

# ROADS on Mars Challenge

## AZ Newsletter

Jan 24, 2020

### Welcome!

We have at least 38 teams registered from 31 organizations across the state! Congrats to all of us for pushing over the 20 required mark and qualifying for the grand prize. But we aren't there yet, at least 10 have to attend the regional competition. So if there is something standing in the way of your team participating this May, please reach out at [Anne.Hamlin@nau.edu](mailto:Anne.Hamlin@nau.edu). Hope to see everyone there!

### Resource Spotlight

Here are additional resources to make your team competitive:

1. The score sheets are out! See how much each objective is worth and what to prioritize for your specific team dynamics.  
<https://tinyurl.com/RoadsAZscoring>
2. Make your own practice mat with butcher paper, rulers, markers, and page 26 of the [ROADS on Mars Official Manual](#). If you have funding, order one from NESSP by emailing [nwessp@uw.edu](mailto:nwessp@uw.edu)
3. Submit the mini-challenges at the NESSP Team Portal and get points in the bag.  
<https://tinyurl.com/RoadsAZsubmit>
4. We included many more useful links for getting started in our December newsletter. If you haven't read it, check it out here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/RoadsAZnews1>

### Arizona Schedule

There has been some confusion about differences from the national schedule. Please use only our deadlines if you are planning on participating in Arizona. All events and deadlines are later than the national schedule:

- 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 Launch Window
- June-July, 2020 Summer Competition TBA



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### Troubleshooting Corner

Mini challenges are due in February!

The Landscape morphology mini challenge is due Feb 3rd and includes two videos to be posted to social media and uploaded to the [NESSP team portal](#). Check out our [December newsletter](#) for an AZ-specific tip on these and the [Manual](#) for complete instructions.



The Search for Life mini challenge is due February 24 and includes a methane detection map submitted on the [team portal](#) and an entry in your team's mission development log. Check out [NESSP's video](#) on using your methane detector. The map of your community could be as small as your school grounds. Give your team 2 examples to try and then turn them loose to discover new methane sources. Some examples include: dumpsters, compost heaps, fish tanks, and potted plants (dig into the soil a little). If you have an idea for a troubleshooting tip send it to [Anne.Hamlin@nau.edu](mailto:Anne.Hamlin@nau.edu)



### Did You Know?

Every Mars rover was named by a student? NASA's first rover, which landed in 1997 was named Sojourner by a 12-year old student in Connecticut. In 2004, Spirit and Opportunity were named by a 3rd grade student here in Arizona. Curiosity was named by a 6th grader in Kansas in 2012. Sound familiar? These are also the ROADS on Mars challenge divisions. But it doesn't stop there. NASA is holding a contest for students to name the 2020 rover too. Mars rovers are named for characteristics of the human spirit that motivate and help us to explore. What would you name the next rover? Submissions ended in November but you can still vote in the public poll, which closes Jan 27th:

<https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/participate/name-the-rover/>

Read more at

<https://tinyurl.com/RoadsAZrovers>



The Mars 2020 mission patch.



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