



Education News

Volume 8, Issue 2

John C. Stennis Space Center

May - July 2004

EDUCATION NOTES

Pre-K - 12

Look for the new Educator Resource Center summer workshop brochure in the mail.

Tell your fellow educators to sign up for Education News updates at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>.

Look inside for information about new NASA materials available from Spacelink.

Higher Education

Openings are still available for the July session of the NASA Pre-Service Teacher Institute at Stennis. E-mail: rvakbar@xula.edu for information.

Information about NASA's Scholarship for Service — coming soon!

Find out about Higher Ed programs on our Web site at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>.

Prepare for a career in education with NASA's Pre-Service Teacher Institute

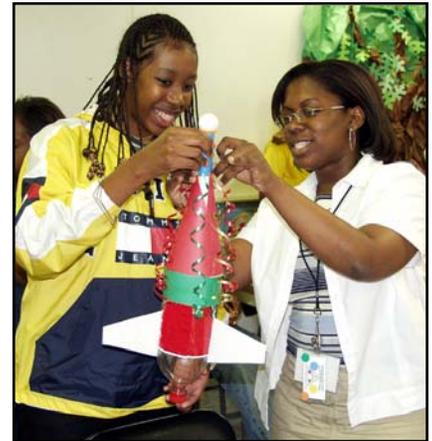
This summer, Stennis Space Center (SSC) is offering students who are preparing for careers in the classroom a wonderful opportunity to enhance their math and science instruction skills.

NASA's Pre-Service Teacher Institute (PSTI) is an intense, two-week session for students attending Minority Institutions who are preparing to teach elementary and middle school.

College students from diverse backgrounds spend an exciting time at SSC where they are exposed to problem-based learning, and math and science enrichment activities.

Pre-Service teachers interact with NASA personnel and tour SSC facilities while learning to incorporate NASA's research into the classroom.

There are still openings available for the July 18-30 session of the PSTI. For more information and to apply, visit http://wwwedu.ssc.nasa.gov/university/higher_ed.htm#psti or e-mail rvakbar@xula.edu.



Apply for NASA FIRST Robotics grants



Although the 2004 season of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics program is winding down, it is never too early to start planning for next year.

NASA sponsors more FIRST teams than any other business or organization in this exciting competition that pairs high school students with engineers to design and construct robots.

To learn about FIRST grants available from Stennis Space Center, contact the Education Office at (228) 688-2091. To learn more about FIRST and FIRST LEGO League, a program for middle school students, visit <http://www.usfirst.org>.

Visit our Web site at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>



What's new in . . .

NASA's Educator Resource Center

To obtain valuable NASA resources, contact the Educator Resource Center (ERC) at 1-800-237-1821 (option 2), (228) 688-3338 or by e-mail at sherrill.reynolds@ssc.nasa.gov.

New Publications

Astro-venture: An Astronomy Educator Guide — This lesson plan booklet contains astronomy-related activities for grades 5-8.

International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 8 Crew Lithograph — New photos of the ISS Expedition 8 crew are now available.

NASA Spacelink

Investigating the Climate System Modules — This set of five modules includes activities about clouds, energy, precipitation, weather and wind. Download the modules at <http://spacelink.nasa.gov/products/Investigating.the.Climate.System/>.

Aerospace Education Specialist (AESP) Updates — An updated list of information about NASA AESP state contacts can be found at <http://spacelink.nasa.gov/products/NASA.AESP.State.Contacts>.

Higher Education workshops at SSC

This summer, the Education Office at Stennis Space Center (SSC) is offering workshops of interest to members of the Higher Education community.

A Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) workshop will be held in June to inform interested individuals about the programs.

Small businesses and research institutions, including universities, are eligible to receive NASA funding for the development of innovations. For more information about the SBIR/STTR program, visit <http://sbir.nasa.gov>.

Another workshop being offered by the Education Office this summer is one to educate Minority Institutions about available NASA grants and application procedures.

Contact the Education Office at (228) 688-3830 or by e-mail at higher.education@ssc.nasa.gov for more information about workshop dates and locations.



Watch for minority university education program announcements

Each year, NASA's Minority University Research and Education Program offers opportunities for Minority Institutions and students. To find out about these programs and their requirements, contact the Stennis Education Office at (228) 688-3830 or by e-mail at higher.education@ssc.nasa.gov.

