



*Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season!*

### StellarXplorers is hiring!

We're looking for a Program Manager! Under the direction and guidance of the Director of StellarXplorers Operations, the Program Manager is responsible for planning, coordinating, and conducting the StellarXplorers National Space Design Competition, and managing the design team to create captivating real-life space industry scenarios.

[Apply today](#) with your cover letter and resume!



### COMPETITION



*Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC during practice Round 2 on Nov. 17, 2022. Pizza is always a must for competition rounds! (Source: Twitter)*

StellarXplorers IX teams are reaching new heights! The scores from Practice Round 2 were some of the highest scores in program history, and performance in Qualification Round 1 did not disappoint.

Qualification Round 2 – the second of three qualification rounds – is scheduled for December 8-11. In this round, teams will spend up to 6 hours determining the optimal satellite components for the outlined mission. While the equipment combinations may seem endless, team members will have to work together to come up with a high-performance solution that falls within mission parameters.

### StellarXplorers IX Gear

Teams can compete in style upon receipt of their STLX IX t-shirts, stickers, and challenge coins! (Boxes of gear were shipped to teams on December 1 and 2, with tracking information emailed to team directors).

Show us your StellarXplorers spirit by sending team photos to [info@stellarxplorers.org](mailto:info@stellarxplorers.org). Your picture might just end up in next month's newsletter or on our social media pages...



## SPONSOR NEWS



### Lockheed Martin Innovations Selected For Popular Science's Best Of What's New 2022

Lockheed Martin's GridStar® Flow system for long-duration energy storage, Optionally Piloted Black Hawk® helicopter and NASA's James Webb Space Telescope – with a Lockheed Martin-built main camera – have been selected by the editors of Popular Science magazine for their 2022 “Best of What's New” Awards.



Popular Science selected NASA's James Webb Space Telescope as the “Innovation of the Year” for 2022, and the telescope is showing humankind the universe in a whole new light. Webb's primary imager – the Near Infrared Camera, or NIRCam – was designed and built by Lockheed Martin at the company's Advanced Technology Center in Palo Alto, California, in collaboration with the University of Arizona.

A first-of-its-kind camera, NIRCam was specially designed to take images with the utmost precision and stability at extreme temperatures in deep space. This instrument supports Webb in seeking light from the universe's first galaxies, investigating how those galaxies form, exploring the birth of stars, and studying planetary systems and outer planets in our own solar system.

## Air and Space Force STEM



There's still time to participate in the Space Force's STEMtoSpace event this month! Each year, Space Force Guardians are paired with classrooms to share the importance of STEM in space, possible STEM career opportunities, and how Space Force contributes to daily life around the United States. This is a great opportunity for all K-12 students!

To learn more about **STEMtoSpace 2022**, visit the [Event Landing Page](#) or [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Sign-ups are first come, first served so we encourage you to sign-up as early as possible.

This is just one STEM experience of many we hope to offer this school year. If you're interested in hearing from us quarterly about **free STEM opportunities** from the Air Force, Space Force, and the Department of Defense, please sign-up for the [e-newsletter here](#).

**STEM TO SPACE**

700+ Events

184K+ potential students reached

ALL 50 STATES & DC, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Belgium, Italy, UK

Participating Volunteers = 300+ (Civilians, Guardians & Airmen)

through (Specialist 3) to (Four-star General)

Logos: nepris, Civil Air Patrol, girl scouts, STEM K-12, EUSOE, USSF

## SPACE NEWS

In case you missed it...

### 02 NOV 2022 | [Saltzman formally elevated to Space Force's Chief of Space Operations](#)

*Gen. B. Chance Saltzman was officially installed Nov. 2 as Chief of Space Operations, the service's highest-ranking military post, and only the second person to hold the position in the Space Force's history.*

- 02 NOV 2022 | ['Why Am I Taller?' explores what happens to the human body in space](#)
- 10 NOV 2022 | [Piece of the space shuttle Challenger found by divers in Atlantic Ocean](#)
- 14 NOV 2022 | [Space Force holds first University Consortium Symposium](#)
- 22 NOV 2022 | [Artemis 1 moon rocket blew the doors off NASA's launch tower elevators](#)
- 24 NOV 2022 | [James Webb Space Telescope uncovers origins of distant planet](#)
- 26 NOV 2022 | [SpaceX launches tomato seeds, other supplies to International Space Station](#)
- 02 DEC 2022 | [Orion begins return leg of Artemis 1 mission](#)

## STEM RESOURCES

### AFA Educator Grants

Every year, AFA awards \$500 grants to 40 educators poised to make a lasting difference. The grant process is competitive. A committee of aerospace education experts reviews all qualified applications and scores them based on their detailed grant proposals. AFA selects projects that best serve our nation's students and support our mission. Please review the grant [guidelines](#) and [rules](#) prior to applying.

**AFA Educator Grant applications are accepted from September 1st through December 15th.** Educator Grants are awarded in February. Please [view and submit your grant application online](#) via the third-party website, SmarterSelect. *Hardcopy or faxed applications will NOT be considered.*



AFA also offers grants for Civil Air Patrol and Air Force JROTC units. Visit the [AFA website](#) to learn more.

### Join SWE(Next) Today



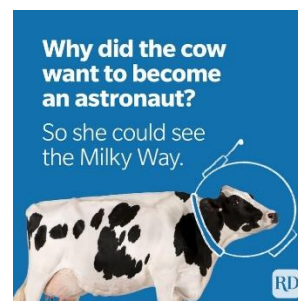
SWENext is a way for girls to become a part of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) engineering and technology community as students through the age of 18. SWENext is free to join and provides students access to programs, mentors, and resources designed to develop leadership skills and self-confidence to

#BeThatEngineer. **Although the program focuses on girls, all students are encouraged to join.**

[Click here](#) to learn more about the benefits of joining SWENext.

## SPACE JOKES!

Do you have a good space-themed joke or a puzzle to share? Send it to [info@stellarxplorers.org](mailto:info@stellarxplorers.org)!



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