



ROCKET: Teresa Sindelar and Joel Walker with one of the orbit models used in their presentation.

PICTURE: CORNELIA DU PLOOY

## NASA shares its secrets

**CORNELIA DU PLOOY**

The skies were the limit when NASA came to town yesterday to tell pupils from all over Pretoria about career opportunities at the space agency.

The CSIR hosted a presentation for school pupils where two visiting NASA education specialists - Teresa Sindelar and Joel Walker - gave an interactive presentation on career opportunities in science, technology and space exploration.

They aimed at inspiring pupils whose ideas and inventions could shape the future of spaceflight.

Sindelar, camp programme manager, and Walker, director of education at the Kansas Cosmosphere involved pupils in the demonstrations.

Popular questions were how and what does one eat in space and how does one go to the toilet. All questions were answered by way of spectacular experiments and visual aids.

The workings of the orbit itself saw many jaws drop as a combustion engine simulated the process with exploding cotton wool.

CSIR spokesman Hilda van Rooyen said: "Pupils from eight to 18 were invited. Some 1 000 pupils were accommodated." The event was an initiative of the Meraka Institute's Young Engineers Stars (YES). Meraka, part of the CSIR, aims at making science and engineering attractive for children.

