

ROADS on Mars Challenge

AZ Newsletter

Dec 13, 2019

Welcome!

We currently have 15 teams registered from organizations across the state! We need at least 20 registered and 10 competing in May to qualify for the grand prize trip.

Here's what you can do:

- If you haven't registered, sign up now. It takes about 15 minutes and totally unbinding.
- Sign up all your teams.
- If you have a team of 10 or more, split that into two teams and register the other.
- Tell your friends and colleagues to sign up!

Here is the link to register:

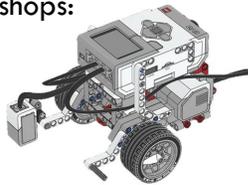
<https://nwessp.org/mars/registration/>

Register now!

Professional Development Workshops

Interested in Beginner Robotics and Drone education? Want to lead a ROADS on Mars team and need to know how to get started? Already leading a team and have questions? Attend one or more PD Workshops:

Dec 20, 2019	Tuba City, AZ
Jan 4, 2020	Flagstaff, AZ
Jan 10, 2020	Miami, AZ
Jan 11, 2020	Tucson, AZ
Jan 17, 2020	Tuba City, AZ (Register by Jan 13)



For more information or to register email: Anne.Hamlin@nau.edu

Did You Know?

On its first birthday, the Curiosity Rover sang itself "Happy Birthday!" It used the vibrations that result from the Sample Analysis on Mars (SAM) chemistry lab to stop for a couple minutes on August 5, 2013 and sing itself a Happy Birthday 1st birthday. Since then, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, Curiosity has been using its nuclear battery power to collect scientific data and make amazing scientific discoveries. For example, we now know that Mars had persistent liquid water and a thicker atmosphere in the past. Mars also has the right chemistry to support life, organic carbon in its soil, and methane in its atmosphere. What do you think Curiosity should use its precious power supply for? Learn more about the birthday song: <https://tinyurl.com/ROADShpybday> Learn more about Curiosity's discoveries: <https://tinyurl.com/ROADScuriosity>



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Troubleshooting Corner

Ready to hit the ground running? Start in on the Science Mini-Challenges! The Erosion mini-challenge is due February 3rd and may count as points towards your competition score in May. Here's a tip: If you don't want to build an erosion table, go outside with a couple trowels and water jugs. In most parts of Arizona, loose sediment isn't too hard to come by. Have your team members loosen the dirt and build it into a small hill, then go about your mini-challenge as described in the [manual](#).

If you have an idea for a troubleshooting tip send it to Anne.Hamlin@nau.edu

Resource Spotlight

Here are key resources that will help get you going. All are links to shared online resources:

1. Check out the UW national [program website](#)
2. Check out the [AZ Regional Challenge website](#)
3. [Register a team](#) - It take 15 minutes and it's completely unbinding
4. Download the [ROADS on Mars Official Manual](#) - Get the full description of the challenge and rules
5. Check out the [Educator Resources Folder](#) in Google Drive
6. [Download the LEGO MINDSTORM Education software](#) for EV3 robot programming - It takes about 30 minutes to download and install

Schedule

Our schedule here in Arizona is different from the national schedule. Check it out:

- Sept 23, 2019 Registration opened
- Nov-Jan, 2019 Professional Development
- Dec 16, 2019 Virtual Meet a Mars Scientist
- Jan 13, 2019 School Year Registration closes
- Jan 15, 2020 Virtual Team Support Meeting
- Feb 3, 2019 Erosion Mini-Challenge Due
- Feb 5, 2020 Virtual Meet a Mars Scientist
- Feb 24, 2020 Search for Life Due
- Mar 16, 2020 Mission Patch Due
- Mar 31, 2020 Teams Nominated
- Apr 6, 2020 Invitations Announced
- May 1-2, 2020 Regional Challenge
- Jul 17-Aug 5 Grand Prize Window
- June-July, 2020 Summer Competition TBA



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