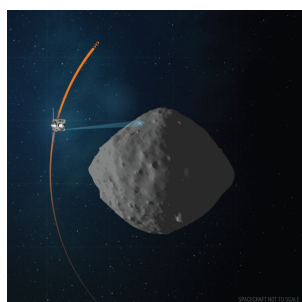




# SMSC March 2021 Newsletter

## News This Month

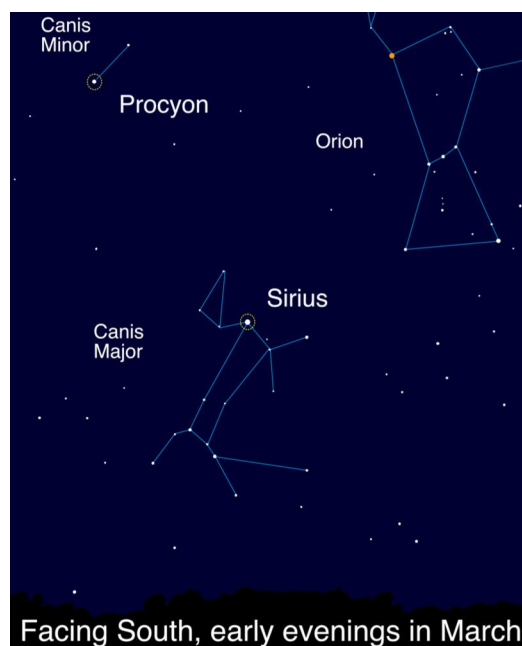


**OSIRIS-REx** seeks answers to the questions that are central to the human experience: Where did we come from? What is our destiny? Asteroids, the leftover debris from the solar system formation process, can answer these questions and teach us about the history of the sun and planets. OSIRIS-REx is scheduled to depart Bennu on May 10 and begin its **two-year journey back to Earth**. The spacecraft will deliver the samples of Bennu to the Utah Test and Training Range on Sep. 24, 2023.

*Credit: NASA/Goddard/University of Arizona*

**March skies** feature many dazzling stars and constellations but two of the brightest stars are the focus of our attention this month: **Sirius and Procyon**, the dog stars! Discover more about these two nearby star systems in this month's edition of [Night Sky Notes](#)!

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](mailto:r_neff@southwesterncc.edu) or you can follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



## NASA NEWS

### Lucy Mission in Space Contest - deadline March 16, 2021

- Middle school students will design a “mission patch” showing how the process of evolution on Earth may parallel the evolution of the solar system and explain the patch design with a poem or short essay.
- High school students will create a message to any future finders of the Lucy spacecraft, which will likely orbit the sun for more than one million years and could be recovered by our descendants in the distant future. The message, in the form of original artwork or short video and an essay or poem, should highlight humankind’s drive to explore, discover, and understand our origins on Earth and in the solar system. Entries should emphasize the connection between the discovery of the Lucy fossil and NASA’s Lucy space mission.

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/nasa-invites-students-to-join-lucy-mission-in-space-contest/>

### NASA Internships - Questions Answered - MORE INFO [HERE](#)

**Are the internships paid?** The majority of interns received a stipend award, but there are some volunteer opportunities noted in project descriptions.

**Is housing my responsibility if I receive an internship?** Interns are responsible for making their own housing arrangements. This includes locating their own housing options and paying for their housing. Centers may be able to offer minimal assistance by providing a list of local available housing and/or establishing a private social media group for interns to utilize for relocation planning purposes.

**What are the eligibility requirements?** U.S. Citizen; Cumulative 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale); Full-time students (high school through graduate); 16 years of age at the time of application (no exceptions); Undergraduate and graduate students must be enrolled full-time in a degree-granting program at an accredited college or university; Educators are also eligible to apply

**When do internships take place?** There are three sessions: Fall: Late August/early September, mid-December, 16 weeks; Spring: Mid-January-early May, 16 weeks; Summer: Late May/early June, August 10 weeks

**Virtual Space** – The [NASA app](#) for iPhone or iPad users now includes augmented reality! New features include: Augmented Reality (AR) 3D models of 31 NASA orbiters and missions. The viewer allows the user to view both the model in AR (allows you to place the model on a surface like a table), and in regular object mode for rotation and display. The viewer also provides an information view that describes the model for the user. The SkyView feature that shows a view of the night sky so users can identify objects and find/track International Space Station visible passes.

