely to get into trouble. One of his ambitions now is to visit your plant in Penrose, we just may get by next summer.

Mary & Don Golding
Phoenix, Arizona

As a teacher and club advisor, I appreciate the safety, sureness, and educational ideas that accompany your kits and programs. Your personal responses to many inquiries are indicative of your interest in the youth who place so much faith in you. The answer seems so many times to be, "lets try Estes".

Jim Pahlau
Greeley, Colo.

I think that your work with these young men is very commendable. If there were more nice and interesting hobbies like this one, there would be less bad children getting in trouble in the United States. I even enjoy making a rocket or two with my son.

Mr. R.F. Butler, Sr.
Ramsey, New Jersey

I have enjoyed my sons interest in rockets very much and helped him with suggestions and in launchings.

He has been instrumental in organizing the rocket club of which he is president. This, I believe, has developed his leadership.

As a result of his rocket activities he has become more interested in science and has received very good grades in his science subjects. I believe all the parents of the boys in the rocket club approve and enjoy their son's activities. Last summer a 2 hour launch was held and the boys enjoyed the appearance of a good sized audience.

We have been besieged by requests to buy more and more rocket supplies and have purchased more than we could afford. I do feel that some of your supplies are over priced.

Mr. J.T. Jenkins, Sr.
Lake Mills, Iowa

Gentlemen:

When my son first approached me to request permission to order merchandise from your company, I was skeptical but finally relented and granted permission. Upon examination of his first package of material I must say I was impressed with the detail of information you supplied. Having had previous personal experience with explosives my major concern was safety. I noted with satisfaction that your printed instructions stressed both safety and caution.

I personally witnessed two of the four rocket flights and have taken color movies of the latter flight. All future flights will have my supervision and full movie coverage if possible.

My best wishes for your continued success in this new most interesting field.

Mr. J. Coffield
East Northport, New York

This letter is intended as a word of commendation to your company. Our son, Chris, has had many worth while hours of enjoyment and accomplishment with his model rocketry. We appreciate the exceptionally rapid service and also the emphasis upon safety.

Mr. Lustig is in the rocket business and understands perhaps better than most the danger associated with the making of fuel for rockets. He is always happy to advise that such fuel be bought and ignited only under proper supervision...

Mrs. J.F. Lustig
Marshall, Texas

Dear Sirs:

My son and I have found a new hobby in rocketry. I believed that model rocketry was a dangerous hobby until a pupil of mine introduced me to your products. Your products have helped me greatly in illustrating space travel in the classroom and out in the field.

Prof. P.J. Kim
Severna Park, Maryland

Gentlemen:

My son's interest in model rockets is gratifying. He is painlessly absorbing knowledge while being constructively occupied.

The rockets have stimulated his interest in aeronautics to a point where he is considering making this field a goal for his future career.

Mrs. A. Broska
Rosedale, New York

...This most interesting and educational hobby has found favor with the whole family.

I might add that the chase over hill and dale to recover a nose cone adds to the flavor as it provides beneficial exercise for the more portly members of our tribe...!

Mr. R. Campbell
Beverly, Mass.

...I very definitely do approve of his model rocket activities. He was introduced to the hobby through my own model building, and I was very pleased to find that building a model rocket was not beyond his capabilities at the age of nine. With a minimum of help he constructed a workable model of the Astron Mark which has survived a number of successful flights. I will be glad to see him continue building models to develop his dexterity and sense of workmanship. I feel, further, that model rocketry is unique in the number of ways in which it can broaden a boy's knowledge of the world, touching as it does the sciences of mathematics, physics, and aeronautics while remaining real fun...

Mr. R. Heller
Kimberton, Penna.

When my son told us he was interested in "model rocketry" I had great misgivings about the whole thing. However, after he got your catalog along with information about model rocketry and the warnings on home-made rockets and the safety code enclosed, I felt a great deal better.

After he made his first model and launched it I became very much interested in his hobby. It is a constructive hobby and if all the directions and rules are followed nothing can be safer...

Mrs. E. Berg
Kings Park, New York

It's a pleasure to express my appreciation of the rocket-building program that my son, Charles, has joined, with your product.

It has helped his insight into space travel, and the creation of the rockets does a great deal to improve his hand-eye coordination.

