

WINTER 2026

# NESSP NEWS

Official Newsletter of Northwest Space and Sciences Pathways



## IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/6/26 Artemis Possible Launch Date
- 2/11/26 International Day of Women and Girls in Science

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR NESSP?

We will be submitting a proposal during Spring 2026 for re-funding by NASA's Science Activation Mission Directorate. If we are re-funded, our programming will return in early 2027. More info to come!

## NESSP SUCCESS STORY

A huge thank you to everyone - students, educators, parents, staff, and program partners - who have participated and been a part of NESSPs success. We exist because of you!



### Nationwide Impact and Reach of NESSP

Flexible Elements of the Rover Observations and Discoveries in Space (ROADS) Program:

- Professional Development Workshops for Educators
- National Student Challenge
- Companion Course
- Summer Mini-Missions
- Supply Loans
- NASA SME Talks



Numbers Reached: >20,500

NESSP is in nearly every state!



Summer Camps, Academies, and Aerospace Scholar Programs



Numbers Reached: ~8,500

Space-Themed Science and Planetarium Shows, Campus Visits, Family nights:



Numbers Reached: ~95,500

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NESSP Impact at Allen Academy

International Women & Girls in Science February 11, 2026

Artemis II Mission Updates



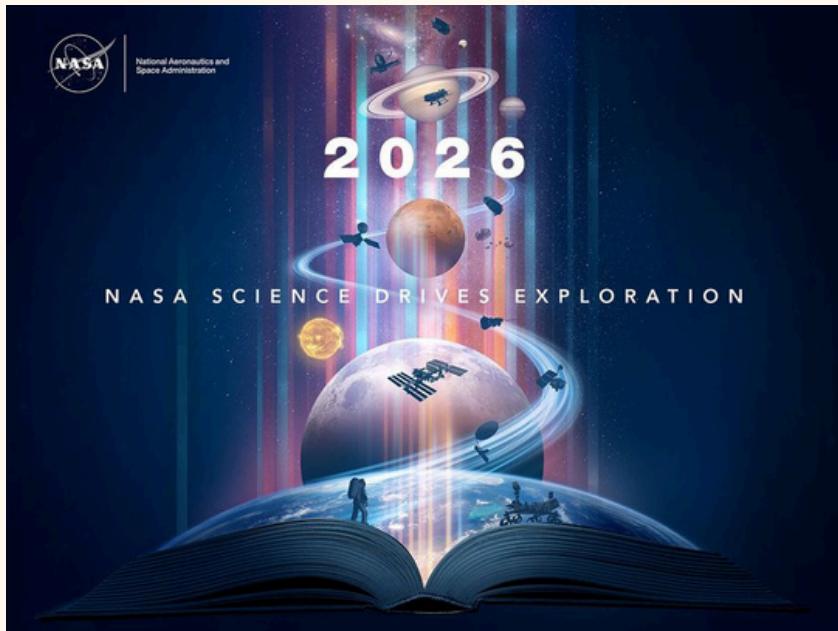
## ROADS FROM EARTH TO VENUS LOTERÍA ONLINE

[venusloteria.cele.uw.edu](http://venusloteria.cele.uw.edu)

Test your knowledge about NASA's missions to Venus with the online ROADS from Earth to Venus Lotería game!

Lotería is a well-known game from Mexico similar to Bingo, which uses images on a deck of cards for a caller, and tablas (playing boards) for each player. The online virtual caller will randomly select a card from the deck and announce it to the players by its name and or the information on the back of the card. The players look for a match on their tablas/playing boards and cover it with a marker. The first player to cover their entire board, shouts "Lotería!" and wins the game.

## NASA SCIENCE ACTIVATION WALLPAPER



## HOST AN ARTEMIS II LAUNCH PARTY!

NASA is encouraging schools, libraries, museums, community centers, and informal education programs to host in person or virtual watch parties. These can be small gatherings in classrooms or homes, or larger public events.

NASA's [Artemis II Watch Party Planning Guide](#) includes free activities, videos, images, posters, and other downloadable resources to help you plan an engaging event.

Register your Watch Party here: [www.eventbrite.com/e/nasas-artemis-ii-mission-launch-registration-1074571685839?aff=watchparty](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nasas-artemis-ii-mission-launch-registration-1074571685839?aff=watchparty). Registration is free and helps ensure you receive launch related updates.

## RED-TAILED HAWKS SUMMER PROGRAMS

### 26-27 JUNE 2026 AVIATION EXPERIENCE [redtailedhawksflyingclub.org/rth-aviation-experience](http://redtailedhawksflyingclub.org/rth-aviation-experience)

Rising 6th – 12th Grade Students - Fly with Us! The Friday Zoom session will introduce you to aviation history, STEM career opportunities and allow you to engage with several aerospace industry professionals. On Saturday, you will head to Vancouver, WA to fly in general aviation aircraft and engage in Earth and space sciences.

- Fri 26 June 1400-1600 PDT Career Panel via Zoom
- Sat 27 June 0900-1500 PDT Pearson Field, WA

### 24-25 JULY 2026 AVIATION DAY CAMP [redtailedhawksflyingclub.org/rth-aviation-day-camp](http://redtailedhawksflyingclub.org/rth-aviation-day-camp)

Rising 6th – 12th Grade Students - Fly with Us! The Friday Zoom session will introduce you to aviation history, STEM career opportunities and allow you to engage with several aerospace industry professionals. On Saturday, you will head to Boeing Field, WA to fly in general aviation aircraft and engage in Earth and space sciences.

