



CT Space Grant Consortium Educator Resources for March



Professional Development Scholarships

As a K-12 Educator, CT Space Grant is offering a limited opportunity to help support STEM Professional Development programs for CT educators. If you are applying to STEM-related PD programs and would like to explore funding to support registration or other expenses, we invite you to [apply for funding](#) online.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, however, priority consideration will be given to applications received by March 31st (for spring/summer awards) and September 30th (for

fall/winter awards). Applications received after priority deadlines will be reviewed on a rolling basis and awarded if funds are available. A report must be provided to CTSGC from awardee following completion of the event. A report link will be sent to the email address provided and must be completed promptly following the event.

Apply for Professional Development Scholarship

Professional Development Opportunities from SHU Discovery Science Center and Planetarium

SHU Discovery Science Center and Planetarium is offering Professional Development opportunities for K-12 STEM educators. Discovery educators are experts in using informal education to enhance classroom experiences. All Discovery programs are designed to support Next Generation Science Standard-aligned learning, with emphasis on skills, practices, and ways of thinking, as well as real-world problems and careers.

- **Making Space for Space: Strategies for Curriculum Enrichment and Connection**

Address the challenges that make teaching space science difficult in the classroom and learn about resources for space teaching as well as ways to connect space education to other disciplines.

- **Make It Immersive: Building Authentic Context for STEAM Learning**

Teachers will participate in Discovery's Great Rocket Challenge as students, then reflect on how the lesson could be done in their own classrooms. Work through challenges in utilizing the NGSS in your lessons and collaborate to create a new project-based unit framed in authentic, real-world context.

Workshops are customizable for your team, with full or half day options available. Call 203-416-3531 or email education@shudiscovery.org to learn more.



Field Trip Scholarships

CTSGC is offering limited [field trip scholarships](#) for Connecticut K-12 schools who are planning a STEM-themed field trip this spring to one of our academic affiliates or informal education partners. Applications are being accepted for field trips scheduled to:

Museums:

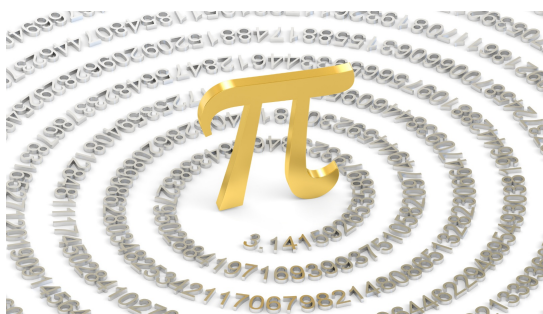
- [New England Air Museum](#), Windsor Locks
- [Connecticut Science Center](#), Hartford
- [SHU Discovery Museum](#), Bridgeport

Planetariums:

- [Copernican Planetarium and Observatory](#), Central CT State University, New Britain
- [Robert K. Wickware Planetarium](#), Eastern CT State University, Willimantic
- [Van Vleck Observatory](#), Wesleyan University, Middletown
- [Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport Museum](#), Mystic

Funds from awards can be used for program or transportation costs for STEM-themed field trips. Application priority deadline is March 31st (for spring/summer field trips); applications received after priority deadline will be reviewed on a rolling basis and awarded if funds are available. A report must be provided to CTSGC from awardee following completion of the field trip. A report link will be sent to the email address provided and must be completed promptly following the trip.

Apply for Field Trip Funding



March 14th is Pi Day

In 1988 physicist Larry Shaw decided to celebrate this enigmatic number by creating Pi Day on March 14 to represent the first three digits of pi. Because pi actually goes on for an infinite amount of digits, celebrating this number represents more than just itself; it also speaks to the mysteries that the human mind has yet to discover.

Want to celebrate Pi Day?

- Pi is an irrational number, so something irrational: wear socks on your hands, wear your shirt backwards, host a hula-hoop challenge
- Skip the math and watch Life of Pi
- Have a pizza (Pi!) party for lunch
- Make pi shaped cookies to share
- Enjoy some Greek food (since the first calculations of pi were done by Greek mathematician Archimedes)
- Challenge students to memorize Pi, and see who can remember the most digits
- Learn to code on Raspberry Pi
- Host a Pi scavenger hunt to see how many circles can be found in nature, art, science, literature or within your building

Learn more about Pi Day

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, and NASA has many resources to celebrate the STEM achievements of women in history. You can learn about many of the women who have had significant contributions to space and STEM fields online, including:

- [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) has a page celebrating the achievements of women in aviation and space history. Learn about the amazing women whose contributions have shaped this field.
- Learn more about the [Women of NASA](#) and how they drive innovation from the ground all the way to space.
- The [Chandra X-ray Center at Harvard](#), operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, celebrates the women of science for their role in the exploration of the world (and universe!) around us.

Introduce girls to female role models in STEM fields with free downloads:

- [If/Then](#) maintains a digital asset library which seeks to inspire others with authentic and relatable images of women in STEM.
- [A Mighty Girl](#) has many free posters celebrating women role models in science, technology, and math.



Upcoming Lunar/Meteor Events

March 7: *Full Moon*

March 20: *Spring Equinox*

March 21: *New Moon*

April 6: *Full Moon*

April 23: *Lyrid meteor shower*

June 3: *Full Moon*

June 11: *Daytime Arietid meteor shower*

June 27: *June Bootid meteor shower*

June 21: *Summer Solstice*

There are many online resources to find astronomical events. In-the-Sky offers an option to search visibility (i.e. to the naked eye, with binoculars, etc.) and location of events. Click the link below to learn more.

In-the-Sky night sky events



What's Coming Up at CTSGC

April 22, 2023: Earth Day

May 5, 2023: National Space Day

October 21, 2023: International Observe the Moon Night



We are always looking to share information with K-12 partners who have a passion for STEM topics. Please forward this email to others 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.

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

NASA Office of STEM Engagement also maintains resources for K-12 educators, including professional opportunities, resource collections, and activities based on grade levels. To view these resources, visit the NASA STEM Engagement website below.

**NASA STEM Engagement
Resources for K-12 Educators**

NASA Connecticut Space Grant Consortium (CTSGC) is a federally mandated grant, internship, and scholarship program that is funded as a part of NASA Education. There are Space Grant Consortia in all 50 states, plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. The mission of the NASA CTSGC is to further the efforts started through NASA's Education Strategic Framework, Lines of Business, and the National Space Grant Program Goals and Objectives. Specifically, NASA CTSGC has three major goals: 1) To establish and promote NASA-related research opportunities that draw on the collaborative strength of private, academic, and government sectors; 2) To support education initiatives that will inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); and 3) To promote workforce development that recognizes the current and future needs of the Connecticut economy.

CT Space Grant Consortium

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