

NASA Inspires Futures for Tomorrow’s Youth (NIFTY)

Request for Participation

The NIFTY project goal is to connect NASA role models with library STEM programs for underserved youth and their families. Outreach programs will run in 2023 and 2025.

We are looking for 15 public libraries to participate in the NASA Inspires Futures for Tomorrow’s Youth (NIFTY) program. Prior to beginning your application, we strongly encourage you to review the eligibility criteria, FAQs, and scoring rubric. **This request for participation (RFP) will be focused on public libraries from Minnesota, Tennessee, Arizona, and California.** Successful applicants will have clear plans to reach groups historically underrepresented in STEM fields, specifically, Hispanic or Latino/a/x communities, and demonstrate a desire to hold youth-focused space science-themed programs that include the use of NASA STEM professional role models. Geographic diversity will also be considered in the selection - libraries from all communities, including rural and small libraries, are encouraged to apply. Libraries must commit to the programming requirements listed in the application which includes running multigenerational NASA-themed STEM programs with 10 youth (ages 9-14), open to other family members and involves at least one NASA role model. If selected, the library will receive a \$5000 stipend, professional development for two staff, STEM activities and materials to support programs, and support in connecting with NASA role models.

If your library does not meet these criteria, your application is unlikely to be competitive. We encourage you to join STAR Net (<http://www.starnetlibraries.org/register/>) to stay informed of other resources and opportunities that may be a better fit for your community.

Project Requirements

As a requirement for participating in NIFTY, libraries are expected to participate in the following activities:

| June 2023 | July – December 2023 | November 2024 | January – June 2025 |
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| Professional Development for two library staff | 10 hours of NASA-themed STEM programs with at least one Role Model and families (Round 1) | Professional Development for two library staff | 10 hours of NASA-themed STEM programs with Role Models and families (Round 2) |

Professional Development in 2023 and 2024 will consist of two virtual workshops. During these workshops, library staff will be prepared to use the [SciGirls Strategies](#), a set of instructional practices that are gender equitable and culturally responsive and focus on the importance of an inclusive learning environment. [SciGirls’ Engaging Latinx Family Guide](#) designed to engage Latinx families in culturally relevant ways will also be presented.

NASA-themed STEM programs in 2023 and 2025 will show evidence of the use of gender equitable and culturally responsive practices, including the use of at least one NASA role model (virtual or in-person), in NASA-themed STEM programs. Each round of programs should be at a length suitable for public libraries with at least 10 hours of contact with 10 middle school-aged youth (for example, a weekly hour-long STEM program that runs for ten weeks).

Additionally, library staff are expected to participate in the following evaluation activities:

- Complete a Needs Assessment survey (winter/spring of 2023)
- Complete a Post-Professional Development survey (summer 2023 and winter 2024)
- Complete a Post-Program survey (winter/spring 2023 and summer 2025)
- Distribute a Family Survey at the end of each round of NASA-themed STEM programs
- (Optional) three sites in 2023 and three sites in 2025 will have one program observed by the evaluator.

Does your library have capacity to attend the professional development, host two rounds of NASA-themed STEM programs (of 10 hours each), and complete the evaluation activities? Please consider whether you would be able to host virtual and/or socially distanced events if needed. *

Choices:

Yes

No

Unsure

Contact Information

Project Point of Contact*

First and Last Name

Job Title

Library System

Branch/Department

Email

Phone number

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City

State

Zip Code

EIN/Tax ID

Library and Community Information

Library Type*

Choices:

Public Library (Single or Regional Branch)

Public Library (Multiple Branches)

Tribal

Community Type*

Choices:

Rural

Rural/Suburb
Suburb
Suburb/Urban
Urban

Optional: Use this space to share more about the identity of your community, for example if you are in an urban area but serve surrounding rural community members

Please answer the questions below based on data available through the [U.S. Census Bureau's Quick Facts](#).

Population Estimate*

Choices:

<4,999
5000-9,999
10,000-24,999
25,000-74,999
75,000-149,999
150,000-499,999
>500,000

Demographics

Hispanic or Latino, percent*

Choices:

<18%
18-30%
31-50%
>50%

Black or African American, percent*

Choices:

<13%
13-25%
26-40%
>40%

American Indian and Alaska Native, percent*

Choices:

<1%
1-5%
6-10%
>10%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent*

Choices:

- <1%
- 1-5%
- 6-10%
- >10%

Additional Demographic Information

- Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+
- Persons in poverty, percentage
- Median household income (in dollars)
- High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+
- None of these apply

Alternate Demographic information (optional)

If you know that your community’s above demographics are significantly underreported or not captured in the questions above, please use the space provided to describe the demographics of the community your library serves.

Library Capacity

Hours of operation*

Staff support*: please name any team members who will be working with you on this project and briefly describe their role. Your team can include library staff members, interns, youth advisory boards, and volunteers, as well as other individuals who have agreed to contribute.

In the last calendar year, how many programs did you offer for youth ages 9-14 (approximately)?

What was the average number of attendees at those programs?

- 1-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- More than 20
- Other

Additional Information (optional)

If you would like to provide additional information regarding your community and/or library capacity to participate that was not already captured above, please use this space to do so.

