



CT Space Grant Consortium Educator Resources for May



Learn More About Plant the Moon/Plant Mars



Our Spring teams are wrapping up their experiments and reports now, and we can't wait to hear all that they learned with the program. With the conclusion of one challenge season, we are already looking ahead to the next season and excited to offer the opportunity to Connecticut schools once again.

Plant the Moon/Plant Mars 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.

Want to learn more about the challenge?

An informational webinar will be held by the Institute for Competition Sciences for those who want to learn more about the program.

[Register for the June 1, 2023 webinar online](#). This is also the date that applications will open for CTSGC funding towards the Fall 2023 Challenge. The link to apply for funding will be included in the June Newsletter, as well as a special email notice.

Other dates to note:

- 7/31/23: CTSGC Applications Close
- 8/18/23: Awardees Notified
- 8/21/23: Awardees sign commitment forms with ICS
- 9/5/23: Kits begin to ship
- 9/11/23: Opening Symposium
- 9/17/23: Task #1 Due from Team Leaders
- 9/24/23: Task #2 Due from Team Leaders
- 10/08/23: Task #3 Due from Team Leaders
- 10/9-13/23: Live Event #1 (date TBD)
- 10/29/23: Task #4 Due from Team Leaders
- 10/30-11/03/23: Live Event #2 (date TBD)
- 12/10/23: Task #5 (Final Reports) Due from Team Leaders
- 01/08/24: Closing Awards Ceremony

**Register for the Informational
Webinar**

May is National Inventors Month



This month, celebrate the imaginations of the people 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. NASA has many esteemed inventors in their ranks, and you can learn about these people and their inventions online at the NASA Inventors Hall of Fame.

NASA Inventors Hall of Fame

CTSGC Partners with the Connecticut Invention Convention

CTSGC has had a longstanding partnership with the Connecticut

Invention Convention, funding part of their annual program as well as providing student interns to the program to increase their community reach. The Connecticut Invention Convention is an education non-profit deploying K-12 innovation and entrepreneurship programs for young innovators annually, as well as professional development and curriculum for educators. In 2022, with the help of CTSGC-funded interns, the Connecticut Invention Convention reached over 11,000 K-12 students as they created products and inventions that solve real-world problems, with 85% coming from below median income communities, 38% identifying as inventors of color, and 55% identifying as female. Each year, CTSGC awards the Connecticut Invention Convention Rising STAAR Award, recognizing an outstanding young inventor within space, technology, aerospace, aeronautics, and/or robotics applications. In 2022, 9th grader Snigntha won with her invention, [Bio-Filter](#). The 2023 award will be announced at the 2023 State Finals event at the University of Connecticut later this Spring. If you're interested in deploying low-barrier innovation programming in your district, contact kerry@ctinventionconvention.org to learn more.

**Learn more about
Connecticut Invention
Convention**

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage 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. In May 2022, NASA shared an article on [astronauts with Asian roots](#) who have flown to the International Space Station and contributed to its assembly, operations and research activities. Click below to learn about the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islanders who are part of NASA.

**Learn about Asian Americans
and Pacific Islanders at NASA**

Star Wars Day is May 4



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 the connections between NASA and Star Wars below.

The Connections Are Strong
in This One

National Space Day is May 5



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.

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.

CTSGC also sponsors Space Day activities with several Informal Education partners in Connecticut.

Click below for details.

Paper Airplane Day is May 26



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

Share the fun of this day by hosting 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](#)

Professional Development Scholarships

Summer is almost upon us, but the learning doesn't stop with the school year. If there are summer PD programs you would like to attend, K-12 Educators are invited to apply to CT Space Grant for scholarships to attend STEM Professional Development programs. 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.

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



Field Trip Scholarships for 2023/2024

We are excited to offer [field trip scholarships](#) again for the 2023/2024 academic year! This funding is available from CTSGC for Connecticut K-12 schools who are planning a STEM-themed field trip to one of our academic affiliates or informal education partners. Applications will be 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. 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](#)



Upcoming Lunar/Meteor Events

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](#)



Next Month

June 5: World Environment Day

June 8: World Ocean Day

June 17 - June 23: National Week of Making

June 21: Summer Solstice

June 23: International Women in Engineering Day

June 30: Asteroid Day

What's Coming Up at CTSGC

October 14, 2023: Annular Solar Eclipse

October 21, 2023: International Observe the Moon Night

Want to learn more about eclipses from NASA? [Click here](#).



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**

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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