

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



EXPLORE SCIENCE

Virtual Programs with NASA Scientists for Public Libraries

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Virtual Programs with NASA Scientists for Public Libraries

Virtual Programs with NASA Scientists were conducted to create memorable experiences, by providing opportunities for patrons to “meet” and engage in meaningful two-way discussions with scientists.

- Virtual Programs included an icebreaker, a short presentation, and a demonstration or activity.
- Sixteen programs were conducted August - October 2020 by public libraries working with NASA-funded scientists, facilitated by NASA@ My Library.
- Ten NASA-funded scientists were prepared by NASA@ My Library, with 9 conducting programs.
- 1,700 patrons attended (1,355 from two livestreamed programs).



Library staff, presenters, and patrons enjoyed the programs.

Initial Evaluation (surveys, polls, interviews) found that the programs benefited the library staff, scientists, and patrons.

- Patrons showed increased interest in learning more about space science and the opportunity to hear a scientist speak about their work (a first experience for many patrons).
- Library staff showed increased awareness of how to effectively include a scientist in a library program.
- Scientists indicated increased interest in participating in public outreach and increased interest in virtual outreach activities.

"We are so thankful for all the scientists...having the opportunity to get an expert to talk virtually is awesome!" –Librarian quote

"[The most valuable aspect of the preparation was] the assistance I received ... on making my talk more children and young family friendly." –Scientist quote

"it's intriguing to see someone that involved and passionate in science." "I loved [the scientist's] presentation and her responses to questions. She did a great job of showing how scientists study Mars, and how young people can prepare themselves to become explorers in the future."—Patrons' quotes



Library staff created a model of a comet nucleus and measured its temperature and weight, and showed it in infrared.