Narrative Proposal

Involvement in NASA-themed STEM Programming*

Describe how your organization has developed/implemented Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programming, including any programs on space science. In your response, please address your organization's past experience and future hopes in STEM. What STEM-related programs or topics has your organization offered to your community, and for what age groups? How will participation in the *NIFTY* project further your organization's goals regarding STEM education?

If you have not offered STEM programming before, what interests you about STEM in the library? What STEM/space science topics would you like to explore with your community? How will participation in *NIFTY* help build your library's capacity to offer STEM programming?

Interest in Role Models*

Describe your organization's interest in inviting NASA STEM Role Models to your programs. Have you had opportunities to incorporate Role Models, such as subject-matter experts, scientists, or other guest speakers in youth programming before? How do you think access to NASA role models will impact your community? Describe how access to diverse NASA STEM Role Models may benefit youth, especially girls and other historically excluded genders in STEM, which includes cis girls, trans youth, gender non-conforming, and/or non-binary youth.

Experience with Diverse Communities*

Discuss your plans for engaging members of the community who are historically excluded in STEM fields, specifically Hispanic or Latino/a/x communities and girls and other historically excluded genders in STEM, which includes cis girls, trans youth, gender non-conforming, and/or non-binary youth.

Describe two or more community partnerships you can utilize to reach these communities.

Supporting Materials

Letter of Support: If you are not the director of your library, please provide a brief letter of support from your library leadership indicating an awareness and commitment to the *NIFTY* project requirements. .

Reviewer Rubric

| NIFTY Rubric | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Narrative Question 1: Involvement in STEM Programming</p> | <p>Library describes their current/previous STEM programming (or interest in starting STEM programming), including at least one example of STEM topics they have or will offer to their community with specified age groups. Library describes how participation in this project will support library goals.</p> | <p>Library provides a description of their STEM programming (or interest in starting STEM programming) but does not provide an example of STEM topics offered to their community. Library describes how participation in this project will support library goals.</p> | <p>Library either provides a description of their STEM programming (or interest in starting STEM programming) OR how they envision the project will support their library's STEM goals, but not both.</p> | <p>Library does not clearly describe their STEM programming (or interest in starting STEM programming) and does not identify how participation in this project will support library STEM goals/initiatives.</p> |
| <p>Narrative Question 2: Interest in Role Models</p> | <p>Library addresses all three of these points: 1. Describes a clear interest in inviting role models to programs, 2. Addresses how this programming will impact their community, and 3. Describes how access to role models may benefit youth.</p> | <p>Library addresses two of these points: 1. Describes a clear interest in inviting role models to programs, 2. Addresses how this programming will impact their community, and 3. Describes how access to role models may benefit youth.</p> | <p>Library addresses one of these points: 1. Describes a clear interest in inviting role models to programs, 2. Addresses how this programming will impact their community, and 3. Describes how access to role models may benefit youth.</p> | <p>Library response does not demonstrate an interest in inviting role models to programs and does not address how this programming will impact their community or youth.</p> |
| <p>Narrative Question 3: Experience with Diverse Communities</p> | <p>Library describes a detailed plan for engaging members of the community who are historically excluded in STEM fields. Library describes two or more community partnerships that can help them reach these communities.</p> | <p>Library provides a clear plan for engaging members of the community historically excluded in STEM fields and identifies one partnership that can help them reach these communities.</p> | <p>Library provides a clear plan for engaging members of the community historically excluded in STEM fields OR identifies partnerships that can help them reach these communities, but not both.</p> | <p>Library response does not provide an adequate plan for engaging members of the community who are historically excluded in STEM fields and does not identify any community partnerships that can help them reach these communities.</p> |

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|---------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Overall Application | Library answers all application prompts, required letters of support indicate library and community buy-in, and responses indicate a strong interest in and commitment to carrying out project activities. Application demonstrates strong need for resources to support STEM opportunities in community. Application clearly and explicitly demonstrates that library has sufficient staff and/or volunteer support to carry out project activities. | Library answers all application prompts, has strong letters of support, and indicates commitment to carrying out project activities. Application indicates that library has sufficient staff and/or volunteer support to carry out project activities. OR Application is missing some detail or lacks strong support letters, but still demonstrates strong need for resources to support STEM opportunities in community. | Library mostly answers application prompts and indicates strong interest but is missing one required document. Application is unclear regarding staff/volunteer support. OR Library has completed the application, but answers or attachments do not convincingly demonstrate library interest or need. | Library does not adequately answer application prompts, does not include letters of support, and/or does not demonstrate interest in or capacity to carry out project activities. Application does not indicate staff or volunteer support. |
|---------------------|---|--|---|---|

Additional considerations

Project staff will review responses to demographic questions and add additional points to the total score based on the following:

| Additional Considerations | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Community Demographics | Community demographics demonstrate need through four of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Language spoken other than English >25% · Persons in poverty >15% · Household income <\$50,000 · High School graduation <80% | Community demographics demonstrate need through three of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Language spoken other than English >25% · Persons in poverty >15% · Household income <\$50,000 · High School graduation <80% | Community demographics demonstrate need through two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Language spoken other than English >25% · Persons in poverty >15% · Household income <\$50,000 · High School graduation <80% | Community demographics demonstrate need through one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Language spoken other than English >25% · Persons in poverty >15% · Household income <\$50,000 · High School graduation <80% |

