NEWS

Tanaka Chonyera hopes to inspire the next generation of rocket scientists



Christine Tannous

Oct. 29, 2026, 6:01 a.m. ET



Tanaka Chonyera prepares to teach a class the process of building high-power rockets Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Enlace Academy in Indianapolis. Chonyera hosts these classes through his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp. Students learn how to assemble the rockets, made from fiberglass, before they are launched at a later date. Chonyera's program funds the entire process, so it is free to all participants.

Christine Tannous/IndyStar



Tanaka Chonyera walks the halls of Enlace Academy after teaching a class the process of building high-power rockets Thursday, May 7, 2026, in Indianapolis. Chonyera hosts these classes through his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp. Students learn how to assemble the rockets, made from fiberglass, before they are launched at a later date. Chonyera's program funds the entire process, so it is free to all participants.

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Micah Schwantes-An, 12, looks up at a high-power rocket as it launches Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie.

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Tanaka Chonyera teaches a group of students how to build a high-power rocket Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Enlace Academy in Indianapolis. Chonyera hosts these classes through his High Power Rocket Bootcamp. Students learn how to assemble the rockets, made from

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Tanaka Chonyera carries rockets from students in his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp to be

Tanaka Chonyera carries rockets from students in his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp to be launched Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie. Chonyera's bootcamp funds the entire process, from build to launch, making it free to all participants.

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Tanaka Chonyera prepares for a class building high-power rockets Thursday, May 7, 2026, at

Tanaka Chonyera prepares for a class building high-power rockets Thursday, May 7, 2026, at his apartment in Indianapolis. Chonyera's living room in his apartment is filled with high-power rocket parts and tools to build the rockets. He hosts these classes through his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp. Students learn how to assemble the rockets, made from fiberglass, before they are launched at a later date. Chonyera's program funds the entire process, so it is free to all participants.

Christine Tannous/IndyStar

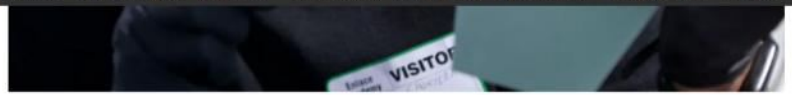




Tanaka Chonyera walks the halls of Enlace Academy before teaching a class how to build high-power rockets Thursday, May 7, 2026, in Indianapolis. Chonyera hosts these classes through his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp. Students learn how to assemble the rockets, made from fiberglass, before they are launched at a later date. Chonyera's program funds the entire process, so it is free to all participants.

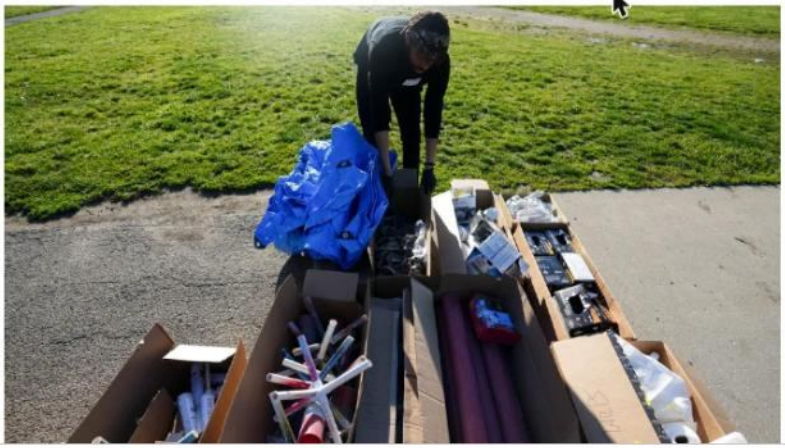
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Tanaka Chonyera teaches a sixth grade class how to build a high-power rocket Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Enlace Academy in Indianapolis. The rockets are made from fiberglass, which Chonyera said makes them reusable and long lasting. Students take home the rockets to keep after they build them. These classes are made possible through Chonyera's High-Power Rocket Bootcamp, which funds the entire process, making it free for all participants.

Christine Tannous/IndyStar





Tanaka Chonyera organizes boxes before teaching students how to build high-power rockets Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Enlace Academy in Indianapolis. Chonyera hosts these classes through his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp. Students learn how to assemble the rockets, made from fiberglass, before they are launched at a later date. Chonyera's program funds the entire process, so it is free to all participants.

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Tanaka Chonyera (right) helps Steven Sanchez, 12, build a rocket Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Enlace Academy in Indianapolis. Chonyera hosts these classes through his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp. Students learn how to assemble the rockets, made from fiberglass, before they are launched at a later date. Chonyera's program funds the entire process, so it is free to all participants.