Visit <http://mured.nasaprs.com> for proposal announcements about the following programs:

Minority University Mathematics, Science and Technology Awards for Teacher and Curriculum Enhancement Program (MASTAP)

Precollege Achievement of Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (PACE/STEM)

NASA University Research Centers (URC)

Partnership Awards for the Integration of Research (PAIR)

Faculty Awards for Research (FAR)

Sign up for Education News e-mail updates at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>

...to inspire the next generation of explorers

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Get ready to rock with FMA Live!



Are you ready to rock? Let the Laws of Motion move you in the coolest concert of the year! The concert everyone is excited to see won't be found in an arena or coliseum, but in an unexpected place — your school.

Sponsored by NASA and Honeywell, the "FMA Live! Where Science Rocks" tour is traveling across the country to teach kids how cool science really is. Students have a blast learning about Sir Isaac Newton and his Laws of Motion through music, exciting demonstrations, videos and the latest dance moves.

NASA knows it is very important to teach kids how much fun science and math can be. "FMA Live!" may inspire students to go to school to become scientists, engineers or NASA astronauts. After all, students sitting in classrooms today will someday be our country's next explorers. They could even travel to Mars and beyond!

"FMA Live! Where Science Rocks" will be making stops at middle schools all over the country for years to come, so if you don't see the FMA tour bus rolling in to your school this year, keep looking. Who knows? The hard rock sounds of FMA may be coming to a school near you soon.

Visit <http://www.fmalive.com> for more information.



See Mars in 3-D

Want to experience what it's like to be on the surface of Mars? Visit the new 3-D Mars exhibit in StenniSphere.

Call StenniSphere for information about planning a trip to the award-winning visitor center. (228) 688-2370 or 1-800-237-1821.



Make summer education activities fun

Soon students will clean out their lockers and teachers will close their grade books as another school year comes to an end. The final bell doesn't mean the learning has to stop.

Tours and interactive exhibits at StenniSphere, the award-winning visitor center at Stennis Space Center, are fun and inspire students to learn more about our planet and the world beyond.

StenniSphere is open from 9-5 seven days a week in the summer. For more information about special events and trips to StenniSphere, call 1-800-237-1821.





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Venus transit

On June 8, a celestial phenomenon will occur that hasn't happened since 1882 — the silhouette of Venus will cross the face of the Sun.

Although there are some western states in the U.S. that will not be able to view the transit, most of us will have the opportunity to witness this amazing event.

Please visit <http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/OH/transit04.html> for more information about the transit and when it will be visible from your city.

Educator Resource Center summer workshops

Educators, spend this summer participating in enriching, hands-on workshops conducted by the Stennis Space Center Educator Resource Center (ERC).

Learn how to get your students interested in math and science with NASA research and materials.

Workshops are free and award continuing education credits.

Keep a look out for a copy of the ERC summer workshop flyer. It will be arriving at your school soon. You can also visit our Web site at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov> for workshop information.

NASA Education News e-mail updates

Members of the education community are encouraged to sign up to receive e-mail updates about the NASA Education News.

We want to inform as many educators as possible about the great education programs that are available at NASA Stennis Space Center. If you or someone you know is interested in receiving information about NASA education programs, visit our Web site at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov> to sign up for free e-mail updates.

Visit these cool NASA Web sites



Web sites can be great resources to enhance lesson plans and activities. Check out the sites below for interesting information about Mars.

Visit <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mer>, a directory for major links to Mars Web sites.

Visit <http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.html> to learn more about the Mars Rover program.

Visit <http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/rockworld/> to see how students in your class can help scientists learn more about Mars!

NASA Digital Learning Network - a valuable classroom resource

Educators, NASA's Digital Learning Network is a wonderful way to enhance your classroom instruction.

NASA scientists and engineers from across the country present programs on topics ranging from propulsion to human exploration of Mars.

Visit http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/K-12/CoE/Presentation_Descriptions111.html to view program listings and descriptions. The site details what grade levels are appropriate for each program and lists the presenters. A registration form can also be found on the site.

Education News is published by the NASA John C. Stennis Space Center Office of External Affairs, Education Office. Rear Adm. Thomas Q. Donaldson V, USN (Ret.) is the center director; Pamela Covington is the manager of the Office of External Affairs and Dr. Dewey Herring is education lead for the Office of External Affairs.

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<http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>.