## K-12 Curriculum Materials

### REPOSITORY ALIGNED TO NC STATE STANDARDS

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

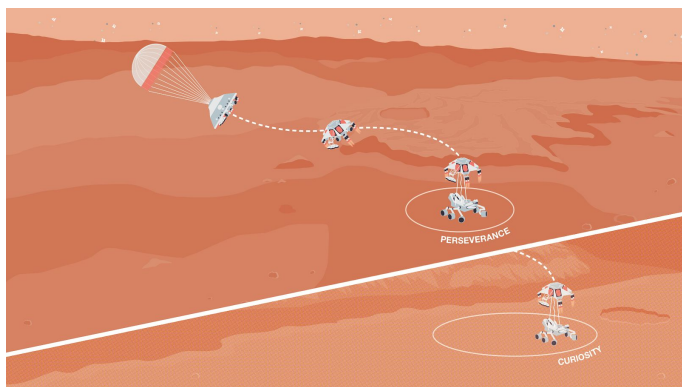
### ONLINE

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

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR CLASSROOMS

(send an email to [r\\_neff@southwesterncc.edu](mailto: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 and 5-12
- Class set (20) TI-84 graphing calculators



**March 14th - Pi Day Resources** - check out lessons [HERE](#)

The "Pi in the Sky" math challenge gives students a chance to find solutions to real-world problems all while using math and pi just like NASA scientists and engineers.

## Professional Development

### **March 10, 2021 (4:30 pm ET) - Explore Humans in Space: Space Food & Nutrition**

Astronauts face a lot of new challenges when they travel in space, and one of those challenges is figuring out how to eat. Space food research meets the challenge of providing food that tastes good and travels well in space. Come and learn about the many NASA STEM hands-on, minds-on student engagement activities that explore the unique problems of keeping astronauts happy and healthy in space. [Register HERE](#)

**March 19-20, 2021 - Virtual HamSCI workshop** The HamSCI workshop is an annual workshop to bring together the amateur radio and professional space science communities, and is an excellent place to show your work and engage with others in the citizen science community. The meeting features oral presentations on Friday, invited tutorials and an experiment co-design session on Saturday morning, and a virtual poster session and break-out rooms on Saturday afternoon. More info [HERE](#).

**March 23, 2021 (7:30 pm) - STEM Teaching Tips for Teachers** In this webinar, educators will receive an overview of how to best guide STEM student learning using teacher expert tips and strategies. The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core State Standards will be reviewed so that you are comfortable in locating more information about what students are expected to learn at each grade level. Attendees will have access to NASA resources, hands on minds on activities, videos, educator guides, and slide deck presentation. The session will end with sharing exciting NASA resources to supplement remote learning and STEM Learning at home.

## Opportunities

**March 16, 2021 - Community College Internship Application Deadline.** [This program](#) seeks to encourage community college students to enter technical careers relevant to the DOE mission by providing technical training experiences at the DOE laboratories.

**March 15-28, 2021 - Paper Airplane Aeronautics (grades 5-8)** Pledge to join us in 2021! NASA's weeklong challenges are broken down into daily tasks to facilitate a smooth week of socially distanced or at-home learning. To model design thinking at home or in the classroom, challenge your students to build a paper airplane and calculate the triangular area of the wings, then test and calculate the accuracy of their aircraft's flight. [Get the daily activity breakdown HERE.](#)

**March 22-26, 2021 - Solar Week:** Classroom and after-school activities about the Sun-Earth connection. Access a week of online lessons, games and hands-on activities about the Sun for grades 5-9 (ages 9-14) [HERE](#)

**April 1 at 11:59 p.m. EST - CTE Month® and NASA HUNCH 2020-2021 Student Video Challenge submission deadline.** This year's theme: [Advancing Space Exploration through Manufacturing](#)

## For Libraries & Community Groups

**March 12 from 1-2pm- *Talking Climate!*** - the Climate Museum discussion series. The topic for March is Infrastructure. Find more information [HERE](#).

**March 19th @ 5pm:** [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. Gregory Triplett is the speaker and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**March 30th 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 #3 Co-Producing Knowledge for a Sustainable World.** This panel will highlight Arctic voices discussing links between cultural and environmental sustainability.