

NEWS RELEASE

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NASA Program Coming to Northern Idaho Libraries

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho -- Idaho is one of 14 states to partner with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to bring the "NASA @ My Library" program to libraries throughout the Gem State, particularly those in small and/or rural areas. The traveling activity kits are utilized by library staff to enrich their programming related to earth and space science.

Goals of the program include using the lure of space to interest children in math and science and to expose youngsters in isolated and/or underserved areas of the state to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in fun, engaging ways.

The "NASA @ My Library" initiative kicked off in January 2019 and runs through December 2019.

Libraries in northern Idaho that will have a NASA kit available in the next few months include the following, with more added all the time:

- Community Library Network, Athol (early-to-mid August)
- West Bonner Library District, Kooskia (early-to-mid July); Priest River (early-to-mid July)

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) manages the "NASA @ My Library" program for the state. Idahoans can visit the ICfL's website, <https://libraries.idaho.gov/nasa/>, to find out if a library in their community is hosting an event using the "NASA @ My Library" kit. Educational support materials and outreach opportunities are provided by the STAR Library Network (STAR Net). For more about Star Net, visit: <https://www.starnetlibraries.org>.

Deputy State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White said, "We are excited to bring this unique, hands-on learning opportunity to communities throughout our state, particularly those with no such resources readily available." Bailey-White added, "The NASA @ My Library' program will provide youngsters -- and the young at heart -- with innovative tools to explore the wonders of science and space."

"The 'NASA @ My Library' program advances public libraries as community centers and critical hubs for lifelong learning," said Paul Dusenbery, director of the National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) and STAR Net.

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In addition to the program support provided to libraries from the ICfL, local space science experts will be mobilized to assist through NASA's Solar System Ambassadors and Night Sky Network.

"NASA @ My Library" is funded by NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD). For more information about the SMD, visit: <https://science.nasa.gov/learners>. Key national partners for the "NASA @ My Library" initiative include: the Space Science Institute and its National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) at ncil.spacescience.org; the American Library Association; the Cornerstones of Science, Lunar, and Planetary Institute, and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of the more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho to better serve their communities through: statewide programming and resources, like Read to Me and Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI); consulting; continuing education; partnerships; and aid to underserved populations, such as the visually impaired through the Talking Book Service. For more information, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov>.