



Plant the Moon CHALLENGE

NASA Space Grant Regional Expansion Project

About

Middle and high school students and their educators can be part of NASA's efforts to return humans to the Moon to stay by joining a teacher-led, student global science experiment, learning activity and inspirational project-based learning challenge to see who can grow the best crops using lunar regolith simulant.

The Plant the Moon Challenge NASA Space Grant Regional Expansion Project builds on the Institute of Competition Sciences Plant the Moon Challenge by providing additional support, free lunar regolith simulant kits, teacher stipends, enhancement activities, special experiential awards and professional development. Project partners received funding from NASA to engage classroom and informal STEM educators who teach underrepresented and underserved students in the six project locations: Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Puerto Rico. **The Plant the Moon Challenge NASA Space Grant Regional Expansion Project is free to selected participants and offers many extra benefits to participating educators and students in the partnering locations.**

By joining the NASA Space Grant Plant the Moon Challenge, students will engage in research that can assist NASA scientists in understanding how to use lunar soil to provide crops for future missions to the Moon.

Participating educators will receive the following:

- Mentoring from your participating Space Grant Consortium and the Plant the Moon Challenge as you plan for and undertake your plant growth experiments.
- Lunar regolith simulant kit with project guide and pH meter - one per approximately ten students (value \$420).
- \$100 stipend for project supplies (per kit).
- Professional development on NASA's Artemis mission to return humans to the Moon and related STEM resources (four engaging, two-hour, evening virtual sessions) activities between December 2022 and May 2023.
- Opportunities for students to engage in activities, special speakers, and virtual events highlighting NASA's Artemis mission to return to the Moon.
- NASA and other classroom resources.
- Opportunity to compete for Plant the Moon Challenge awards as well as these special project awards for educator and student teams.
 - State-based, expense-paid experiential awards for four top teams at both the middle and high school levels.
 - An expense-paid trip to Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center Complex and Saturn V Rocket area for the top middle and high school regional winners.

Educator participants must commit to:

- Completing the project Commitment Form and ensuring administrative support for your participation.
- Leading a student team through the Plant the Moon Challenge and associated NASA Space Grant Regional Expansion activities.
- Completing all checkpoint milestone tasks for the Challenge.
- Participating in the four required professional development sessions. (Certification of professional development hours and project participation).
- Completing all required documents and reports.
- Completing evaluation surveys as requested.
- Collecting photo releases from students.
- Participating virtually in the Awards Ceremony.



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Project Timeline:

- Participating Space Grants provide final selections of participating.
- Participants must complete required commitment forms by November 11, 2022.
- Opening Ceremony on February 6, 2023 provides guest speakers and highlights for completing the Challenge.
- Eight-week Grow Period - February 13 through April 7, 2023.
- Initial Experimental Designs Due - February 17, 2023.
- Project Reports and Final Report Videos Due - April 21, 2023.
- Awards Ceremony on May 15, 2023 with debriefing and sharing professional development session to follow.
- State and Regional Experiential Awards - Late May to June 2023.

Project Space Grant Program Contacts:

To express interest and to learn how to apply, contact the Space Grant project coordinator in your state or district:

**VIRGINIA - Joyce Corriere - jcorrier@odu.edu,
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**WEST VIRGINIA - Laurie Ruberg - lfruberg@gmail.com,
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**FLORIDA - Lina Dupuy - linadupuy@Knights.ucf.edu,
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