

GENTLE.NEWS

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"I am too fond of reading books to care to write them."

— Oscar Wilde

Young Scientists Win Grants to Solve Big Mysteries

The U.S. Department of Energy has given special awards to four talented young scientists. They all work at a famous research lab in Berkeley, California.

These awards are called Early Career Research Awards. They help promising scientists early in their careers. This is often when scientists do their most creative and important work.

One winner is a scientist named Asmit Bhowmick. He studies how water behaves inside living things. Water does amazing things inside plants and animals that we still do not fully understand.

Bhowmick wants to learn how water helps plants turn sunlight into energy. This process is called photosynthesis. If we understand it better, we could build cleaner energy devices that work just like nature does.

The government has supported this program since 2010. It has helped hundreds of bright young scientists pursue big ideas. These researchers may one day solve some of science's most exciting mysteries. It is wonderful to see young minds being given the chance to explore and discover.

NASA Tests New Heat Shields Using Spacecraft Trash

NASA has found a clever new way to test heat shields for future space missions. And it involves taking out the trash!

When a cargo ship left the International Space Station, it carried something special. Tucked inside were 12 small capsules filled with sensors. These tiny capsules were designed by college students in Kentucky.

The capsules are testing new materials that could one day protect astronauts. Heat shields are very important. They keep spacecraft from burning up when returning to Earth. Future missions to the Moon and Mars will need even stronger ones.

Here is the clever part. The cargo ship was already going to burn up in Earth's atmosphere. That is what happens after it delivers supplies. So scientists used those final moments to gather important data. As the ship broke apart safely, the capsules shot out and recorded temperature, pressure, and movement.

This project is called KREPE-3. It is a team effort between NASA and the University of Kentucky. Young students helped design and build the capsules. NASA says this is a great way to train the next generation of scientists and engineers. Smart thinking can turn even everyday trash into a treasure trove of discovery!

Fishing Fans Help Bring Nature Back to Life

Something wonderful is happening across America. Everyday people who love fishing are helping to heal our oceans, rivers, and coastlines. It is a beautiful story of people caring for nature together.

A group called NOAA Fisheries has given money to six special projects. These projects will fix and restore places where fish live. Healthy waters mean more fish for everyone to enjoy, now and in the future.

Each project has a special job to do. In Florida, volunteers are bringing back underwater grasses where fish love to hide and grow. In Hawaii, people are carefully rebuilding coral reefs. These colorful reefs are home to thousands of sea creatures.

In North Carolina, helpers are fixing crumbling shorelines and restoring marshes. In Alaska, fishing fans are learning how to protect rivers from harmful plants and animals that do not belong there. Everyone is working as a team.

The best part is that regular people are at the heart of it all. Fishermen and fisherwomen, families, and volunteers are rolling up their sleeves. They are cleaning up debris, planting sea grasses, and watching over coral. Their hard work means that fish will thrive for many years to come. Nature and people are truly at their best when they work side by side.

The Hidden Waves Beneath the Ocean's Surface

Did you know the ocean has giant hidden waves? These are called Kelvin waves. They are very different from waves at the beach.

Kelvin waves travel deep underwater. They are very long and move slowly. They travel about 150 miles every single day. You cannot see them from shore.

These waves start in the western Pacific Ocean. They travel east along the equator. Then they move up and down the coasts of North and South America. Right now, one is slowly moving up the West Coast of the United States.

Kelvin waves are connected to El Niño. El Niño is a natural warming of the Pacific Ocean. The waves help carry warm water from west to east. This warming affects weather across the world.

Scientists like oceanographer Michael Jacox study these hidden waves carefully. Learning about them helps us understand our oceans better. The ocean still holds many wonderful mysteries. Every new discovery helps us appreciate the amazing world beneath the waves.

NASA Plans New Space Stations for Future Missions

NASA has exciting plans for the future of space exploration. The agency wants private companies to help build new space stations. These stations would orbit close to Earth.

Right now, astronauts live and work on the International Space Station. But that station will retire one day. NASA wants new stations ready before that happens. Private companies would build and run these new stations.

NASA's leader, Jared Isaacman, shared his vision. He said America must always have a home in space. The new stations would be places to do research and train astronauts. They would also help prepare crews for trips to the Moon and Mars.

NASA has been working closely with many companies. They listened to ideas and held meetings throughout the year. They want plans that are both creative and practical. The goal is to make sure the new stations can truly work well.

This is a wonderful step forward for American space travel. Private companies bring fresh energy and new ideas. Together with NASA, they can keep humans living and working in space for many years to come. The stars are within our reach!

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

CAPSULE

HABITAT

STATION

SENSOR

ROCKET

OCEAN

ORBIT

