



CTSGC Educator Resources for May

Potential Funding Opportunity



Plant the Moon CHALLENGE

There's still time to submit your [Letters of Intent](#) to be part of the [Plant the Moon/Plant Mars Challenge](#) for the Fall of 2022. This opportunity is offered to schools or youth organizations through the Institute of Competitive Sciences, and is funded in part by a grant from the NASA Connecticut Space Grant Consortium.

Interested Team Leaders should submit their [Letter of Intent](#) before May 27, 2022.

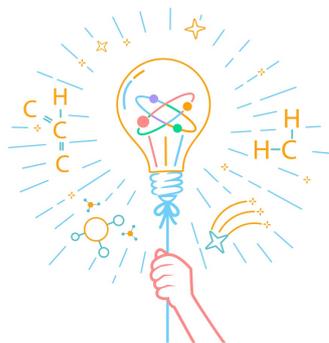
This is a chance for students of all ages to be part of a global science experiment and research challenge to examine how vegetable crops can grow in lunar or Martian soil. Teams will design and conduct a set of experiments using this simulant to grow crops for a future long-duration mission.

What do you need to know about the challenge?

- The grow period for the fall 2022 challenge is September to November
 - There will be a \$100 fee per team payable to NASA CT Space Grant (with remaining registration to ICS funded by CT Space Grant)
 - The cost for any additional experiment supplies (seeds, pots, soil or additives) will be the team's responsibility, and can be supplied through in-kind donations
 - Formal applications for the program will be sent in July to team leaders who have submitted a [Letter of Intent](#) before May 27, 2022
 - Awarded teams will be announced after mid-August to allow Team Leaders to prepare for the challenge at the start of the next school year
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May is National Inventors Month

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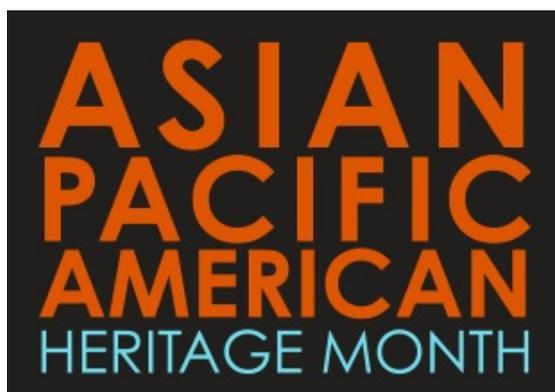


National Inventors Month was founded to celebrate the imaginations of the people in this country who continue to create and innovate to improve the world around them. These people are the engineers and masterminds who use their creativity to improve existing technology and inventions or to come up with entirely new concepts and change the world as we know it.

How can you celebrate this with students?

- Share information about inventors / inventions that impact the way we live in or look at the world today. You can learn about some of [America's great inventors](#) online.
- Talk about patents: the process to apply for one and how they protect ideas. You can [learn all about patents](#) online.
- And most of all, encourage students to keep thinking and keep inventing!

Asian American and Pacific Islander Month

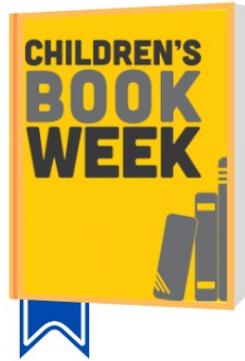


Asian and Pacific Islanders have enriched America's history for generations, and their contributions and influence have shaped the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

How can you celebrate this with students?

Learn about the [contributions of Asian and Pacific Islanders](#) who are part of NASA.

May 2 - 8 is National Children's Book Week



[Children's Book Week](#) is the annual celebration of books for young people and the joy of reading, and is the longest-running national literacy initiative in the country. There are so many books to help foster a love of STEM for students of all ages.

How can you celebrate this with students?

The National Informal STEM Education Network (NISE Network) has free Nano-themed downloads to share with students.

- [How Small is Nano?](#) book (for free download or to order)
- [Alice in NanoLand](#) book (for free download or to order)

May 4th is Star Wars Day



May the 4th Be with You! There's no doubt that science fiction favorite Star Wars has influenced popular culture. But have you ever thought of the connections between Star Wars and NASA? Explore [NASA and Star Wars: The Connections Are Strong in This One](#).

National Space Day



National Space Day, celebrated annually on the first Friday of May, was created to celebrate extraordinary achievements and inspire the pursuit of knowledge and understanding for our universe.

How can you celebrate this with students?

There is no shortage of books to read about space, and certainly many films as well. If you're looking for a documentary to learn more about space, here are some suggestions:

- *Apollo 11* (Released in 2019)
- *Journey to the Edge of the Universe* (Released in 2008)
- *Black Holes: The Edge of All We Know* (Released in 2020)
- *IMAX: Hubble* (Released in 2010)
- *A Beautiful Planet* (Released in 2016)
- *The Last Man on the Moon* (Released in 2014)
- *In the Shadow of the Moon* (Released in 2007)
- *The Farthest - Voyager in Space* (Released in 2017)

NASA's Office of STEM Engagement has many [online resources](#) for educators who want to explore space topics with students.

May 16 - 22 is National Week of Making

Makers are developing new solutions and products for pressing challenges, engaging students in hands-on, interactive learning of STEM, arts, and design, and enabling individuals to learn new skills in fabrication and manufacturing.

How can you celebrate this with students?

- Host a maker event. Not sure what to make? Find [project ideas](#) online.
 - Explore [creative STEAM ideas](#) to incorporate humanities, language dance, drama, music, visual arts, design and new media.
 - Explore the theme of responsible innovation with the [Frankenstein 200 kit](#).
 - Need help creating a makerspace in your school or community? Here's [resources to get you started](#).
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National Paper Airplane Day



What better way to explore basic themes of aerodynamics than with a paper airplane? This fun and unofficial event celebrates the fun of this simple toy – the paper airplane.

How can you celebrate this with students?

Host a paper airplane challenge that recognizes the distance of a flight as well as duration in air. Encourage innovation and creative designs to see what works best. You can also use these NASA-proven guides:

- [NASA make a paper airplane activity](#)
- [NASA ring wing glider activity](#)

We invite you to join NASA CONNECTS!

You can join as a formal K-12 educator or as a professional in the informal education (out-of-school time) field. Registered community members will have the opportunity to sign up for engagement events, view and chat with other members who are interested in similar fields, read exclusive NextGen STEM content, and access resources such as lesson plans and interactive media. These members will discover resources that enable further STEM learning in their respective areas.

If you have a Gateway account, click the button below to log in through NASA Gateway, then register to join NASA CONNECTS. If you do not have a NASA Gateway account, you will need to create one before joining this community of practice by clicking the button below and following the prompts.

[Join NASA CONNECTS](#)

What's happening next month?

- World Environment Day
 - World Oceans Day
 - Summer Solstice
 - International Women in Engineering Day
 - Asteroid Day
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We are always looking to share information with K-12 partners who have a passion for STEM topics. Please forward this email to others in your school or district who may enjoy the content, and ask them to join our mailing list by clicking the link below!

[Join Our K-12 Mailing List!](#)

If you are interested in exploring funding for an upcoming STEM program, we invite you to [visit our website](#) for ideas or to apply.

CT Space Grant Consortium

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