NASA Education Resources: 
Finding what you need!

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Space Science in the News!

- Mars Rovers are still trucking
- Phoenix just landed
- Cassini arrived at Saturn and visited Titan
- MESSENGER flew by Mercury
- New Horizons left for Pluto in 1/06

Fantastic opportunities to get students engaged!
Space Science in the News!

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• Cassini arrived at Saturn and Huygens visited Titan
• MESSENGER launched for Mercury
• New Horizons leaves for Pluto in 1/06
• And only more promising with the new Space Vision
Education is a NASA mandate

• Strengthen NASA and the Nation’s workforce. To help meet this demand, NASA will continue contributing to the development of the Nation’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce of the future through a diverse portfolio of education initiatives that target America’s students at all levels, especially those in traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities.

• Attract and retain students in STEM disciplines—NASA will focus on engaging and retaining students in STEM education programs to encourage their pursuit of educational disciplines and careers critical to NASA’s future engineering, scientific, and technical missions.

• Engage Americans in NASA’s mission—NASA will build strategic partnerships and linkages between STEM formal and informal education providers. Through hands-on, interactive educational activities, NASA will engage students, educators, families, the general public, and all Agency stakeholders to increase Americans’ science and technology literacy.
And NASA Does Spend $...

• Within the Science Mission Directorate, it's about $75M per year.
• Half to Mission E/PO programs
• Half to “At large” grants programs and opportunities.

Currently, SMD has over a hundred missions, over 500 institutional partners, reaches thousands of teachers, and 10s of thousands of students every year....
The Idiosyncracies.....

- This is a distributed system...decentralized
- Communication is an issue...
- Soft $$
- QA is varied
- Eval is limited
The Result….Even NASA doesn’t know what it has……

How do you find out what’s out there?

• There’s no one place to go (right)

Follow the Missions…

Mission E/PO websites generally will tie in to other related E/PO materials and programs

• Look to NSTA, one of the disseminators for NASA E/PO materials
A Word about Mission E/PO

• Individual mission E/PO
  • Usually a mix of informal and formal education
  • Quality of programs and curricula will vary
  • Mission E/PO are mandated to answer to the broader educational community – if you send them an email, they are supposed to answer.

Ideally, NASA products should be standards-based and bring the excitement of NASA exploration and data into the classroom…
What if you want to get involved?

• Contact a mission lead or contact us!
• Lots of PD opportunities, including Space Camp, etc.
• Deep involvement with a mission as an educator, can also bring other perks (like attending the launch).
• Most E/PO leads are looking for teachers with whom they can develop a long term relationship.

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In addition, let's not forget the Office of Education at NASA.

- Separate from SMD E/PO
- Opportunities for teachers and schools
- Also evolving, driven more by politics
- Find more information at the NASA website...