

Spring 2008 Newsletter



New Discover Mars Resource: What to Know Before You Go!

The Imagine Mars team has compiled a number of activities and corresponding information about Mars to make the DISCOVER portion of your Imagine Mars project easier to facilitate. We have considered everything that a future martian will need to know about his or her new home, and have broken the information into four categories:

Extreme Mars, On the Surface, Exploration and Getting to Know Mars by Comparison. Each section offers a short tutorial and activities to help you teach the concepts. You can find this easy-to-use guide at <http://imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov/info/activities>.



Project of the Season

Students in the Art Center College of Design Saturday High program spent Saturday afternoons dreaming of Gardens on Mars and then designing the ultimate martian garden. The highschool students worked with scientists and engineers from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, design experts from the Art Center College of Design and garden experts from the Huntington Botanical Gardens to consider all of the different elements that would effect their final creation. Their fi-

nal project featured an architecturally unique building to house the garden, and insightful background stories about the martian community members who spend time there. The project will be posted to the gallery soon, so keep a look out!

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Online Training is Here!

Want to know more about the Imagine Mars project or share the project with the rest of your school or education team? Just let us know! We will present your group with a 2-hour online training for free. The fun and interactive experience allows you to chat with fellow participants, and experience Imagine Mars hands-on. It's just like coming to one of our conference workshops, but you get to experience in the comfort of your own home, or office. We look forward to hearing from you!



Would Your Students Like to Talk to a NASA Scientist about Mars?

We're waiting for you! Just give us a call, or write us a note at imaginemars@jpl.nasa.gov and we'll set your students up with a one-on-one interview with NASA scientists and engineers. This is a great opportunity to get students more comfortable and excited about science and careers in engineering.

Once you post your Imagine Mars project, we can have scientists and engineers provide feedback on your student's work – a review from the experts! All of these opportunities are free and intended to support your projects. Remember, we're here to help you design a project too!



Mars Mission Update

Mark your calendars! Phoenix will land on Mars on May 25th. Phoenix is a lander, not a rover, and will spend 90 days on Mars. Phoenix is designed to study the history of water and habitability potential in the Martian arctic's ice-rich soil. For more information go to: <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/>

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Become a Cooperating Organization

The Cooperating organization commitment forms are now online on the Imagine Mars Web site. We are seeking the help of education, arts, technology and science-focused organizations to help spread the word about the Imagine Mars project.

Cooperating organizations will receive special advance notification of new site features, special invitations to webcasts and have the opportunity to submit their education-related news for the Imagine Mars e-mail newsletter. The Imagine Mars Project will also recognize cooperating organizations on the project site and link to their websites.

In turn, cooperating organizations will be asked to post an official link from their sites to the Imagine Mars project website and print periodic project-related news in e-mail and print newsletters about upcoming Imagine Mars events. Log on now to <http://ImagineMars.jpl.nasa.gov/about/become.html> and download your copy of the cooperating organization commitment form and help us on our mission to bring the Imagine Mars project to students everywhere.



About Imagine Mars

The Imagine Mars Project is co-sponsored by NASA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). It is a Web-based initiative that provides you with lesson plans, Mars facts and other resources to lead student project teams. The goal of the project is to encourage students to explore their home community, to interact with scientists, artists, and community leaders, and to understand the different planetary environments on Mars. Ultimately, students complete a project that highlights the scientific and cultural elements they determine would be important to their imagined community on Mars.

The project site, <http://ImagineMars.jpl.nasa.gov>, contains participation guides, resources for project leaders, profiles of artists, engineers, and scientists, a project gallery and other interactive features.

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**NATIONAL
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FOR THE ARTS**

On behalf of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California manages the Imagine Mars Project as part of the Mars Public Engagement program, which seeks to educate the public about scientific discoveries and benefits of NASA's missions to Mars. JPL is a division of the California Institute of Technology.

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