



SMSC July 2022 Newsletter

EVENT CALENDAR

7/12 - James Webb Telescope First Images

7/13 - James Webb Trivia

7/14-7/16 - Math Circle

8/4 - Library programs in Robbinsville & Andrews

8/5 - Library programs in Hayesville & Murphy

8/6 - Library program at Sylva Library

James Webb Telescope

#UnfoldTheUniverse

NASA is gearing up for the James Webb Telescope images with an art challenge! Now through July 12, NASA is asking people to share what they think the images will reveal through every art form (drawing, painting, dancing and more)! Use the hashtag #UnfoldTheUniverse on social media for a chance to be featured on NASA's website and social media channels!

First Images

Join The Smoky Mountains STEM Collaborative at 10:30 a.m. in the Myers Auditorium at Southwestern Community College as we celebrate the first images from the James Webb Telescope



on July 12! There will be a follow-up trivia at Innovation Station in Dillsboro at 6 p.m. on July 13 hosted by the STEM Collaborative!

Summer Activities

School's Out!

The Smoky Mountains STEM Collaborative would like to join NASA in celebrating the summer! School is out, the weather is warm and NASA astronauts Jessica Watkins and Bob Hines have a [special message for teachers and students](#) who are heading out of the classroom and into summer! Whatever you may find yourself doing this summer, be sure to keep an eye out for the International Space Station! Sign up at [Spot the Station](#) to get notified when the space station is flying over you!

Roving with Perseverance

*Image courtesy of
NASA/JPL-CALTECH/MSSS/Jonathan
O'Callaghan.*

If you have travel plans this summer, know that Perseverance is traveling, too! While the little rover may be a couple planets away, you can find models of Perseverance in various museums across the country, which you can [track here](#)! You can also find tour dates for the [Roving with Perseverance](#) roadshow!



Where is Perseverance?

Did you know that you can watch Perseverance as it roams the surface of Mars? If you didn't, you do now! Check out [Perseverance's Location](#) and track its journey on another planet! The rover landed on Feb. 18, 2021 and its goal is to seek signs of life as well as collect rock samples for a possible return to Earth!

Climate Kids

School is out for the summer, but children don't have to stop learning! Check out Climate Kids for a handful of cool, [climate-themed games](#) that educate kids while

they play! There are also [fun activities](#) such as making a garden lampshade and a terrarium mini-garden!



Opportunities and Resources

Math Circle

Photo courtesy of the Math Circle.

This year's [Math Teachers' Circle](#) Summer Immersion workshop is scheduled from July 14-16 at the NCCAT Cullowhee Campus and is open to WNC Math Circles such as Smoky Mountain, Blue Ridge, High Country and more! If you are interested in starting your own Math Circle in your area, you're also welcome to participate! The limit for participants is 48. Please contact Nathan Borchelt at naborchelt@wcu.edu or Sloan Despeaux at despeaux@wcu.edu.



Multicultural STEAM Books for Children

You've heard of STEM, but have you heard of STEAM? It's STEM, but with art! Art has been added to emphasize the importance of creative thinking! You can find a [list of STEAM books here](#) for children of all ages that are visually stimulating as well as educational and fun!

NASA's Astrophoto Challenges

NASA has created not one, but two astrophoto challenges with hands-on learning! These challenges invite participants to collect astronomical image data and process that data for submission! Your work may be selected to receive feedback from NASA scientists! The deadline for submission is July 31. You can find out more information with this [helpful introduction video](#) provided by NASA!



NASA's Curious Universe

If you're a fan of both science and podcasts, then NASA has the podcast for you! Check out [NASA's Curious Universe](#)! Host Padi Boyd is a black hole enthusiast and takes her listeners on a journey through the universe with each episode! As a bonus, Boyd is a co-creator of an educational music project called AstroCapella, which she uses to spread science through music!

[NASA Innovation Corps™ Pilot](#)

NASA has partnered with the [National Science Foundation](#) to offer a new training opportunity for faculty, students in higher education and researchers. The NASA Innovations Corps™ Pilot aims to encourage collaboration between academic fields and the industry market with access to training in innovation and entrepreneurship skills through a grant!

NASA GLOBE Land Cover Challenge

From July 26 through August 26, The GLOBE Program invites the public to document current land cover through the app! The data is used to map wildlife habitat, analyze hazards such as floods and track the impacts of climate change! For more information, check out the [Land Cover Challenge 2022](#)!

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[July Skies](#)

Fourth of July

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA), A. Nota (ESA/STScI) and the Westerlund 2 Science Team.

Look to the sky on the fourth of July for a phenomenal light show! While the stars may not be noticeable, the sky is sure to be ablaze with gorgeous fireworks!

Fun fact: In April 2015, NASA celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope by



unveiling [Celestial Fireworks](#), an image of “young stars flaring to life” by Hubble’s Wide Field Camera! The image shows a cluster of sparkling red stars that looks like the center of a bursting fireworks display! If you find yourself taking pictures of fireworks or stars, be sure to tweet them to us at [@SmokyMtnSTEM on Twitter](#) with the hashtag #CelestialFireworks. We’ll retweet our favorites to be featured on our page!

Newsletter header courtesy of NASA's SciAct program.