

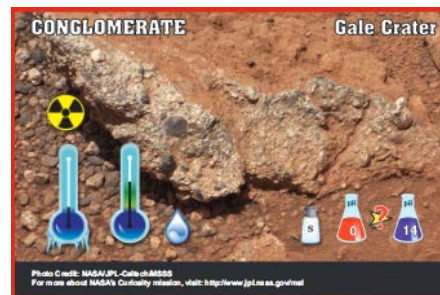
# Astrobiology Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial



Death Valley National Park's MarsFest event welcomed thousands of visitors on April 8-10, 2016. The NASA Astrobiology Program collaborated with colleagues across SMD to help the public understand the importance of Earth analog sites used by scientists to enable the search for life in the cosmos.

Astrobiologist Dr. Jack Farmer, aka "Dr. Rock," used rock samples to explain how NASA missions enable our understanding of where life might be found beyond Earth.

Students examined different types of microbes that can survive in extreme environments on Earth. The students were challenged to construct a model of their favorite extremophile and they took home their microbe and a card with the information about their extremophile.



The hands-on "Xtreme-o-philés" activity was used to help visitors understand where extremophiles live on Earth and where similar habitats might be found on other planets.

<http://marsed.asu.edu/content/xtreme-o-philés>