



CT Space Grant Consortium Educator Resources for December



Plant the Moon / Plant Mars 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 learn more?

- Visit the [CTSGC website](#) for more information, including key dates

**Apply for the Spring 2024
Challenge**

Computer Science Week Education Week / Hour of Code

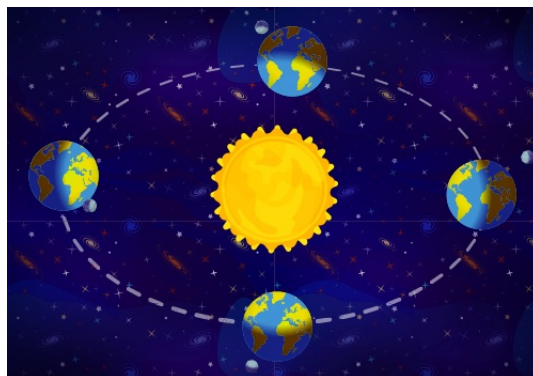
CSEdWeek

Celebrated from December 9-15, 2023, Computer Science Education Week is an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers and partners to the field.

Want to learn more?

- Visit the [CSEdWeek website](#) for more information, including resources for educators.
- [HourofCode.Com](#) had activities for students of all ages.
- [Code.org](#) has projects for students as well as other resources for educators.

Winter Solstice



The winter solstice - this year, Thursday, December 21 - is regarded as the first day of winter, and is also the shortest day of the year. This means days get longer during winter —very slowly at first, but at ever-larger daily intervals as the March equinox approaches, heralding the start of spring.

Learn more about solstices

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 provide 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



What's Coming Up at CTSGC

April 8, 2024: [Total Solar Eclipse](#)

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!

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.

CT Space Grant Consortium

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