



EXPLORE SCIENCE

Voyage through the Solar System

Welcome to the Explore Science: Voyage through the Solar System Kit!

We're so glad you're joining organizations across the country using the Explore Science: Voyage through the Solar System kit! In collaboration with NASA, the National Informal STEM Education Network (NISE Net) has assembled a new set of activities and professional resources focused on NASA's ongoing efforts to send future astronauts to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. This physical kit includes all the materials for three hands-on STEM activities designed to complement the NISE Network Explore Science: Earth & Space toolkits (making this physical kit smaller than past Earth & Space toolkits).

COVID-19 IMPACTS

We are inspired by all the ways NISE Network partners have used toolkit activities to engage local audiences in safe, creative ways over the course of the last few years. As we move forward, we know that you will continue to innovate and iterate the activities we provide to better suit your audiences and local communities, and we look forward to learning about your adaptations and expansions!

PHYSICAL KIT CONTENTS

On the reverse side of this letter, you'll find a list of the materials contained in your 2023 Explore Science: Voyage through the Solar System kit. These materials were designed to help partners connect participants to solar system discoveries, imagine possible space futures, and consider the ways that human needs and values intersect with space exploration. The kit includes hands-on activities and professional development materials to help you, staff, and volunteers engage learners of different ages and backgrounds. We've also included in the kit Spanish translations for all of the public-facing activity materials.

COLLABORATING

We strongly encourage you to collaborate with local experts and science enthusiasts in your area. Working closely with subject matter experts, community organizations, and other partners is key to lasting and impactful public engagement efforts. This kit includes training and orientation materials to help prepare your event volunteers and staff for using the activities and to support sustained community partnerships.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND TRAINING VIDEOS ONLINE

Electronic copies of all the Explore Science: Voyage through the Solar System kit materials are available online. You can download these individually or as a complete digital kit from <http://www.nisenet.org/voyage-solar-system>.

The website also has many other resources you can use for your Explore Science programs, including links to all of our educational programs, media, and training videos.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

Each organization that receives a physical kit is required to complete **a single online report** describing their experiences with the kit. Recipients will be provided with a link to these online reports. We greatly appreciate your help and feedback. Kit recipients are required to submit reports by November 1, 2023. If you aren't able to use your kit before November 1, we will still ask you to fill out a report describing future plans.

Thank you for all of your efforts to engage your local audiences in the science of solar system exploration! We look forward to learning more about how you use the kit throughout the year and in years to come. We couldn't do this work without you.

**The NISE Network Explore Science:
Voyage through the Solar System Team**

NISE NATIONAL INFORMAL
STEM EDUCATION
NETWORK

Explore Science: Voyage through the Solar System Kit Contents

Printed Materials

Planning and promotional materials

- Welcome letter + list of kit contents
- Quick-start Event Planning Guide
- Photo release form
- Sign stands

Training materials

- Activity facilitator guides
- *Working with STEM Experts: A Guide for Educators in Museums and Other Informal Learning Settings*
Available online: <https://nisenet.org/working-with-experts>
- *Sustainability and Museums: A Workbook for Improving Operations, Engaging Communities, and Creating Partnerships*
Available online: <https://nisenet.org/catalog/professional-resources-sustainability>
- *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Tools and Practices Booklet*
Available online: <https://nisenet.org/DEAI-tools>

Hands-on STEM activities (complete with materials and supplies for 100 learners!)

- *Voyage through the Solar System: Build a Moon Base* **English & Spanish**
- *Voyage through the Solar System: Breath of Fresh Air* **English & Spanish**
- *Voyage through the Solar System: Space Souvenir* **English & Spanish**

Media and graphics

- *Touch the Earth* tactile book
- *Tactile Light Pollution* tactile book
- *Getting a Feel for Eclipses* tactile book

Solar eclipse

- Eclipse glasses and viewers
- Solar eclipse resources available online: <https://www.nisenet.org/solareclipse>

Digital Kit (on nisenet.org)

Planning and promotional materials

- Digital written materials
- Digital copies of promotional photos

Training materials

- Online Workshop Recording: Take a Voyage through the Solar System with the NISE Network!
Available online: <https://nisenet.org/catalog/online-workshop-recording-voyage-through-solar-system>
- Activity facilitator guides
- Training videos for each activity
Available online: <https://vimeopro.com/nisenet/explore-science-earth-space>
- *Tips for Leading Hands-on Activities*

Hands-on STEM activities

- Digital copies of all activity guides and graphics
- Information about DIY Solar System App for iOS and Android