- Fri 24 Jul 1400-1600 PDT Career Panel via Zoom
- Sat 25 Jul 0900-1630 PDT Museum of Flight, Seattle, WA

### 7-9 AUGUST 2026 AEROSPACE SCIENCE CAMP [redtailedhawksflyingclub.org/rth-aerospace-science-camp](http://redtailedhawksflyingclub.org/rth-aerospace-science-camp)

Rising 6th – 8th Grade Students – Learn with Us! This FREE three-day Aerospace Science Camp is a hands-on experiential STEM learning academy. Scholars will form teams to embrace scientific and engineering methodologies, examine Earth and aerospace vehicles as systems, conduct scientific experiments, solve engineering problems and demonstrate aerospace principles through rocketry.

- Fri Aug 7 0830-1630
- Sat Aug 8 0900-1630
- Sun Aug 9 1200-1630
- Location: Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club, Seattle, WA



**RED-TAILED HAWKS**  
FLYING CLUB

# RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

**SEES Lift Off** - Sponsored by UT Austin Center for Space Research (UTCSR), SEES Lift Off emphasizes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning experiences by incorporating a space science theme supported by NASA missions. Teacher participants are provided with information and experiences through speakers, hands-on activities, and field investigations that promote space science and enrichment activities for themselves and others.

Email [cmiller@csr.utexas.edu](mailto:cmiller@csr.utexas.edu) for additional information.

**PLANETS curriculum** - PLANETS develops curricula and resources for educators and learners in grades 3-8 that provide STEM learning with an emphasis on NASA planetary science and engineering. For more info: [planets-stem.org](http://planets-stem.org)

## CALLING ALL STUDENTS

### Applications Now Open: Montana Aerospace Scholars (MAS)

We're excited to share that applications are now open for Montana Aerospace Scholars, a highly selective, NASA-inspired program for motivated high school students interested in aerospace, engineering, and planetary science.

MAS immerses students in authentic, mission-based learning modeled after real NASA challenges. Participants work alongside STEM professionals, aerospace engineers, and faculty, gaining meaningful exposure to STEM careers and advanced problem-solving in a collaborative, high-impact environment.

#### Why Montana Aerospace Scholars?

- Hands-on, NASA-inspired aerospace and planetary science missions
- Mentorship from industry professionals and STEM experts
- Exclusive field experiences and career-building opportunities
- A cohort of driven, high-achieving peers from across Montana

#### More than a program—it's a launchpad.

MAS alumni have gone on to earn prestigious internships, scholarships, and leadership roles across aerospace, engineering, and science fields.

**Application Deadline:** February 28, 2026

**Learn more & apply:** [montanalearning.org/apollo50](http://montanalearning.org/apollo50)

We encourage educators, counselors, and STEM advocates to share this opportunity within your networks and help connect students with this exceptional experience.

**Coming in February - NASA Expert Talk**



Keep an eye out for more information on our first  
ROADS from Earth to Venus NASA Expert Talk

# NASA Ciencia: Ciencia de la NASA en español

Últimas noticias, descubrimientos y ciencia de la NASA sobre planetas, astronomía y exploración en la web oficial en español.

Explora y comparte la ciencia de la NASA, en tu idioma.

[Ciencia.nasa.gov](https://ciencia.nasa.gov)

## SHARE YOUR NESSP STORY - NESSP IMPACT STORIES

Help us tell the story of NESSP's impact! We're collecting stories and examples that show the real-world impact of NESSP programs. Whether you've participated in a ROADS Challenge, hosted a summer mini-mission, attended a professional development session, or used NESSP materials in your classroom or community—your voice matters. Share your story here: [nwessp.org/nessp-impact-stories](https://nwessp.org/nessp-impact-stories)

## NESSP IMPACT AT ALLEN ACADEMY

*"I would not be able to teach the same without the resources such as the lunar regolith, grow lights, robots and more! These materials and resources allow the students hands-on discovery learning that is unmatched. They help make each experience in ROADS more authentic and relevant for the students. They allow me to teach beyond the curriculum and beyond the classroom. To kick off our units each year my 6th grade students travel to a Challenger Center for a mission to the Moon and to get excited about the Moon. They are pumped for engineering, prototype development, growing plants with in-situ materials, by keeping up with all the Artemis objectives and mission directives we can test and learn from and then take those next steps in creative, innovative solutions for the future of space exploration.*

*Yes, and in their work. Knowing that "NASA/NESSP" will see their work through the MDL, they are really invested in doing their best work. The teamwork entity is also very well integrated into this program and elevates their work ethic, they grow in confidence with each mission objective. The students love getting feedback such as seeing their mission patches on social media, sharing posters and patches and ideas with the space community at large and building incredible connections to real world science in our Earth and Space Science class!*

*The "Fireflies" team shared their mission patch with Firefly Aerospace in support of their Ghost Riders in the Sky mission landing and were thrilled to get a positive response from Firefly! Our Gen Artemis team was on top of the world to see their mission patch used in NESSP's social media promotion of ROADS. The confidence gained from the real-world opportunities in learning that ROADS allows such as the robotics and plant growth really hit home with so many kids. One team was really successful with their plant in the regolith and were so excited that they may have found the perfect plant for the Artemis missions!"*



**S. Hanover [Allen Academy, Texas]**

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN & GIRLS IN SCIENCE FEBRUARY 11, 2026



Posters celebrating women role models in science, technology, engineering, and math



Women in STEM Game

## ARTEMIS II MISSION UPDATES



Send Your Name to Space



**Artemis II**  
Mission Patch

