

White papers:  
General Discussion and  
Information

# Discussion prompts

- What important topics may be missing?
- It's important to motivate the topic within a Planetary Science framework (rather than a Mars framework).
  - Especially true if panels are not Target-based.
  - Are we achieving that?
- What more could MEPAG do to help the community develop their white papers?

# Broadly defined science themes

- Life and prebiotic organics
- Habitability and water
- Solar system formation and dynamics processes and chronology
- Evolution of surface /geological evolution on bodies with and without atmospheres
- Atmospheric/exospheric evolution and dynamics
- Interior evolution and volcanism

*Note that the panel organization is not yet defined.*

From <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5489366/Call-to-the-Planetary-Science-Decadal-Community-White-Papers-1>

# MEPAG-defined Big Questions

- What are the pathways that lead to habitable environments across the Solar System and the origin and evolution of life?
- How do climates and atmospheres change through time?
- How do planetary surfaces, crusts and interiors form and evolve?
- What is needed for humans to explore on the Moon and Mars?
- How is the solar system representative of planetary systems in general?

From: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meeting/2019-07/MEPAG%20submitted%20Big%20Questions%202019.pdf>

# Resources (or compilations of resources)

- The main page for this Decadal Survey: [link](#)
- Broad compilation Decadal Survey information and resources (Mars-focused as for MEPAG): [link](#)
  - Includes links to online forums for advertising white paper topics (e.g., LPI, DPS, AGs)
- One of the starting MEPAG presentations on 2023-2032 Decadal Survey preparation, by Chair Jeff Johnson on February 25, 2019: [link](#)
  - Includes a list of Mars-related white papers from the 2013-2022 Decadal Survey process

# Reminder about important deadlines

- May 1: nominations for Decadal Survey committee members
  - Self-nominations are also welcome!
- July 4: White paper submission

# White papers should be consistent with the following guidelines:

- May not be more than 7 pages in length, single spaced, including all figures, tables, references and appendices. Papers can include web links to other documents among the references;
- Should include a cover page (beyond the 7-page limit) containing the title of the white paper, the primary author's name, phone number, institution, and email address, and a list of co-authors with their respective institutions;
- Use a 12-pt font with 1-inch margins on all sides of the document;
- Papers in Microsoft Word (.doc), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) formats will be accepted. No other formats will be accepted; and
- White paper file sizes should be as small as possible. White papers larger than 50 Mb in size cannot be accepted, and files much smaller than this are encouraged. For file management purposes, please compress your figures as much as possible. You can provide hyperlinks to higher resolution versions of illustrations if you wish.