

THE YEAR OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM: PATHWAYS FOR SCIENTIST INVOLVEMENT. S. Shipp¹, C. Shupla¹, H. Dalton¹, S. Buxner², D. Boonstra³, and D. Scalice⁴, ¹Lunar and Planetary Institute, 3600 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston, TX 77058, shipp@lpi.usra.edu, ²Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, AZ ³Sustainability Schools Consulting, LLC, Houston, TX, ⁴Science Mission Directorate, NASA, Washington, D.C.

Introduction: Spanning a Martian Year – 23 months from October 2010 through August 2012 – the Year of the Solar System (YSS) celebrates the amazing discoveries of numerous NASA missions as they explore our near and distant neighbors and probe the very outer edges of our solar system. Through the duration of YSS, new missions will further unveil the secrets of Jupiter, the Moon, and Mars. Other robotic explorers will encounter comets and asteroids, journey to dwarf planets, and continue to unlock the mysteries of our Sun, Mercury, Saturn, and our home planet, Earth.

YSS offers numerous opportunities for the planetary science community – including researchers and education and public outreach professionals – to raise awareness, build excitement, and make connections with educators, students, and the public about planetary science.

Overview of Resources: The E/PO community is designing online resources that present mission content and educational products and activities in the context of monthly thematic topics that are tied to the big questions of planetary science: how did the Sun's family of planets and bodies originate and how have they evolved; and how did life begin and evolve on Earth, has it evolved elsewhere in our solar system, and what are characteristics that lead to the origins of life?

Each monthly theme of YSS explores different aspects of the solar system – its formation, volcanism, ice, life. Each month presents resources, activities, and events in the context of programming ideas through which formal and informal educators can engage the public. Monthly pathways for active engagement of the public include suggestions for night-sky viewings and participation in Earth Day, Sun-Earth Day, International Observe the Moon Night, and other solar-system-related events. Program facilitators and the public are encouraged to share their celebrations and activities through an online calendar, shared stories, images, video, and social media feeds.

How to Get Involved: Planetary scientists are encouraged to get involved in YSS either directly or by sharing YSS and its resources with educators. Pathways include:

- giving a talk at a local museum, planetarium, library, or school to share YSS and how your research connects with the amazing things we are learning about our solar system;

- partnering with a local educational institution to organize a night sky viewing or mission milestone community event;
- working with a classroom teacher to explore one of the monthly topics with students;
- speaking with a local radio station about YSS and some of the exciting upcoming events;
- connecting with a planetary science E/PO professional to identify ways to participate, such as creating podcasts, vodcasts, or helping to develop monthly topics;
- sharing your ideas for events and activities with the planetary science E/PO community to identify partners and pathways for distribution;
- and more!

Join the celebration! Visit <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/yss> to find quality resources and ideas. Connect with educators, students and the public to share the exciting planetary science discoveries as they're uncovered during the Year of the Solar System.



YEAR OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM:
NEW WORLDS,
NEW DISCOVERIES