

GENTLE.NEWS

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"You never fail until you stop trying."

— Albert Einstein

NASA Plans Fifth Private Space Mission

NASA has chosen Axiom Space for an exciting new mission to the International Space Station. This will be their fifth private astronaut mission together.

The mission is planned to launch in January 2027 from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Four astronauts will spend up to 14 days living and working in space.

This shows how private companies are now helping with space travel. It's not just something for the future anymore. It's happening right now.

The astronauts will do science experiments while they're in space. They will also test new equipment and learn new things that will help future space missions.

NASA says these missions help prepare for longer trips to the Moon and Mars someday. Each mission teaches us more about living and working in space.

Mars Rover Makes History with Smart Computer Brain

NASA's robot car on Mars just did something amazing. For the first time, a smart computer planned where the rover should drive.

The rover is called Perseverance. It has been exploring Mars for years. Usually, people on Earth tell it where to go. But this time was different.

The smart computer looked at pictures of the rocky ground. It figured out the safest path all by itself. Then Perseverance drove along that path for two days in December.

This is very exciting for space travel. The computer brain can help robots explore places that are very far from Earth. When robots visit distant planets, messages take a long time to travel back and forth.

NASA says this new technology will help us learn more about other worlds. The smart computer can help robots work faster and explore more safely. It's like giving the robot its own helpful brain to make good choices.

Rare Butterflies and Gophers Get New Protected Homes

Good news for two special animals in Washington state! The Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and Mazama pocket gopher are getting extra help to stay safe.

These little creatures are very rare. The butterfly has pretty orange and black spots. The pocket gopher is a tiny underground animal that helps keep soil healthy.

A power company is working with wildlife experts to protect them. They are setting aside special land where these animals can live safely forever.

The butterfly needs open grasslands with wildflowers. The pocket gopher likes soft prairie soil where it can dig tunnels. Both animals will have protected homes where they can raise their families.

This shows how people and companies can work together to help nature. When we take care of small animals, we help keep our world balanced and beautiful.

Scientists Share Rocky Mountain Park Discoveries

Rocky Mountain National Park is hosting a special event. Scientists will share their latest discoveries about nature.

The conference is called "Park Stewardship: From Discovery to Decision." It happens every two years. This year it takes place March 4th and 5th.

The meeting is at The Holiday Inn in Estes Park, Colorado. Researchers will talk about the animals and plants they study. They will share how they protect the beautiful mountain area.

Scientists study many things in the park. They watch wildlife like elk and bears. They check on the health of trees and flowers. They also study the clean mountain air and water.

This work helps keep the park healthy for everyone. Visitors can enjoy nature because scientists care for it. Their discoveries help make good choices for the future.

NASA Honors Space Science Team

Four NASA scientists received special awards for their amazing work in space.

The team works on something called the Cold Atom Lab. It is NASA's first quantum laboratory that works in space. This special lab helps scientists learn new things about how tiny particles behave.

Kamal Oudrhiri won an award for being an outstanding leader. He guided the whole Cold Atom Lab project with great skill.

Jason Williams got an award for his scientific work. He did the first experiments using atoms to sense movement in space. Sarah Rees won an early career award. She helped fix problems and keep the lab working well.

Ethan Elliott also received an award. He created the first quantum gas mixtures in space. His work helps scientists do new kinds of tests. All four scientists are helping NASA learn more about space. Their hard work makes new discoveries possible. The awards show how much NASA values their contributions.

Activity Time - Word Search

Find the words below in the puzzle. Words go across or down only.

Words to Find:

COMPUTER MISSION SPACE ROBOT
ROVER YEARS MARS

D	Y	E	A	R	S	K	T	U	I	Z
K	N	S	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R
V	I	W	M	A	R	S	V	T	K	L
F	B	Q	L	N	V	W	P	W	L	F
R	S	R	O	B	O	T	A	F	B	L
H	N	G	P	W	U	U	X	S	J	X
V	S	P	A	C	E	K	J	P	W	R
K	U	R	E	Z	B	L	W	I	L	O
Q	L	N	J	T	C	W	J	K	X	V
Q	M	Y	V	P	P	N	Y	O	Z	E
C	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	T	J	R