

FAQs

James Webb Space Telescope (Webb) Community Events (from pre-launch and beyond)

What is the vision and goal of this initiative?

Webb will be the premier space science observatory of the next decade. It will study every phase of 13.5 billion years of cosmic history in our universe. Our goal is that with your help, Webb will captivate and inspire a new generation of space science enthusiasts, reaching a broader, more diverse audience than ever before.

Why are community partners so important for Webb?

Webb is the next in a legacy of space telescopes, like the Hubble Space Telescope. Webb is an investment taxpayers have made in our future to encourage a whole new generation of engineers, scientists, artists, and technology leaders. Communities all around the world should feel encouraged to explore the night sky with Webb and its data--to look up and wonder and explore.

What are the roles and responsibilities of official host sites?

To be designated an official host, your event must have a documented and communicated/posted safety plan, including COVID-19 considerations, as well as a virtual back-up plan for in-person events. We encourage you to have events that work to reach underserved audiences in their communities and host an event that is open to the public.

How can I find out what other sites are planning for launch events?

Please explore our map of events [here](#).

How will events be promoted?

Events will be promoted through a public map of community events. [Will hyperlink when the public map is ready]. There will also be a press release template to consider using if you choose to promote locally. For social media, we will be providing a kit for your (optional) use.

Should I create my event for the same day as launch?

Events can be supported for any time between Fall 2021 through the release of the first images six months after launch. There are a number of major milestones for the observatory in the interim as it prepares to begin science operations that you may wish to highlight in your events. In order to connect a Webb subject matter expert (SME) to your event, we require at least 2 months between your event date and the request for support. As Webb reaches its orbital destination and prepares to begin science operations, digital resources and activity guides are available for other events you may want to hold around other mission milestones.

Can I use the NASA logo on my event materials?

Community Events may not use the NASA logo (commonly referred to as “the meatball”) for personal identification or to advertise events unless the materials (print or digital) are provided by NASA. Community Events may use the Webb Space Telescope identifier, however.

Why should my community care that another space telescope is launching?

This inspirational mission, made possible by thousands of engineers and scientists, embodies NASA’s values of safety, teamwork, inclusion, and excellence. Its science will rewrite textbooks and inspire generations of learners and makers to come. With your help, we can work together to explore this fascinating science for the whole community to explore and feel empowered to learn more.

What are some key science goals of Webb?

The James Webb Space Telescope’s revolutionary technology will study every phase of cosmic history—from the first galaxies that formed after the big bang to newly discovered comets and moons in our solar system, and everything in space and time in between. This rich cosmic history is now within our reach with Webb! Some key goals are:

- Search for and discover some of the first galaxies in the Universe, expanding our understanding of the Early Universe.
- Study galaxies near and far, young and old, to understand how galaxies assemble and change over time.
- Uncover the details of how stars and planets are born, by using infrared wavelengths to see through the massive clouds of dust that enshroud them.
- Reveal new details of planets, within our own Solar System and beyond, to determine their formation and evolution and do comparative studies.

What does a new space telescope mean for the future of space science and STEM fields?

The James Webb Space Telescope is an orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the legacy of earlier space-based telescopes to push the boundaries of human knowledge even further, to the formation of the first galaxies and the horizons of other worlds. This will allow new science to be explored and pathways for STEM fields for life-long learners and many generations to come.

Timeline

When can I have my event?

Events can be supported for any time between October 2021 through after the release of the first images six months after launch.

How long does it take to be matched with a SME?

In order to connect a Webb subject matter expert to your event, we require at least 2 months between your event date and the request for support.

What are the dates/times for host training?

We will be providing *virtual* training on Tuesday, September 14, from 1:30-3 p.m. EDT and Thursday, September 23, from 2-3:30 p.m. EDT. The content will be the same at each session, and we will record the briefing for those who cannot make one of the live sessions. The agenda will cover a review of the information we have shared thus far, key themes for different audiences, key Webb science, best practices for working with expert speakers, and breakout sessions for small group discussions on virtual event strategies. If you plan to attend and need accommodation, please let us know a week in advance of the session you plan to attend. We will send a calendar invitation for the session soon, along with an RSVP request.

What are the dates/times for SME training?

We will be providing *virtual* training on Monday, September 13; Wednesday, September 22; and Thursday, September 30, from 2-3:30 p.m. EDT. We will be holding these training sessions to help you better understand the initiative, the audiences, and the resources that will be available to you.

