

Space science missions have revealed the universe through new eyes and opened up new worlds to explore and understand. They have shown us that black holes really exist and have given us fundamental new information about the origin and evolution of planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe itself. They have opened up the tantalizing prospect of searching for life beyond Earth. By engaging the imaginations of teachers, students, and the general public, space science has demonstrated extraordinary potential for strengthening interest in science and improving the quality of science, mathematics, and technology education in America. By attracting bright individuals to advanced study in technical fields, space science also plays a significant role in ensuring a continuing cadre of trained scientists, engineers, and technologists to meet our society's needs in the 21st century.

d public outreach

To meet our goals and objectives, we integrate education and public outreach into all space science

missions and research programs. The resulting program is an important element of NASA's

overall education effort, and was designed in close collaboration with the NASA Office

Education and Public Outreach Objectives	Education and Public Outreach Activities
<p>Share the excitement of space science discoveries with the public</p> <p>Enhance the quality of science, mathematics, and technology education, particularly at the pre-college level</p> <p>Help create our 21st century scientific and technical workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate a substantial, funded education and outreach program into every space science flight mission and research program • Increase the fraction of the space science community that contributes to a broad public understanding of science and is directly involved in education at the pre-college level • Establish strong and lasting partnerships between the space science and education communities • Develop a national network to identify high-leverage education and outreach opportunities and to support long-term partnerships • Provide ready access to the products of space science education and outreach programs • Promote the participation of underserved and underutilized groups in the space science program by providing new opportunities for minorities and minority universities to compete for and participate in space science missions, research, and education programs • Develop tools for evaluating the quality and impact of space science education and outreach programs



Children from the Daniel Boone Regional Library, Columbia, Missouri (a Space Place partner), displaying their own spacecraft—all made from recycled materials.

of Human Resources and Education and the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. NASA mandates that the Agency “involve the education community in our endeavors to inspire America’s students, create learning opportunities, enlighten inquisitive minds,” and “communicate widely the content, relevance, and excitement of NASA’s missions and discoveries to inspire and to increase understand-

ing and the broad application of science and technology.”

It is our fundamental premise that all Americans should be able to participate in the adventure of exploring and understanding the universe. The Enterprise works closely with both the space science and education communities to identify education and outreach opportunities focused on the

needs of educators and the general public. Establishing productive, long-term partnerships between educators and space scientists helps maintain this focus. Our education and outreach information and materials are made readily available in a variety of formats useful to educators and suitable for bringing the accomplishments of the Space Science Enterprise to the general public.