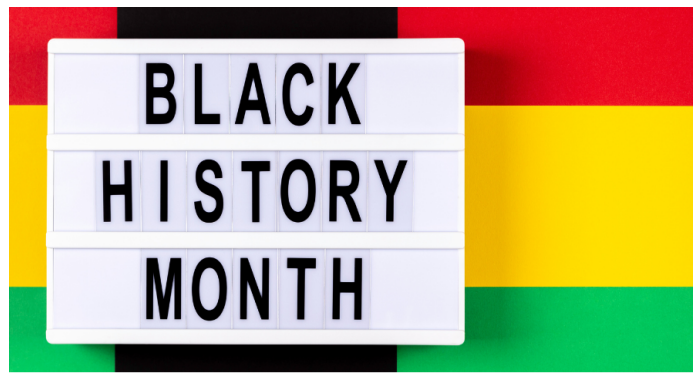




CT Space Grant Consortium Educator Resources for February



February is Black History Month



In honor of Black History Month, NASA recognizes the contributions of African Americans to our nation's space programs. These groundbreaking individuals served as military pilots, engineers, scientists, physicians, and more before their space experiences. They have each made history with contributions that include participating in space shuttle missions to perform critical tasks such as deploying and retrieving satellites, performing spacewalks, conducting science and technology research, and piloting and commanding space shuttle missions. African American astronauts played key roles in the assembly of the International Space Station, and today utilize the orbiting lab by performing numerous spacewalks and robotic operations and conducting research as expedition crewmembers. Several have distinguished themselves as senior leaders at NASA, including as the agency's administrator.

**Learn about the many contributions of
Black Americans to NASA's space
programs**

In 2022 production, NASA released *The Color of Space*, an inspirational documentary that tells the stories of Black Americans determined to reach the stars. Although unsung heroes like the Hidden Figures made invaluable contributions to the space program and NASA's overall mission, it took many years for the first Black American to break the color barrier and hold the title of astronaut. Painting a vivid picture of tenacity and depth within the Black community, the title of the documentary directly pays tribute to the remarkable men and women who launched themselves forward and took their claim on the journey to space.

**View "The Color of Space"
Documentary**

National Inventors Day



Observed annually on February 11, Inventors Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the inventors that have had an impact on our lives. This day has been officially celebrated in the U.S. since 1983 when President Reagan chose February 11th as the date of the holiday to honor the birthdate of Thomas Edison, one of the most prolific inventors the world has ever seen.

Inventions in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics have revolutionized the world for thousands of years. Early inventions such as the wheel changed the way we traveled and worked. Later inventions such as the printing press or telephones changed the way we communicate and share information. And recent inventions such as the Internet have changed many aspects of modern life, including commerce, education, government, healthcare, and the ways we interact with others.

You can get students excited about inventors when you share information about inventors / inventions that impact the way we live in or look at the world today. You can read about them, watch a documentary, or arrange to talk to a local inventor. You can also encourage the creative process by encouraging students to think of inventions that help with real-world issues.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame has resources for educators who want to encourage students to tap into their creativity through STEM activities. There is also information about inventors and their inventions, plus ways to nominate inventors in your community to be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

National Inventors Hall of Fame

National Engineers Week



Engineers don't sit back and watch – they make things happen. If you like tinkering, creating, designing or building, there's likely an engineer inside of you!

Engineers Week celebrates the amazing and influential work of engineers. The purpose to celebrate with students is to show how engineers make a difference in our world, boost awareness of our need for engineers, and support and promote activities that get students interested in engineering. Engineers Week is held each year in February in close conjunction with George Washington's birthday, who many believe to be our nation's "first engineer" with his survey work.

Celebrate budding engineers and the spirit of engineering all week long. Websites like the Discover Engineering, National Science Foundation or TryEngineering have many free projects and resources for educators who want to bring engineering activities to their students. Resources are organized by student age and/or grade level.

Click on the links below to explore ideas for hands on projects, activities, lesson plans, games, and more.

[**Discover Engineering**](#)

[**National Science Foundation**](#)

[**TryEngineering**](#)



Introduce a Girl to Engineering

Introduce a Girl to Engineering, or Girl Day, is a time when volunteers, educators, and others act as role models, facilitate engineering activities, and show girls how engineers change our world. DiscoverE's Despite the Odds research found that this simple formula helps girls develop an interest in engineering, builds their confidence in their problem-solving skills, and creates a STEM identity.

[Learn about #GirlDay](#)

Leap Year Day



Leap day, Feb. 29, happens every four years because of a mismatch between the calendar year and Earth's orbit. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has resources to explain this phenomenon. Learn how it works, and get students engaged in leap day STEM.

[Learn about Leap Day from NASA JPL](#)

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 or begin a new STEM program for students, CTSGC can help provide funding to make these things happen.

- **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.

- **Student 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? NASA CTSGC offers funding to educators 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.

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 Student Opportunities



Upcoming Lunar/Meteor Events

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:

03/14/24: Pi Day

03/19/24: Spring Equinox

03/22/24: World Water Day

03/30/24: NanoDays

May, 2024: Math Awareness Month

04/06/24: Start of National Robotics Week

04/12/24: International Day of Human Space Flight

04/21/24: World Creativity and Innovation Day

04/22/24: Earth Day

04/24/24: World Laboratory 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 in your school or district who may enjoy the content, and ask them to join our mailing list by clicking the link below!

[**Join Our K-12 Mailing List!**](#)

Watch Astronauts Answer Student Questions!



Students in formal and informal settings around the world are connecting via in-flight downlinks with astronauts aboard the space station for live question-and-answer sessions about living and working in space. See the schedule for upcoming live events and information about when to apply to host a downlink.

[**View upcoming Downlink Schedule**](#)

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

[View Past Downlinks](#)

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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