



## Program Overview

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Mission2Mars aims to build a new nationwide astronomy engagement program that will catalyze dozens of national and community partnerships around NASA’s space exploration agenda. The Franklin Institute will convene and lead a national network of ten informal science institutions (ISIs) in recruiting and training community-based organizations (CBOs) and amateur astronomers (AAs) to deliver Mission2Mars programming to families and youth in grades 4-8 with emphasis on marginalized populations in STEM.

This three-year program relies on a cascading series of professional development experiences that will equip ISIs, CBOs, and AAs with the skills and resources to develop and deploy high-quality astronomy engagement experiences that center on NASA’s Artemis program, the long-range goal of the human exploration of Mars and their accompanying educational resources.

## Program Goals and Dissemination Plan

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The goal of Mission2Mars is to create community-based ecosystems of engagement around NASA’s Artemis lunar exploration program, in order to help NASA achieve its strategic objective to “inspire, engage, educate, and employ the next generation of explorers through NASA-unique STEM learning opportunities,” specifically reaching marginalized populations in STEM fields including people of color, low socioeconomic status populations, and low-resourced rural and urban communities.

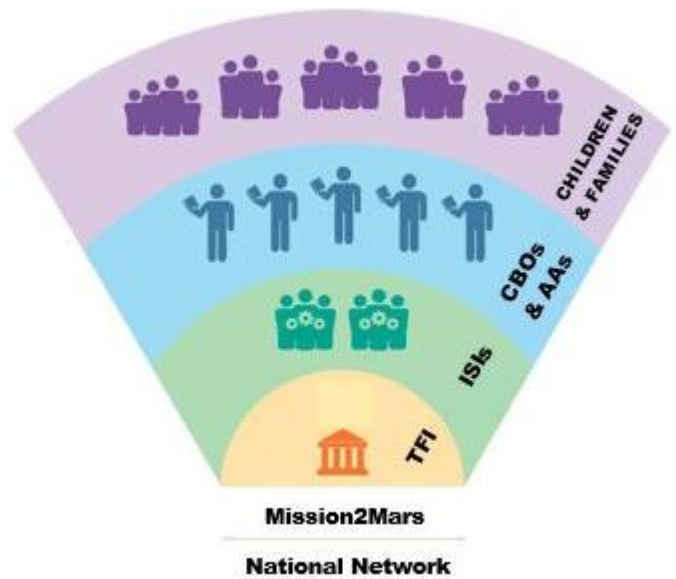
### Goals by Audience

- For **children and caregivers** to deepen their engagement with and awareness of NASA’s educational resources, specifically content related to the Artemis program, as well as to connect space exploration to what they see in the sky.
- For **amateur astronomers** to build knowledge, skills, and confidence in the implementation of engaging astronomy programs, specifically Artemis program content; and build collaborative relationships with informal science institutions and community-based organizations to effectively disseminate programming.
- For **community-based organizations** to build knowledge, skills, and confidence in science communication; increase capacity for hosting engaging science events for children and families; build effective collaborative relationships with museums and amateur astronomers.
- For **informal science institutions** to become effective hubs of expertise for activating their communities around NASA’s Artemis program and to build their capacity for training and engaging marginalized communities in NASA content.



## National Dissemination Plan

Ten informal science institutions (ISIs) will join the Mission2Mars Network, divided into two cohorts. In the first year, a cohort of five ISIs will be trained in the program delivery model. Each ISI will recruit and train five community-based organizations (CBOs) and fifteen amateur astronomers (AAs). Each CBO will facilitate four community events resulting in the delivery of twenty events in each community and 100 community events nationwide. In the second year, a new cohort of five ISIs and accompanying CBOs and AAs will be recruited and trained in the program delivery model while Cohort One facilitates their second year of events, resulting in 200 community events nationwide. In the third and final year, Cohorts One and Two will continue to deliver twenty events each in collaboration with their trained CBOs and AAs for a total of 200 community events nationwide in the third year. In total, the Mission2Mars program will result in 500 community astronomy programs nationwide over its three-year lifespan.



| Years | Curriculum Theme |                      |          |                      |
|-------|------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 2022  | Cohort 1         | Moon                 |          |                      |
| 2023  | Cohort 1         | Mars + Solar Eclipse | Cohort 2 | Moon + Solar Eclipse |
| 2024  | Cohort 1         | All                  | Cohort 2 | Mars                 |