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NATIONAL SPACE DESIGN COMPETITION

The Crewmates from Irvine High School: 2023-2024 Space Design Competition National Champions



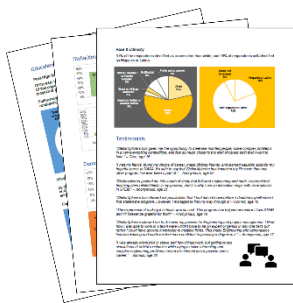
In the closest National Finals Competition ever, *The Crewmates* from Irvine High School were crowned 2023-2024 StellarXplorers National Champions in Denver on April 20.

All teams put their best foot forward in coming up with creative solutions to a complex mission, and in the end, less than one point separated the top four teams.

A special thank you to Chief Karmin Pogue (USSF), Doug Raaberg (AFA), Kim Crider (Elara Nova), and Bill Yucuis (AFA), who served as the panel judges for the team mission debriefings.

To view photos from the event, check out the [Flickr album](#).

2024 Alumni Survey Results are In!



Every two years, the StellarXplorers Program Office conducts a survey to learn more about the current and former program participants, and to determine if the program is meeting its goal of attracting students to education and careers in STEM. Respondents provided information about their demographics, their current academic enrollment status, their current or prospective career paths, and the impact StellarXplorers had on their career and education plans.

The results of the 2024 Alumni survey were overwhelmingly positive, with 91% of current participants planning to pursue STEM education and careers, and 76% of alumni actively pursuing education or careers in STEM. [View the full report here](#).

2024-2025 Space Design Competition Registration Open Now

Registration for the next season of the National Space Design Competition opened on May 1. Registration will remain open through mid-October. Visit www.stellarxplorers.org/team-registration to learn more.

Want to see who already signed up?
Check out the [map of currently registered teams](#).



STELLARCAMPS



Looking for STEM programs to offer students during the summer or want to bolster your StellarXplorers skills? We've got you covered!

Individuals and organizations interested in a space-focused summer camp can now [purchase our StellarCamps curriculum](#) for \$99. Once purchased, the curriculum is yours to keep, and includes an STK software subscription through July 2025.

Participants learn about space systems (just like what they would be learning in our National Space Design Competition), and no prior experience is required!

StellarCamps are best suited for middle and high school students who are just getting into aerospace and want to learn more.

SPONSOR NEWS

United Launch Alliance Successfully Launches First Crewed Starliner



For the first time in history, a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V carrying NASA astronauts aboard Boeing's CST-100 Starliner lifted off on June 5, 2024 at 10:52 a.m. EDT from Space Launch Complex-41 (SLC-41) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. The launch of NASA astronauts Barry "Butch" Wilmore and Sunita "Suni" Williams marks the return of human spaceflight to Cape Canaveral and extends the Atlas legacy, echoing the launch of U.S. astronaut John Glenn aboard a heritage Atlas LV-3B rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in 1962.

This inaugural human spaceflight launch marks the beginning of a new era for ULA. [Read the full story.](#)

Lockheed Martin-Built Weather Satellite Successfully Launched

An advanced weather satellite built by Lockheed Martin [NYSE: LMT] for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) launched June 25, 2025 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center at 5:26 p.m. ET. Lifted to space aboard a Space X Falcon Heavy rocket, the GOES-U satellite successfully deployed its large solar array to generate electrical power and has established communications with mission operators. NOAA's GOES-R satellites, and soon GOES-U, provide crucial data for weather forecasting, severe storm tracking and climate monitoring. With their advanced instruments and rapid updates, they improve detection of atmospheric phenomena like hurricanes, wildfires and lightning. This real-time data aids the National Weather Service and meteorologists in early warnings, disaster preparedness and resource management, ultimately saving lives and mitigating economic losses.



STEM RESOURCES

Join the StellarXplorers Alumni Network

The StellarXplorers Alumni Network is intended to connect program alumni with each other and with program sponsors and supporters from industry and academia. Within this group we will share networking opportunities, available internships, job postings, and more!



This is a private group for past and present StellarXplorers participants. You must be at least 16 years of age to join, per LinkedIn account regulations. All requests to join will be reviewed by StellarXplorers staff to verify participation in the program.

To join, visit: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12721859/>

SPACE NEWS



Curious About What's Happening Overhead?

Check out the Space.com [Space Calendar](#) to stay up to date with upcoming planned rocket launches and skywatching-worthy dates.

And in case you missed it...

- 10 JUL 2024** | [Starliner return eyed for end of July as tests continue](#)
- 8 JUL 2024** | [Space Force preparing for the age of proliferated low Earth orbit satellite networks](#)
- 7 JUL 2024** | [NASA's simulated Mars voyage ends after more than a year](#)
- 4 JUL 2024** | [Scientists tap into 2 new quantum methods to catch dark matter suspects](#)
- 26 JUN 2024** | [James Webb Space Telescope spies strange shapes above Jupiter's Great Red Spot](#)
- 24 JUN 2024** | [How long would it take to reach Planet 9, if we ever find it?](#)
- 14 JUN 2024** | [Astronauts could mix moon dust with old satellites to make fuel](#)
- 10 JUN 2024** | [Take a video tour of Boeing's Starliner with its 2 NASA astronauts](#)
- 29 MAY 2024** | [Real-life 'Star Trek' planet was actually just an illusion caused by a 'jittery' star](#)
- 15 MAY 2024** | [Cotton candy exoplanet is 2nd lightest planet ever found](#)
- 9 MAY 2024** | [Historic space-baked cookie lands in the Smithsonian](#)



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket launched the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) powerful new GOES-U weather satellite on June 25, 2024. Following the launch, the rocket's two Falcon 9 boosters made a simultaneous landing at Landing Zone 1 at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, accompanied by a double sonic boom.

(Image credit: SpaceX)

JUST FOR FUN



Lego Releasing Apollo Lunar Rover Model

Lego is gearing up to deliver a detailed model of the original "rock and rolling ride," the electric buggy driven by NASA's last three Apollo crews to explore the moon.

The new [Lego Technic "NASA Apollo Lunar Roving Vehicle - LRV"](#) set will roll into Lego stores on August 1.

The Lego Technic NASA Apollo Lunar Roving Vehicle - LRV reproduces the moon buggy at 1/8th scale, down to some of its smallest details. The build is divided into four major components: the four-wheeled chassis with its

integrated control and display console and seats; the forward chassis with a high-gain antenna and TV camera; the lunar communications relay unit (LCRU), including a low-gain antenna and 16mm camera; and the aft pallet assembly with a tool collection (including a rock hammer, drill kit, pipe wrench and adjustable scoop) and lunar experiments.

Read the full details at <https://www.space.com/lego-technic-nasa-apollo-lunar-roving-vehicle-lrv>.

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