

GENTLE.NEWS

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"A good book is an event in my life."

— Stendhal

NASA's New Astronauts Train for the Moon and Beyond

Ten new NASA astronaut candidates are working hard to prepare for space missions. They joined NASA in September 2025 and are now halfway through their training. The program lasts nearly two years.

These future astronauts are learning many skills. One day they may travel to low Earth orbit, the Moon, or even Mars. That is an exciting goal to work toward!

Geology is a big part of their training. Geology is the study of rocks and land. The candidates took classes in Houston, Texas. Then they went outdoors to practice in New Mexico. They hiked through beautiful national monument land and studied rocks up close.

In July, the candidates also traveled to Iceland. There they practiced collecting rock samples using special tools. They worked on navigation and teamwork too. These same skills will help them explore the surface of the Moon someday.

It is wonderful to think that these ten people are preparing to walk on the Moon. Their hard work and curiosity are inspiring. The future of space exploration is in very good hands!

Scientists Watch for El Niño's Arrival on the West Coast

Have you heard of El Niño? It is a natural weather pattern that warms parts of the Pacific Ocean. Scientists are watching closely for its arrival on the West Coast.

The tropical Pacific Ocean, near the Equator, is already warmer than usual. This is often the first sign that El Niño is building. But the West Coast usually feels its effects a few months later.

Scientists from NOAA track the ocean carefully. They watch for rising sea levels along the coast. Special ocean waves travel underwater from the tropics all the way north. Tiny rises in sea level show that these waves have arrived.

These waves are like a signal. They travel from near the Equator up through Central America and along the coast. Instruments and satellites help scientists spot them. It is amazing how connected our oceans really are!

Researchers say bigger changes may come this fall and winter. They will keep watching the water and the wildlife. El Niño brings change, but nature is full of wonder. It is exciting to think that scientists can read the ocean like a storybook.

Bird Expert Brings Passion to New Wildlife Role

A young scientist who loves birds has joined a special team in Maryland. His name is Matt Hixson. He studies birds and helps protect them across America.

Matt grew up in Illinois. He first fell in love with birds in 2021. He began watching them and learning all about them. He helped count birds and keep them safe.

After finishing college, Matt traveled to five different states for his bird work. He studied night birds like the Whip-poor-will and the tiny Saw-whet Owl. He also helped protect the rare Golden-cheeked Warbler in Texas. This little songbird has a bright yellow face.

Bird banding is an important part of Matt's work. It means placing a tiny, safe tag on a bird's leg. This helps scientists track where birds travel each season. Matt has banded birds at stations in South Carolina and Montana too.

Now Matt has a new job at the Bird Banding Laboratory. He will help band birds three times every week. He will also check data and help keep bird records accurate. His care and knowledge will help protect wild birds for many years to come.

NASA Picks New Studies to Keep Astronauts Healthy in Space

NASA has chosen 12 new research projects to help astronauts stay healthy and well-fed in space. The work covers two big areas: growing food and keeping the human body strong during space travel.

Six projects focus on growing plants in space. Some will study how food crops grow in unusual conditions. Others will look at special plants that can survive without water for a long time. Scientists call these "resurrection plants." One project studies tiny green algae and how they survive in space. All of this work could help feed future crews on the Moon and Mars.

The other six projects focus on astronaut health. Researchers want to know how space travel changes the body over time. They are looking at things like dust on the Moon and how it might affect breathing. Others are testing medicines that could help keep astronauts feeling their best during long missions.

This research could one day help people here on Earth too. Learning how the body handles stress in space may lead to better health treatments for everyone. Scientists are excited about what they might discover.

NASA says this work brings us closer to safe, long journeys to the Moon and Mars. It is a hopeful step forward for all of humanity.

Big Investment Helps Small Businesses Share New Inventions

A major American science group is helping small businesses turn big ideas into real products. The National Science Foundation is spending \$20 million to make this happen.

Many small companies create amazing new technologies. But turning a great idea into a product is hard. This program helps bridge that gap. It gives businesses the support they need to succeed.

The two-year program will offer expert advice and connections to investors. Mentors will guide small business owners every step of the way. This help makes it easier for new ideas to reach people.

A university in Florida is leading the effort. The University of Central Florida will run the program. Its president said discoveries matter most when they improve real lives. That is exactly the goal here.

When new technologies reach the market, everyone benefits. New products can make life easier and better for people across the country. This program is a wonderful step toward a brighter future for American invention and creativity.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

- BANDING GEOLOGY HEALTH SPACE
- ALGAE WAVES CROPS

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