



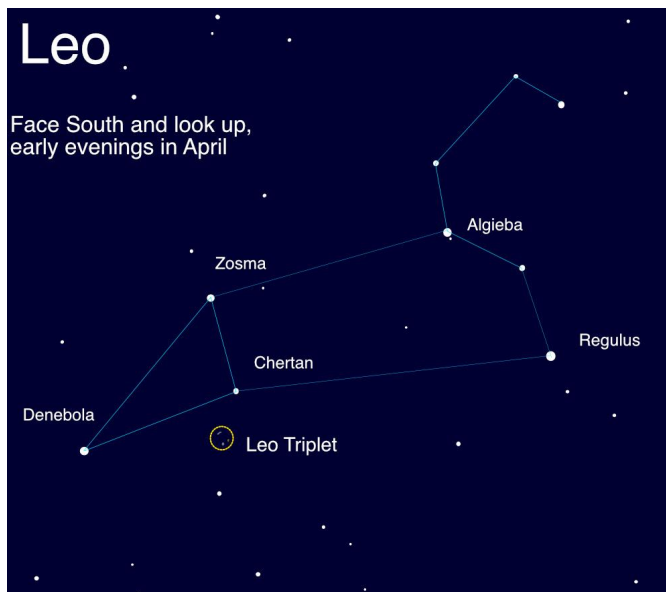
SMSC April 2021 Newsletter

News This Month

April skies

Leo is a prominent sight for stargazers in April. Its famous sickle, punctuated by the bright star Regulus, draws many a beginning stargazer's eyes. Leo's prominence invites deeper looks into some of its celestial delights, including a great double star and famous galactic trio.

We have a slack channel - if you would like to be added to the channel to discuss ways to use NASA resources locally, or if you have questions about how we can help you meet your goals, please send an email to r_neff@southwesterncc.edu or you can follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



NASA NEWS

Career Connections - <https://nasaclips.arc.nasa.gov/careerconnection>

Green Run Hot Fire Test Complete! The successful “hot fire” test is a critical milestone ahead of the Artemis I mission, which will send an uncrewed [Orion](#) spacecraft on a test flight around the Moon and back to Earth, paving the way for future [Artemis](#) missions with astronauts.

Earth's Vital Signs – As a leading agency observing and understanding environmental changes to Earth, we have joined the [National Climate Task Force](#). From the launch of the first weather satellite in 1960, NASA has used the vantage of space to study Earth.



You Asked, We Answered – In this new episode of #AskNASA, our head of planetary science, [Dr. Lori Glaze](#), answers your questions about what's out there in our solar system. Tune in to learn about volcanic moons, the asteroid belt, and more.

Events

Earth Day - Theme: "Restore Our Earth"

- **SMSC will have a booth at Swain High School's Earth Day Celebration on April 17th from 11am to 2pm**

Earth Day Resources

- [51 WAYS TO RESTORE OUR EARTH](#)

Earth Day Videos:

- [On Earth Day, April 22](#), global activists, international leaders, and influencers will come together for the second-annual multi-hour Earth Day Live
Here are samples from 2020
- [Earth Day Live: Regenerative Agriculture](#): Better agriculture can save the world. Learn how we can eat better, fight climate change, and support farmers by joining our panelists!
- [Earth Day Live: We Throw it All Away](#): Join our panel of food system experts to discuss food waste, its impacts, and the solutions for healthier, planet-friendly diets
- [Earth Day Live: Breaking Free From Plastics Dependence](#): Join our panel of experts to learn the dangers, challenges, and solutions of our plastics crisis.

Online Events

- **Apr. 16 (1pm)** [Community Trees Challenge](#): Science is Better Together

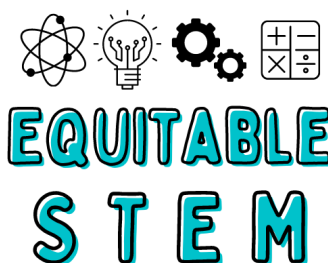


NC Science Festival

<https://ncsciencefestival.org/>

Apr. 1-30 [Equitable STEM: A NC Science Festival Event](#) Join the UNCW STEM Learning Cooperative in a fun filled STEM month. We will design and mail accessible STEM kits for

students in grades K-8th grade.



