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CT Space Grant Consortium Educator Resources for November

Plant the Moon / Plant Mars Challenge

Plant the Moon
CHALLENGE

CTSGC is excited to once again offer the opportunity for CT teachers and informal educators to be part of the Plant the Moon Challenge. This global science experiment and research challenge examines how vegetable crops can grow in lunar or Martian soil. To accomplish this, teams design and conduct a set of experiments using Lunar or Martian simulant to grow crops during the 10-week designated timeframe. Teams are provided with weekly engagement activities and are invited to live virtual events for students to interact with science advisors and special guests.

Interested Team Leaders should submit their application to be part of the Spring 2024 Challenge before December 3, 2023 using the button below.

Want to lean more?

- Visit the CTSGC website for more information, including key dates

Apply for the Spring 2024 Challenge

Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. Join CTSGC and NASA in the recognition of the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.

Want to learn more?
The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian has a series of Star Stories on their YouTube channel. These stories are centered on indigenous cosmologies—worldviews and philosophies related to the creation and order of the universe.

You can also connect with one of these professional societies in your area for additional information or resources:

- Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
- American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

NASA Native American Heritage Month

National STEM / STEAM Day

National STEM/STEAM Day is celebrated every year on Nov. 8 as a way to inspire an interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

STEM occupations account for nearly 7% of all U.S. occupations and STEM workers play an important role in America's innovative capacity and global competitiveness. They are our engineers, medical scientists, sociologists and informational security analysts among others, and their creativity to solving problems has a far-reaching impact on our daily lives.

Want to learn more?

- The National Informal STEM Education Network has many resources for hands-on activities that inspire creative exploration of a variety of topics. These activities can be done in the classroom, at home, or in other settings

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Funding Opportunities from CTSGC

CTSGC invites Connecticut Educators to explore funding opportunities currently available. Whether you are looking to learn about new STEM programs for yourself, begin a new STEM program at your school, or take your students on a field trip for a STEM program, CTSGC can help provide funding to make these things happen.

- **K-12 Program/Activity Grants**
  Are you looking to host a presentation from STEM/Aeronautics/Aerospace experts for your students? Are you looking to create a district-wide design contest in a STEM field? Are you looking for a way to provides supplies to begin a robotics team at your school? NASA CTSGC offers funding to K-12 programs and/or teachers for a variety of STEM programs and activities.
- **Professional Development Scholarships**
  K-12 Educators in Connecticut are invited to apply to CT Space Grant for scholarships to attend STEM-themed Professional Development programs. Awarded funding may support registration or other expenses.
- **Field Trip Scholarships**
  Apply now for funds to take your students on a hands-on learning adventure to one of our partner locations, including the New England Air Museum, Connecticut Science Center, SHU Discovery Science Center, or one of the many planetariums around our state. Funds from Field Trip Scholarship 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 event. A report link will be sent to the email address provided and must be completed promptly following the event.

Learn more about K-12 Opportunities

Upcoming Lunar/Meteor Events

Nov. 1: Jupiter at perigee - *Jupiter reaches its closest point to the Earth – marking the best time to observe it in 1970.*
Nov. 3: Jupiter at opposition - *Jupiter lies in the opposite direction to the Sun in the sky, making it slightly closer, brighter and larger than at other times. It is also optimally positioned to be observable for much of the night.*
Nov. 9: Conjunction of the Moon and Venus - *The Moon and Venus share the same right ascension. Also, Close approach of the Moon and Venus - The Moon and Venus pass close to each other.*
Nov. 12: Northern Taurid meteor shower 2023 - *The Northern Taurid meteor shower reaches its peak.*
Nov. 13: Uranus at opposition - *Uranus lies in the opposite direction to the Sun in the sky, making it optimally positioned to be observable for much of the night.*
Nov. 18: Leonid meteor shower 2023 - *The Leonid meteor shower reaches its peak.*
Nov. 20: Conjunction of the Moon and Saturn - *The Moon and Saturn share the same right ascension. Also, Close approach of the Moon and Saturn - The Moon and Saturn pass close to each other.*
Nov. 22: α-Monocerotid meteor shower 2023 - *The α-Monocerotid meteor shower reaches its peak.*
Nov. 25: Close approach of the Moon and Jupiter - *The Moon and Jupiter pass close to each other. Also, Conjunction of the Moon and Jupiter - The Moon and Jupiter share the same right ascension.*
Nov. 27: Full Moon
Nov. 28: November Orionid meteor shower 2023 - *The November Orionid meteor shower reaches its peak.*

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 8, 2024: Total Solar Eclipse

Want to learn more about eclipses from NASA? Click here.

Other days and events to keep in mind:
November 8, 2023: National STEM/STEAM Day

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!

Launch Into Learning Fun with NASA Resources!

Whether you work with elementary, middle or high school students, NASA has activities, videos and downloads available to keep your students engaged with STEM activities. Click the link below to explore activities for students and educators alike.

Explore NASA STEM

Check out the NASA STEM YouTube Channel to see astronaut Q&A sessions with students, science demonstrations, and more.

NASA YouTube

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.

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