To Inspire the Next Generation of Explorers
...As Only NASA Can

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Great Midwestern Space Grant Consortium
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NASA Explorer Institutes

Mission Directorate Opportunities
Informal (Science) Education provides stimulating experiences for STEM learning outside of formal classroom environments through media, exhibits, and community-based programming. Its goals are to increase interest in, understanding of, and engagement with, STEM disciplines by individuals of all ages; to establish linkages between informal and formal education; and to stimulate parents and others to support their children’s STEM learning endeavors and to become informed proponents for high-quality, universally available STEM Education.

National Science Foundation, 2003
Goal 7: Engage the public in shaping and sharing the experience of exploration and discovery.

- **Objective 7.1**
  - Improve public understanding and appreciation of science and technology, including NASA aerospace technology, research, and exploration missions.

- **Outcome 7.1.1**
  - By 2008, establish a national program to engage the informal education community with NASA Science and Technology.

- **Outcome 7.1.2**
  - By 2008, provide instructional materials (and information) derived from NASA research and scientific activities that meet the needs of NASA’s informal education partners.

- **Outcome 7.1.3**
  - By 2008, provide professional development for NASA’s informal education partners.
NEI Program Goals

Increase interest in, understanding of and engagement with, individuals of all ages.

Establish linkages which promote new relationships between providers of informal education.

Increase the number of youth, particularly underrepresented and underserved communities. Expand STEM programs to areas currently without or minimally reached by, such opportunities.

Stimulate parents and others to support their children’s learning endeavors in formal and informal settings.

Encourage and implement innovative strategies that develop social responsibilities.
From Earth to Sky: An Innovative Partnership between the National Park Service and NASA

Girl Scouts USA/NASA Experiences: A Vision for Girls in Earth and Space Science

NASA Earth Explorers Institute: GSFC and the Maryland Science Center joint venture

Innovative Collaboration Involving NASA’s Office of Biological & Physical Research, NASA Langley & NC 4-H

Workshop for Informal Education Specialists (WIES) A Return to Flight public engagement workshop for informal education practitioners

NASA Informal Educational Partners for Excellence: LaRC, in partnership with Virginia Air and Space Center
Funding Opportunity

Up to 10 institutes, hosted by the informal education community at non-NASA locations, may be funded up to 50K each. The funds will be used to assemble experts from the informal education community to participate in regional focus groups.

Selection Process

Identify the needs of the informal education community.

Identify relevant NASA assets.

Discuss mechanisms that could be used to engage the informal education community with NASA resources.

Explore options to cooperatively develop instructional materials.

Identify potential professional development opportunities that could be made available to the informal education community at NASA facilities.
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Over 70 Notice of Intents to propose received by the Informal Education Division in response to this opportunity.
For More Information

http://education.nasa.gov

Or

http://research.hq.nasa.gov/code_n/nra/current/NNH04ZNI001C/index.html