

2 Louisville Boys Will Fly to See Apollo Blast-Off

Two Louisville high school boys — an electronics wizard and a student of rocketry — will fly to Cape Kennedy Thursday to witness the launch of the moon-bound Apollo 12 spacecraft.

George Stege III, a junior at Louisville Country Day School, and Derek Fort, a senior at St. Xavier High School, are making the trip at the invitation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The opportunity came their way because the teen-agers were 1969 winners at a Youth Science Congress sponsored by NASA and the National Science Teachers Association last spring at Hampton, Va.

At the congress, 17-year-old Derek presented a paper on how drag affects rocket flights. George, 16, spoke on how to build a perfect laser. Both are former winners at the regional science fair in Louisville.

The high schoolers have to pay for their flight and hotel accommodations, but in Derek's case St. Xavier is helping to foot the bill.

The teen-age scientists have never witnessed a space launch at the Cape and plan to photograph the take-off. Derek will take pictures for his school newspaper and magazine, and George will borrow some camera equipment from Country Day, including a telephoto lens.

At Cape Kennedy the students will see the launch, scheduled for Friday morning, and tour the facilities at the base. They will return to Louisville late Saturday.

Derek is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Earthmon Fort of 3201 Leigh Lane. George, of 1521 Thackeray Drive, is the son of Dr. and Mrs. George C. Stege.