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Global Friendship Through Space Education



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Crew-2 Astronauts Are Ready to Go!

The four astronauts are scheduled to launch to the International Space Station (ISS) on SpaceX's next crewed mission Thursday April 22 at 10:11 (GMT). They practiced that launch day on April 18 with one last predawn dress rehearsal. The Crew-2 mission will see a veteran SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launch a refurbished Crew Dragon spacecraft on a 23-hour trip to the space station. Crew-2 is the second operational, contracted mission to launch as part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program. Kimbrough, McArthur, Pesquet, and Hoshide will stay on board the space station for a six-month mission.

Space.com

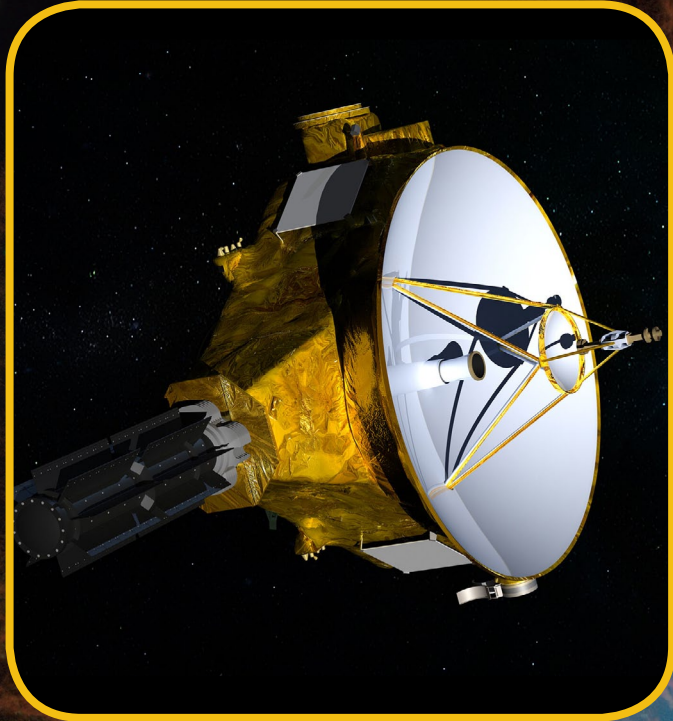


Ingenuity Helicopter Successfully Flew on Mars

NASA successfully flew its tiny helicopter Ingenuity on Mars early Monday, the first powered flight on another planet and a feat a top engineer called "our Wright brothers' moment". At 07:34 am (GMT), 1.8 kilogram rotorcraft lifted off, hovered three meters above the Martian surface, then came back to rest after 39.1 seconds. Data and images from the autonomous flight were transmitted 278 million kilometers back to Earth where they were received by NASA's array of ground antennas and processed more than three hours later.

MarsDaily.com

NASA's New Horizons Reaches a Rare Space Milestone



As New Horizons crossed the solar system, and its distance from Earth jumped from millions to billions of miles, that time between contacts grew from a few minutes to several hours.

On April 17 at 12:42 pm (GMT), New Horizons were reached a rare deep-space milepost—50 astronomical units from the sun, which means 50 times farther from the sun than Earth is.

Phys.org

Simple Experiment that Helps Understand Space-Time Warping

The entire science of astrophysics is full of concepts that are difficult to understand for many people. For example, how can we imagine the action of gravity? Luckily, scientists have come up with some clever real-world demonstrations that help to explain this complicated astrophysical theory in simple and effective ways. The author of this captivating demonstration even explains how to construct your own space-time 'simulator. Please click the yellow link down below to see the video.



Technology.org

Is Jupiter a Key to Finding Dark Matter?



Two astrophysicists said on April 5, 2021, that Jupiter might serve as an ideal detector in the hunt for dark matter, the elusive and mysterious substance thought to make up a substantial fraction of our universe. Stanford University's Rebecca Leane and Stockholm University's Tim Linden released a draft version of a new paper on arXiv, describing how that might work. These scientists list two reasons why our solar system's largest planet might be an advantageous spot to search for dark matter: its size and its temperature.

EarthSky.org

The Sky This Week: The Lyrid Meteor Shower

The Lyrid Meteor Shower is usually active between April 16 and 25 every year. It tends to peak around April 22 or 23. Named after constellation Lyra, the Lyrids are one of the oldest recorded meteor showers, according to some historical Chinese texts, the shower was seen over 2,500 years ago. The fireballs in the meteor shower are created by debris from comet Thatcher, which takes about 415 years to orbit around the Sun. The comet is expected to be visible from Earth again in 2276.

TimeandDate.com

LYRID METEOR SHOWER

Known for their fast, bright meteors, the Lyrid are one of the oldest known meteor showers. They originate from comet Thatcher, which was discovered in 1861. This year the Lyrid Meteor Shower will be visible between April 21-23. On **April 22nd**, you might see about 10 to 20 Lyrid meteors an hour during the shower's peak. The best time to view it will be after midnight and before dawn.

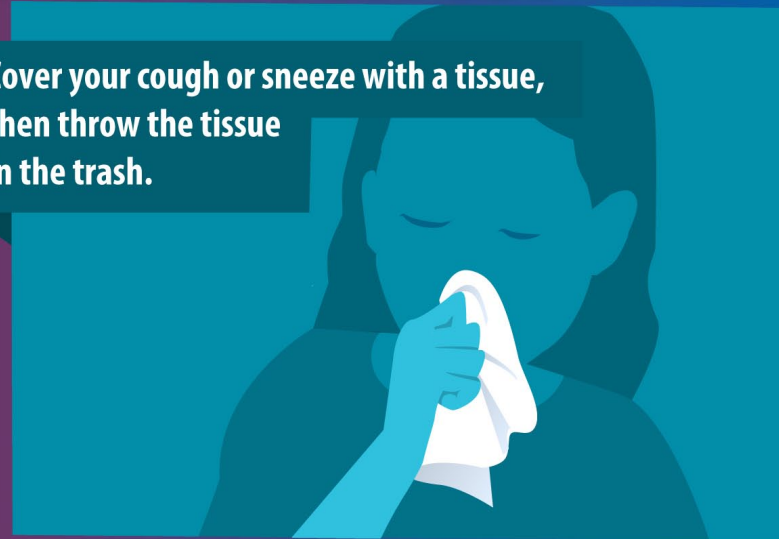


How to Protect Ourselves?

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.





Astronomy Picture of the Day

Rainbow Airglow over the Azores

Image Credit & Copyright: Miguel Claro (TWAN)

Why would the sky glow like a giant repeating rainbow? Airglow. Now air glows all of the time, but it is usually hard to see. A disturbance however -- like an approaching storm -- may cause noticeable rippling in the Earth's atmosphere. These gravity waves are oscillations in air analogous to those created when a rock is thrown in calm water. The long-duration exposure nearly along the vertical walls of airglow likely made the undulating structure particularly visible. OK, but where do the colors originate? The deep red glow likely originates from OH molecules about 87-kilometers high, excited by ultraviolet light from the Sun. The orange and green airglow is likely caused by sodium and oxygen atoms slightly higher up. The featured image was captured during a climb up Mount Pico in the Azores of Portugal. Ground lights originate from the island of Faial in the Atlantic Ocean. A spectacular sky is visible through this banded airglow, with the central band of our Milky Way Galaxy running up the image center, and M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, visible near the top left.

apod.nasa.gov



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