



CT Space Grant Consortium Educator Resources for January



Power to Explore Student Challenge

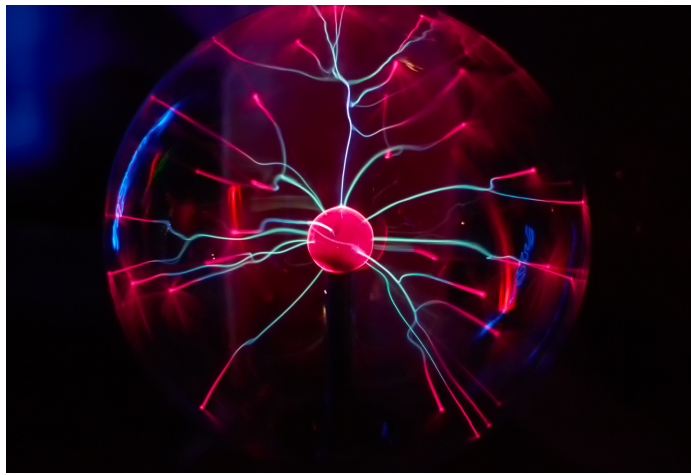


The [Power to Explore Student Challenge](#) invites K-12 students to dream up a new space mission powered by a Radioisotope Power System (RPS) to a destination with limited light. The writing contest is open to individual students attending U.S. public, private, charter, or home schools – including those in U.S. territories and schools operated by the U.S. for American personnel overseas. Forty-five semifinalists will receive an RPS prize pack, nine finalists will receive an exclusive virtual session with a NASA expert, and three winners will be awarded a trip for two to NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Interested Team Leaders should submit their application to participate before the January 26, 2024 deadline.

**Learn more about the Power to Explore
Challenge**

National Static Electricity Day



Static electricity has no doubt brought a little spark to your day from time-to-time whether it came from walking through a carpet in socks or petting your 4-legged best friends. But have you ever celebrated a day for it? You can on **January 9th!**

Want to learn more?

- [GenerationGenius](#) offers a simple lesson on using static to make an object “float”
- [TeachEngineering](#) offers tips on teaching students about static electricity, including the connection to engineering.
- [What I Have Learned](#) has ideas and images for educators who want to teach about static.

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



Upcoming Lunar/Meteor Events

01/04/2024: The Quadrantid meteor shower reaches its peak.

01/07/2024: Mercury at highest altitude in morning sky

01/08/2024: Conjunction of the Moon and Venus (The Moon and Venus share the same right ascension, at a separation of 5°42')

01/14/2024: Close approach of the Moon and Saturn as they pass close to each other.

01/17/2024: Moon at First Quarter

01/18/2024: Close approach of the Moon and Jupiter as they pass close to each other.

01/19/2024: The γ -Ursae Minorid meteor shower reaches its peak.

01/25/2024: Full Moon

02/02/2024: Moon at Last Quarter

02/15/2024: Close approach of the Moon and Jupiter as they pass close to each other.

02/16/2024: Moon at First Quarter

02/24/2024: Full Moon

03/03/2024: Moon at Last Quarter

03/13/2024: Close approach of the Moon and Jupiter as they pass close to each other.
03/17/2024: Moon at First Quarter
03/19/2024: March equinox
03/25/2024: Full Moon
03/25/2024: Penumbral lunar eclipse - There will be an eclipse of the Moon, visible from the Americas, Antarctica, Alaska and north-eastern Russia.

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:

02/11/2024: National Inventors Day

02/18/2024-02/24/2024: National Engineers Week



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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