Apr. 5-9 [National Robotics Week Fun](#) Celebrate engineering through simple machines and robots this week with daily online highlights from our LEGO Robotics Labs! Each day we'll release a new highlight from our Robotics Labs, with tips and challenges for making your own creations!

Apr. 6-29 [Engage Trivia with SAS](#) NCSciFest is partnering with SAS, a global leader in data analytics, and partners across the state to launch a weekly trivia series. Test your knowledge with themed trivia sessions each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the month. Each week features questions and prize packs provided by special hosts from Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, The North Carolina School of Science and Math, the NC Zoo, and NC Aquariums.



K-12 Curriculum Materials

[Artemis Generation](#) - Hands on, engineering design & student challenges in addition to a video pledge (due April 2nd).

[Bringing the Universe to America's Classrooms](#) - From GBH in collaboration with NASA, these free resources emphasize engaging students in phenomena related to core ideas and science and engineering practices of the Next Generation Science Standards.

REPOSITORY ALIGNED TO NC STATE STANDARDS

<https://www.southwesterncc.edu/stem-repository>

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR CLASSROOMS

(send an email to r_neff@southwesterncc.edu to claim these for your classroom)

- The GLOBE Program information guide & activity connections to NGSS
- Astrobiology Curriculum guide and graphic story books
- Far Out Math Activities for grades 9-12
- Far Out Math Activities for grades 5-12
- Class set (20) TI-84 graphing calculators

ONLINE

Learn basic coding using data from [NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory](#) and other satellites on exploded stars, star-forming regions, and black holes.

Professional Development

<https://www.wgbh.org/foundation/gbh-education-research>

April 6 (2pm) - Trees Around the GLOBE [Join us](#) to learn more about this NASA-sponsored citizen science project and how your audiences can contribute to the tree height global database for both April's citizen science month and Earth Day.

Apr. 8 (2pm) [online webinar](#) - Studying diseases from space: The influences of land use and land cover on vector mosquitoes This talk will present several case studies using satellite remote sensing to study connections between land cover and mosquito-borne disease transmission. The opportunities and challenges of studying these relationships will be discussed.

Apr. 14 (4-5pm) [online webinar](#) - Teaching Space with NASA Live Stream - Exploring Europa Mars isn't the only place in our solar system where NASA is searching for signs of life. One such place isn't a planet at all, but Jupiter's icy moon [Europa](#).

Apr. 17 (1-2:30) [online workshop](#) - Exploring Biology with NASA In this interactive workshop for educators, we will explore biology, oceanography, and geology concepts through the lens of NASA's search for life beyond Earth. Join us to hear about the latest NASA missions and research in these fields. Then, follow along as we explore activities and demonstrations aligned to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that are ready for virtual or in-person classrooms.

Opportunities

April 12-16 - Black Hole Week NASA is celebrating Black Hole Week to captivate the public with one of our favorite cosmic objects. Use NASA images and GIFs as well as [NASA eClips videos](#) to suck in your audiences!

For Libraries & Community Groups

April 22, 2021, 4:00 -- 5:30 p.m. [Online Lecture Series](#) - this year the theme is "Honoring the Mother of All People; Contemporary Indigenous Leadership in Revitalizing Environmental and Cultural Sustainability." **Lecture #4 The Power of Storytelling in Indigenous Ways of Knowing.**

April 20th @ 6pm: [Color of Science](#) is hosting a monthly virtual event both synchronous and asynchronous to bring you an enjoyable experience that will help your passion for STEM grow! Dr. Shyni Varghese is the speaker and a Professor and MEDx Investigator at Duke University and a leader in the field of biomaterials and regenerative medicine.

[NASA Astronomy Picture of the Day](#)

