

# Programming Ideas for *Protecting Our Home*

Organizations may want to plan children's activities or a family event to coincide with the exhibit. Events could include bringing in speakers, holding shows in a portable planetarium, or offering an [evening telescope observing session](#). Consider getting in touch [with local astronomical societies, planetariums, and museums](#), local scientists (astronomy and geology departments at nearby universities are a good place to start), and [NASA's Solar System Ambassadors](#) – ask them to join your events and share their experiences or resources with the children.

There are a variety of resources available in planning children's activities related to asteroids and meteorites, in addition to the activity listed in each exhibit's resource section. You may want to examine these:

## **Scale Model of the Solar System**

In this 1-hour activity, children, ages 9 to 13, shrink the scale of the vast solar system to the size of their neighborhood. They not only consider the distance between planets, but also smaller objects, such as Ceres (an asteroid/dwarf planet) and a comet.

[http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/solar\\_system/activities/familyOfPlanets/solarSystem/](http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/solar_system/activities/familyOfPlanets/solarSystem/)

## **Edible Rocks**

In this activity, learners will observe and describe physical characteristics of an edible sample in preparation for describing rock or meteorite samples. This is a great activity to use in combination with the loan of a NASA Meteorite Disk.

<http://nasawavelength.org/resource/nw-000-000-001-792/>

## **NASA Lunar and Meteorite Disk Program**

This program consists of six samples of Lunar or Meteorite material encapsulated in a six-inch diameter clear lucite disk. The disk is accompanied by written and graphic descriptions of each sample in the disk; a PowerPoint presentation on CD; a teacher workbook; and additional printed material. Though originally developed for classroom use, these disks may also be used in informal education settings. NOTE: Disk certification training is required to borrow disks.

<http://ares.jsc.nasa.gov/ares/lmdp/index.cfm>

## **Art & the Cosmic Connection**

The planets, moons and small bodies of our solar system are places of wonder and intrigue. NASA spacecraft are visiting these fascinating places, capturing images of otherworldly features that just beg to be explored! What do these captivating images tell us? In just a short time, with the tools provided in this program, learners of all ages can begin to understand and interpret the features on distant objects in our solar system.

<http://discovery.nasa.gov/art/>