



## NATIONAL SPACE DESIGN COMPETITION

### StellarXplorers National Finals Event set for April

Congratulations to the ten teams advancing to the StellarXplorers IX National Finals Competition! A list of teams is below. Check next month's newsletter for an introduction to each of the teams.

**STELLARXPLOREERS**  
Space Design Competition National Finalists

- Edmond North High School AFJROTC (Edmond, OK)
- Huntsville High School Space Force JROTC (Huntsville, AL)
- Maj Thomas B. McGuire Composite Squadron (McGuire AFB, NJ)
- North Allegheny High School AFJROTC (Pittsburgh, PA)
- The Science Academy STEM Magnet (North Hollywood, CA)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula High School #3 (Rolling Hills Estate, CA)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula High School #4 (Rolling Hills Estate, CA)
- Valencia High School AFJROTC (Valencia, CA)
- West Aurora High School (Aurora, IL)
- San Pedro High School (San Pedro, CA)

A STEM Program of the  
Air & Space Forces Association 

The final round of the season is set for April 20-22, 2023, at the Space Center Houston in Houston, TX. Teams will have 8-hours to find the best solution to the most challenging competition round yet. They will also be required to present their solutions to a panel of industry experts.

Winners will be crowned at the Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 22. Scholarship funds will be awarded to members of the first, second, and third place teams.

## Dr. Charles Elachi talks STEM Career Exploration

In February, StellarXplorers Advisory Board member, Dr. Charles Elachi, met with the STLX team and Space Explorers Club at Crescenta Valley High School in California. As a past Director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (2001-2016) and a professor emeritus of electrical engineering and planetary science professor emeritus at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) he was able to share extensive knowledge and experience with the students about STEM careers.



## STELLARCAMPS



Looking for STEM programs to offer students during the summer? Look no further!

Organizations interested in hosting a space-focused summer camp can now register to host a StellarCamp. The full camp curriculum is available for purchase (\$300 per week). The host can choose to conduct the camp in-person or virtually during any of the 12 weeks below:

June 5 – 9	July 3 – 7*	July 31 – Aug. 4
June 12 – 16	July 10 – 14	Aug. 7 – 11
June 19 – 23*	July 17 – 21	Aug. 14–18
June 26 – 30	July 24 – 28	Aug. 21 – 25

\* Holiday falls during camp week

If you have questions about hosting a camp or how to register, contact [info@stellarxplorers.org](mailto:info@stellarxplorers.org).

## SPONSOR NEWS

### Lockheed Martin Space – Lockheed Martin Engineers meet with Colorado Girl Scouts



A group of Girl Scouts met with Lockheed Martin engineers at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum to learn about careers available to them. Sonia Phares, Vice President IGNITE, and strong support of StellarXplorers was at the event.

IGNITE is Lockheed Martin Space's Rapid Development Team. INGITE pushes the boundaries of possibility, performs critical research and ultimately develops groundbreaking capabilities for internal and commercial application.



Check out the full story here: <https://kdvr.com/news/local/colorado-girl-scouts-and-lockheed-martin-engineers-celebrate-womens-history-month/>

### L3Harris recognizes Women in Aviation

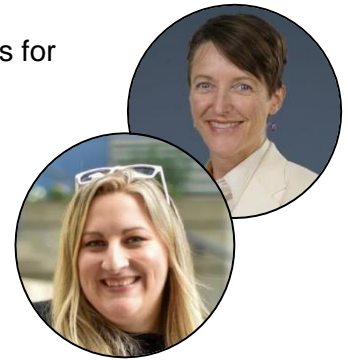


**L3HARRIS**™

In honor of Women in Aviation Month 2023, L3Harris is highlighting its commitment to diversity and inclusion for current and future generations.

Hear from their [Engineering Project Lead, Mariee](#), and learn what advice she has for women seeking to join the aviation field.

Also hear from [Samantha, a Technical Support Engineer](#) at L3Harris who has been in the aviation industry since graduating with her Computer Engineering degree in 2017.



## STEM RESOURCES

### Don't miss this month's X-STEM All Access Sessions

X-STEM All Access – presented by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force – is a free on-demand series for middle and high schoolers designed to get students excited about STEM.

Students will get an inside look into the exciting careers and inspiring personal journeys of diverse STEM role models through a live Q&A session with a fellow STEM professional. The 30-minute max episodes will premiere throughout the school year and will be available on-demand to fit in your schedule.

Tune in on March 22 to meet with Capt Tasia Reed, a flight commander in the US Space Force. Get a glimpse into her journey and life as a USSF Operations Officer.



If you missed a session, you can view recordings on the [X-STEM All Access website](#).



#### Meteorology in Space

Join engineer and science communicator Maynard Okereke a.k.a. "Hip Hop M.D." for an engaging conversation with Capt. Sophia Schwalbe about her exciting role as a physicist and "meteorologist for space"!



#### Engineering in Space

Join engineer and TV host Tamara Robertson for an engaging conversation with engineer Joan Melendez Misner. Learn what it's like to be a space engineer and planetary defender at NASA!



#### High Flying Role Models!

Join flight test engineer Kate Gunderson for conversation with Airbus helicopter pilot Esther Beckett. Learn what it's like to excel in a career in aviation!

## SPACE NEWS

In case you missed it...

**01 FEB 2023** | [This James Webb Space Telescope image shows spiral galaxy in stunning detail](#)

**02 FEB 2023** | [Watch 2 astronauts perform 2nd spacewalk of 2023 today](#)

**05 FEB 2023** | [How astronaut diversity changed for the better in a single NASA class](#)

**11 FEB 2023** | [Watch the green comet near Mars](#)

- 17 FEB 2023 | [Artemis 1 moon launch was as loud as 40 million bowls of Rice Krispies: study](#)
- 20 FEB 2023 | [The Hubble Space Telescope spots three galaxies about to collide](#)
- 23 FEB 2023 | [Amazon gets a green light to launch 3,000-satellite Kuiper constellation](#)
- 25 FEB 2023 | [Boeing's Starliner on track to launch its 1st astronaut flight this spring, NASA says](#)
- 02 MAR 2023 | [Moon-dust shield could help fight climate change on Earth](#)
- 08 MAR 2023 | [US Space Force grants 4 companies launch pads at Cape Canaveral](#)
- 09 MAR 2023 | [NASA to reveal Artemis 2 moon astronauts on April 3](#)
- 13 MAR 2023 | [NASA wants new 'deorbit tug' to bring space station down in 2030](#)

Images from space:



NASA astronaut Josh Cassada posted this dazzling aurora photo on [Twitter](#) on Feb. 28, 2023, with a simple but appropriate caption: "Absolutely unreal."  
(Image credit: NASA/Josh Cassada)



There is beauty in transience. 🌸

Webb's stunning image of a super bright, massive Wolf-Rayet star calls forth the ephemeral nature of cherry blossoms. The Wolf-Rayet phase is a fleeting stage that only some stars go through, soon before they explode:  
<https://go.nasa.gov/3Ln74VC>

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