I strongly recommend his continuation in this work.

Dr. A.J. Rose
Chardon, Ohio

Gentlemen:

My two boys, ages 9 and 11, have asked me to comment on their model rocket activities. I am happy to do this because I thoroughly approve of their activities along this line.

I believe model building by itself is a wonderful activity. In addition, I believe they are learning about rocketry, gliding, etc. through the use of your kits. The rockets themselves are safe if used in the proper manner and I appreciate your stressing the safety as well as the educational features.

I might add that I have built one model myself, the Astron Sky Hook, and I enjoy launching and recovering it along with watching the boys and their rockets.

J.K. Nagel
Denver, Colo.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for having such a constructive business to attract our young teenagers of today.

In this day of atomic energy naturally the young people think of rockets and how they are assembled.

This hobby our boy has started with your company has our approval, and we feel secure and safe that all information and material from your company is of the safest and highest quality.

Mrs. C. DePenning
Pella, Iowa

I want you to know that I'm glad to have my son Michael, interested in rockets. He has built several models and with the use of your fine rocket engines he's been able to have very good success with his launchings. I'm very grateful for the safe engines you build and it's a relief to know they are safely used by my son.

J.W. Cox
New Bremen, Ohio

Dear Sirs:

We feel that Greg's experience with model rockets has been educational for him. Naturally as parents we approach any such new experience with considerable trepidation especially when the activity involves certain aspects beyond our realm of experience and knowledge. However the kits with their very detailed instructions including the emphasis on safety precautions have allayed our fears and encouraged us to the extent that we have found ourselves very much interested in his rocket activities. Our only hope is that his interest and motivation in this area will produce a concomitant interest and motivation in other areas of his school work.

Dr. R. E. Dingman
High Point, North Carolina

I would like you to know that both my husband and myself are extremely pleased with our son's rocket activities. We find all phases - the planning, building and firing - very informative. It is an all-absorbing hobby which seems to have great and beneficial effects on many phases of scholastic work.

Our son has found a healthy, well directed activity which holds his interest, and from which we all have derived a great satisfaction.

Mrs. Norma Di Diego
Plainview, New York

...I willingly invest whatever money is needed in order to have an adequate supply of safe engines on hand. It is much cheaper than replacing an arm! Your program interests my son greatly. It has added to his self esteem and has given him a sense of accomplishment.

His father died when he was 8 years old. I welcome projects such as yours which the child can proceed on his own without need for technical assistance, etc. (which I could not provide). I support it enthusiastically.

Mrs. Charles Reynard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Stevie became interested in model rocketry when he attended the NAR events at Wallops Station, Virginia last summer. Even though he is only eight years old, he has done extremely well in both building and flying his first three rockets. He is closely supervised, and has been fortunate in having much technical advice from my co-workers at NASA Wallops Station.

He is a fan of Estes Industries, and has truly found "excitement and education in rocketry".

Mrs. G.B. Burns
Princess Anne, Maryland

Dear Sirs:

I approve of your kits, which are with reason of a teen-age boy's pocket. These kits are safe and also educational.

Your "Model Rocket News" is greatly appreciated. We all read it and it does give my son information, which he is always seeking. Do keep your "Model Rocket News" coming.

Mrs. R. McBride
Midwest City, Okla.

P.S. His Dad also approves of his activities with rockets. Robert sent his Dad all the information which he received from you and got his O.K. At present his Dad is in Viet Nam but will be home soon, so Robert can show off his rockets.

Dear Mr. Estes,

I feel I should know you as my son, Don Conner, has been interested in model rocketry for nearly 3 years.

I'm enthusiastic for I find it has helped him and his friends in many ways--he has won honors, made many new friends and received some recognition through this hobby. These things, I feel, are very important for teenagers, boys or girls.

When some mothers objected to this hobby I went along to check on its safety and consulted with firemen and even the fire marshal for our district, to make sure they were breaking no laws and their hobby could be carried out without endangering themselves or anyone else. . .

. . . Dan has also entered contests, the last being to send in a boost-glider plan, in your company. I personally am pleased he enters although he hasn't won. It keeps him thinking and improving.

He and all the boys look forward to your bulletins and can't wait to get together and discuss after it gets here.