Accessibility

Are there materials in accessible formats?

Yes! We have several [ASL videos](#) explaining key Webb facts. There are printable tactile models that you can explore [here](#).

Broadcast in ASL?

Yes! Webb launch will be broadcast in ASL.

Resources

What resources are available to help sites plan events?

Explore these [example events](#), [activity guides](#), [printable materials](#), and [general resource guides](#)!

What resources are available for sites specific for K-12 classrooms?

Check out the [K-12 tool kit](#) from NASA's Office of STEM Engagement for all things Webb in the classroom.

Engage K-12 students with phenomena and science practices using this [collection of supplementary digital media](#) resources created by GBH in collaboration with NASA.

Discover more with [the World Wide Telescope Astronomy Interactives](#).

What resources are available for sites specific for higher education?

Check out NASA's Universe of Learning's [science briefings](#) in collaboration with NASA's Museum and Informal Education Alliance and Solar System Ambassadors on the latest from experts in the field on the science Webb will explore.

Discover [ViewSpace](#), a web-based collection of digital interactives and videos highlighting the latest developments in astronomy and earth science.

Explore [MicroObservatory](#), where participants can learn to control their own ground based “MicroObservatories” - real robotic telescopes that can be commanded through this website.

What resources are available for libraries?

Check out STARNet’s [recorded webinar](#) on how libraries can use Webb launch to create fun and educational events for your communities.

What resources are available for science centers and museums?

Explore the [NISE Network Webb resource page](#) with links to relevant hands-on activities in both English and Spanish.

Explore the [NASA Museum & Informal Education Alliance](#) (login required).

What resources are available for staff training and professional development?

Check out this online professional development [workshop recording](#) from NISE Network about resources to engage the public in events around the launch of Webb. Hear what other museum and planetarium locations are planning for their events with the upcoming online workshop scheduled for August 30th! Register [here](#). (The workshop will also be recorded.)

What resources are available to help us promote our events?

Stay tuned! A Webb Media Kit will be available for all host sites early this Fall!

How can I request printed materials?

Once you are a designated host site, a main point of contact will be assigned to you. At that time, they will reach out to offer support and can navigate printed material requests.

What materials will be shipped to sites, and when will sites receive them?

Materials can be shipped out at the request of the host site. This is done on a case-by-case basis and will be communicated through their main point of contact. You can request (in limited quantities) posters, lithographs, bookmarks and decals. If you are able to print your own material, please go [here](#) and [here](#). Please consider using digital files when possible and reducing, reusing, and recycling hardcopy paper materials.

Subject Matter Experts

What resources are available for successfully using a subject matter expert?

Learn about the different ways to engage a subject matter expert [here](#).

How do I request a subject matter expert?

To request a subject matter expert, go [here](#).

What resources are available to give a talk on Webb?

Stay tuned! A modular slide deck has been created to give a talk on Webb and Webb science with included links, resources, and scripts all in the notes pane. This template presentation will be in English and in Spanish. This Resource will be available early this Fall!!

Support

What kind of support will NASA provide to official host sites for launch community events?

The level of support that NASA can provide to official host sites are:

- Printable materials (digital files and/or shipped materials)
- Subject matter expert matching to your event
- Resources and trainings
- One on one support with a main point of contact to troubleshoot your event details
- Access to experts in the fields for webinars in your community

Can NASA support more than one event for the same institution?

Hosts may plan multiple events -- we love the enthusiasm! However, NASA will be able to provide a set amount of support (including only one subject matter expert) no matter how many events a host is planning.

More information / who to contact

Where/how can I find out more about the mission?

Check out the mission website [here](#) for the latest updates on launch and explore [here](#) for the latest in media and news features.

Where do I sign up to be an official host site?

Go to our [community events website](#) to sign up to be an official host for future milestones.

Is it too late to do an event for Webb launch?

The window to become an official host site for launch is now closed but you can still plan to host an event for launch! Our level of support will be limited at this time, but If you want access to digital files for printable materials for your event, explore [here](#) and [here](#).

How do I find out who my point of contact is and what level of communication should I expect?

Your point of contact will reach out to you via email or phone and will communicate with you up until your event. They will be able to offer email correspondence, video calls, and speak with you to troubleshoot planning your event.

How do I know if my institution is an official host site?

Check out our public map of official host sites [here](#).

Who do I contact about physical materials for my event?

Please reach out to your main point of contact for information regarding materials.

For more about Webb, go to Mission [FAQs](#).