

NASA Education Programs

MAJOR EVENTS IN FY 2005

- The NASA Explorer Schools program enters its third phase, selecting 50 new schools for a total of 150 participating schools.
- The first class of students will be selected for the Science and Technology Scholarship program.
- NASA will capitalize on the ongoing training of the new class of Educator Astronauts by developing learning modules for K-12 students and teachers.
- The Explorer Institutes program will move into its first full year of implementation, building relationships with, and professional development opportunities for, museums, science centers, planetaria, and other informal education institutions across the country.

OVERVIEW

NASA's mission--to understand, to explore, and to inspire--depends upon educated, motivated people with the ingenuity to invent new tools, the passion to solve problems, and the courage to ask the difficult questions. It is not enough to depend on the excitement generated by our images. NASA must use its discoveries and achievements to engage the education community. To do so, we provide meaningful, educational, and content-rich programs that inspire and motivate students at all levels to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). We partner with academia, professional associations, industry, and other agencies to provide teachers and faculty with experiences that capitalize on the excitement of NASA's missions to spark student interest and involvement. We provide opportunities for involvement in NASA's research efforts to encourage students to pursue higher education in STEM areas. Finally, we engage the public in shaping and sharing the experience of exploration and discovery. With the FY05 budget request, NASA will fully implement the initiatives piloted in FY03 (Educator Astronaut and NASA Explorer Schools programs); continue the pilot initiatives implemented in FY04 (NASA Explorer Institutes and NASA Science and Technology Scholarship program); and fully integrate all NASA Education programs and activities into a seamless pipeline of exemplary programs that inspire the next generation of explorers and expands the pool of human capital available to meet NASA's needs.

Missions Goals

6.1 Increase the number of elementary and secondary students and teachers who are involved in NASA-related education opportunities.

6.2 Support higher education research capability and opportunities that attract and prepare increasing numbers of students and faculty for NASA-related careers.

6.3 Increase the number and diversity of students, teachers, faculty and researchers from underrepresented and underserved communities in NASA related Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

6. Inspire and motivate students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

6.4 Increase student, teacher, and public access to NASA education resources via the establishment of e-Education as a principal learning support system To Inspire the Next Generation of Explorers.

7. Engage the public in shaping and sharing the experience of exploration and discovery.

7.1 Improve public understanding and appreciation of science and technology, including NASA aerospace technology, research, and exploration missions.