I have nothing to say but good of your company and products. I only wish you had supply houses closer to save time and expense. Smith's can never seem to keep everything in stock although they have helped the boys. Yours for continued success,

Mrs. Wm. L. Hartley
Anderson, Indiana

Dear Sirs:

As the mother of two boys very much interested in rocketry, I am delighted with your products and the complete information you impart in your bulletins. Your stress on safety does much to put my mind at ease. The literature you supply is not available even at our local library and it was necessary to put a stop to our sons' experiments because of the danger involved in having only a little information and make-do equipment. We are very pleased to now be able to allow his intense interest in rocketry to be fulfilled. I must also tell you that my husband finds model rocketry as exciting as the boys and works with them on each project, so you see you are responsible for a healthy family interest. Thank you.

Mrs. C. Ramseyer
Birmingham, Mich.

...This is Jim's third season as a model rocketeer. As I look back over the past seasons, I can see that the hobby has affected him very favorably. It has whetted his interest in science and mathematics. More important, it has shown him clearly that there is much he must yet learn, and has given him increased desire to strive for that knowledge...

Mr. F.M. Rogers
Two Rivers, Wisconsin

...I have a brother who was in the Air Corps and worked on jet engines and my son was showing him the mechanics of the rockets. He was very impressed with it and said he could become a hobbyist with no trouble, because it does not seem like an idle hobby, but an intelligent approach to the era in which we live.

I like the way you follow through with different questionnaires, contests, etc. There is a definite plan, and you make it a challenge to their thinking, encouraging them to come up with innovations and stimulate their minds to new ideas and techniques. You do not make people feel that you are just selling a product for monetary gain, but you are selling a whole idea.

Good wishes for your continued success and we are with you all the way. If there were more things like this to interest the youth I feel a lot of our juvenile problems would disappear...

Mrs. J.A. Johnson
Cornwells Hts., Penna.

We as parents of James Shepard are very pleased with his model activities. At the moment he is studying rockets in his school work. Jimmy's teacher was pleased with the rockets that he brought to school. We are glad that he has such interest in space flight.

Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Shepard
Maple Heights, Ohio

...I highly approve of Lesters space flight activities for several reasons. Above everything it is progressing him toward a lifetime career. Second, as of now it gives him a worth while hobby to fill in, his spare time.

His projects seemed safe enough so I don't worry. I don't worry about him becoming bored as a lot of young boys do because they don't have enough to do; since he has become interested in model rocketry.

He has used the subject for several essays and reports he has had to give in school of which I am pleased. . .

Mrs. L. Laffoon
Lake Village, Ind.

Dear Sirs:

I must tell you how pleased I am that our boy has taken such an interest in model rocketry. He is extremely interested in the scientific, and yet mathematics is one of his poorest subjects, due to a lack of interest. Since he has been receiving your material, he has come to realize that math is doubly important to the aerospace minded person, and this has given him a new viewpoint on the subject. I expect to see a marked improvement in his arithmetic grade the next quarter.

When he fired his rocket for the first time, and it took off with a swoosh, I don't know who was more thrilled between us. I got as big a bang as he did. I think it's a wonderful and worthwhile hobby, and it drags him away from the TV set, too, which is a real benefit. I would like to commend you on your fine supplies, and also thank you for making such a fascinating hobby safe enough for the younger boys who might be interested in it.

Mrs. A. R. Barnes
Deer Island, Ore.

Of the letters received in response to an open request for parent's opinions of young people's model rocketry activities, 238 so far have expressed wholehearted approval, 1 expressed approval with reservations, 1 expressed a lack of knowledge on which to base an opinion and 4 expressed disapproval. The following two letters are typical of those indicating disapproval:

Dear Sirs:

I do not approve of my son ordering your rockets as yet because I'm afraid the only time he will be able to use them is when someone has time to take him way out somewhere and this would be very seldom. Also I can't believe that they are as safe as he tries to make me believe they are. He is interested but I'm afraid it would be a waste of money.

Mrs. Bush
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:

Gray is using the rocket for a science project in school. It is all right for him to do so as long as there is no firing of the rocket.

Having no knowledge of rockets or of the danger involved we think it best that he does no shooting.

Mrs. D. Spencer
Othello, Wash.

P.S. Gray is 16 years old.