STEM Celebrations!
Solar Eclipses, Moon landings, Earth Day 50th anniversary, International Year of Periodic Table

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Simultaneous celebrations are an exciting way for public audiences to engage in STEM content both inside and outside museum walls. Informal Science Education (ISE) institutions can capture audience attention and transform interest in large-scale anniversaries and events into meaningful public engagement in STEM locally. It is also a great way to leverage shared planning and hands-on activities, resources, and tools developed on a national and international scale.

Solar Eclipses

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon blocks the Sun causing shadow on the Earth, on average a total eclipse takes places once every eighteen months, but often not in populated areas. A total eclipse took place August 21, 2017 allowing many people in North American to see the eclipse. People in Chile and Argentina were able to see the total eclipse on July 2, 2019. The next North American total eclipse will take place on April 8, 2024.

Resources:
- https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov
- https://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipses
- https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov
- https://informal.gi.nasa.gov/museum/content/eclipse-2017

Apollo 50th Anniversary

This summer, the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing brought the world together - once again - to celebrate humans first setting foot on another world. The Apollo 50th anniversary continue through 2022 and offer opportunities to celebrate the past plus look forward to future human exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

Resources:
- https://spaceflight.nasa.gov
- https://www.nasa.gov/apollo50
- https://informal.gi.nasa.gov/museum/apollo-50th-resources
- Planning calendar for all things space and NASA: https://informal.gi.nasa.gov/museum/calendar

National Chemistry Week

National Chemistry Week is a community based program of the American Chemical Society (ACS). This annual event unites ACS local sections, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to our quality of life.

Resources:
- https://www.acs.org/ncw
- https://www.nisenet.org/national-chemistry-week
- https://www.nisenet.org/chemistry-kit

International Year of the Periodic Table

The Periodic Table of Chemical Elements is one of the most significant achievements in science; it is a unique tool capturing the appearance and properties of matter on the Earth and in the rest of the Universe. 2019 is the 150th anniversary since Dmitri Mendeleev discovered this system.

Resources:
- https://www.iupac.org
- https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatiscem/periodictable.html
- https://www.nisenet.org/events/other/IYPT2019

Collaborating with Experts

Subject matter experts can be a powerful ingredient for your special STEM events, plan ahead by:
- recruit early
- communicate expectations and logistics
- offering training and orientation
- partner with diversity serving professional societies

Resources:
- Serve Professional Societies list: https://www.nisenet.org/Audiences
- Portal to the Public: https://popnet.instituteforlearninginnovation.org

STEM Festivals and Celebrations

El Paso Texas and and Las Cruces New Mexico Space Festivals

Twice per year, over 25 organizations collaborate to celebrate space exploration and adventure in the Border Region with week-long annual regional space festivals in Las Cruces, NM (spring) and El Paso, TX (fall). Space Festivals provide a dynamic platform for informal educators and industry leaders to spark enthusiasm for space exploration with diverse range of communities.

Upcoming events:
- El Paso Space Festival: September 28th - October 5th, 2019
- Las Cruces Space Festival: March 30- April 4th, 2020

Resources for festivals
- Science Festival Alliance https://sciencefestival.org

Lift Off: Apollo + Beyond North Carolina year-long campaign

A consortium of seven different organizations all dedicated to helping citizens learn about and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission delivered a healthy dose of space mania across NC from October 2018 through December 2019. Participants enjoyed festivals, exhibits, lunar and star parties, movies, rocket launches, space camps, astronomy days, musical performances, educational programming, a few Star Wars-themed events. A local brewery even launched a limited-edition beer called Lift Off!

Resources for festivals
- NISE Network – Explore Earth & Space (ISE) https://nisenet.org
- Resources to Plan Ahead:
- https://www.nisenet.org/events
- https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatiscem/periodictable.html
- https://www.nisenet.org/national-chemistry-week
- https://www.nasa.gov/apollo50
- https://spaceflight.nasa.gov
- https://informal.gi.nasa.gov/museum/calendar

Upcoming Events

2020 - Earth Day 50th anniversary April 22, 2020 www.earthday.org
2024 – Total solar eclipse in North American April 8, 2024

NISE Network – Explore Earth & Space: Let’s Do Chemistry project
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