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Tanaka Chonyera reacts as a high-power rocket a student of his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp made launches into the air Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie. Chonyera's bootcamp funds the entire process, from build to launch, making it free to all participants.

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Participants of Tanaka Chonyera's High-Power Rocket Bootcamp watch as a high-power rocket launches into the sky Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie. Chonyera's bootcamp funds the entire process, from build to launch, making it free to all participants.

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Kyle Alexander (front) and his son Dalton Alexander, 12, look through a cornfield for Dalton's high-power rocket after it was launched Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie. The rockets are equipped with a beeper that allows participants to recover them after launch.

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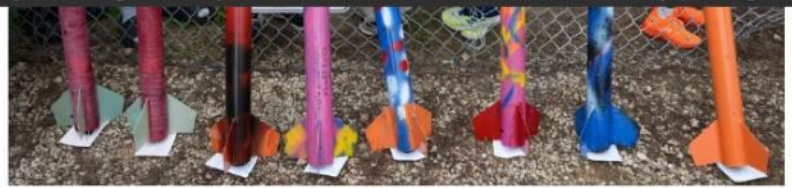




A high-power rocket is launched Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie. The rocket was launched as a part of Tanaka Chonyera's High-Power Rocket Bootcamp.

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High-power rockets sit against a fence waiting to be launched Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie.

Christine Tannous/IndyStar





A high-power rocket shoots into the sky Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie. The rocket was launched as a part of Tanaka Chonyera's High-Power Rocket Bootcamp.

Christine Tannous/IndyStar

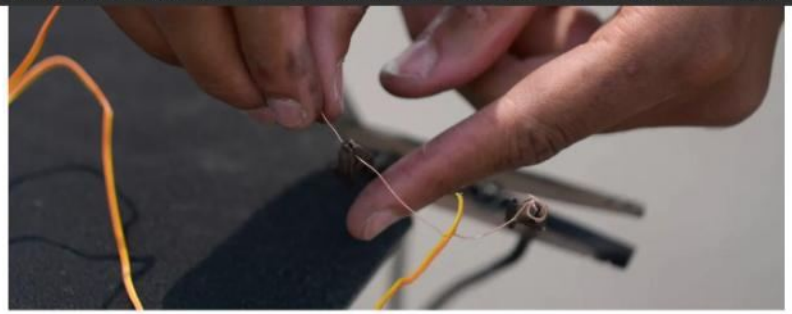




High-power rockets sit against a fence waiting to be launched Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie. The rockets were launched as a part of Tanaka Chonyera's High-Power Rocket Bootcamp.

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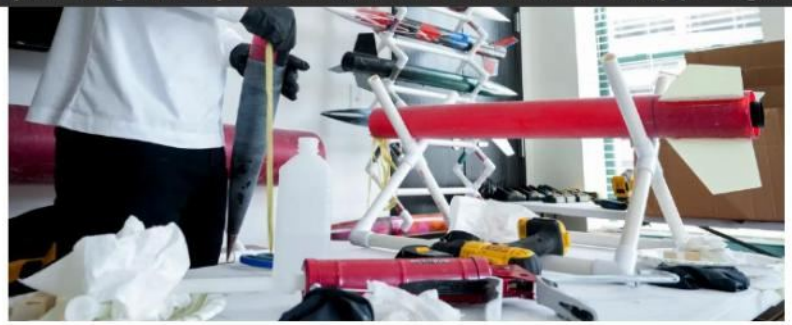




Tanaka Chonyera prepares a high-power rocket for launch Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rocketeers of Central Indiana launch site in Muncie. Participants of his High-Power Rocket Bootcamp watched the rockets they assembled launch. His bootcamp funds the entire process, from build to launch, making it free for all participants.

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Tanaka Chonyera builds a high-power rocket in his apartment as he times himself to work on making the process more efficient Saturday, June 6, 2026, at his apartment in downtown Indianapolis. Chonyera runs a High-Power Rocket Bootcamp, a program that allows students to build and launch their own rockets for free.

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Students Kerryson Cypre (left) and Jeune Charles (right) spray paint a high-power rocket Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Enlace Academy in Indianapolis. The students participated in the class, taught by Tanaka Chonyera, that walked them through the steps on building a rocket. Classes like this are possible through Chonyera's High-Power Rocket Bootcamp, which is free to all participants.

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Captured October 29, 2026 from https://www.indystar.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2026/10/29/tanaka-chonyera-hopes-to-inspire-the-next-generation-of-indianapolis-rocket-scientists/92383897007/ (page 21 of 21)