

Guidelines for Submitting ESE Portal Articles

NASA's Earth Science Enterprise (ESE) is soliciting education articles for the NASA Portal. Center education teams, PIs of sponsored programs, colleagues and partners are all encouraged to make contributions. Article types include feature stories (approx. 300-400 words) on NASA research, science or education activities, and news briefs (approx. 100-200 words) on current student- or educator-related news.

Articles will appear in one or more of the following portal sections:

For Educators

Grades K-4 | Grades 5-8 | Grades 9-12 | Post Secondary | Informal Educators

For Students

Grades K-4 | Grades 5-8 | Grades 9-12 | Post Secondary

For Kids

Please browse these various sections (red links at top left of <http://www.nasa.gov/home/index.html>) to see typical examples of articles. For feature articles, try to show the human connection -- how a resource has been used in the classroom, how people have been positively impacted. Feel free to include quotes from and photos of people involved. "Action" photos are usually preferable to head shots.

When appropriate, contributors may provide separate versions of an article, each geared toward a different section. Alternatively, the editor may adapt a story written at an adult reading level for students at the lower grade levels. Remember your audience; write with their interests and capabilities in mind. When writing for students and kids, be sure to check the reading level with your word processor. Articles for lower grade levels should have simpler vocabulary and shorter sentences and paragraphs. The writing level for the Students K-4 and Kids sections is more or less the same. The kids section is just less formal and follows the philosophy of "learning by playing or doing."

ESE is looking for contributions to all sections, although we particularly need more content for students in grades K-4 and 5-8 and informal educators.

Dan Stillman, science communications specialist at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, will edit submissions for content, style and grammar. Diane Schweizer, program scientist for Earth Science Education at NASA Headquarters, will provide final approval for all articles.

Article proposals should be submitted by e-mail to Dan Stillman (dan_stillman@strategies.org), and cc'ed Diane Schweizer (diane.schweizer@nasa.gov). Please include the following in your message:

- A brief explanation of the story; may include sample first paragraph.
- Who the audience would be (i.e., in which section(s) of the portal would it appear?).
- When you think would be the best time to post the story.

After receiving green light, write article and e-mail to Dan Stillman by date requested. When possible, please include any relevant graphics (with captions); photographs showing people will require a signed photo release form. You may also provide URLs for related resources, as well as related multimedia and NASA Web sites.

Although many articles are appropriate at any time, some upcoming monthly portal themes to consider are the following:

January

Technology
National Health Month

February

Black History Month
American History Month

March

National Women's History Month
Excellence in Science, Technology and Mathematics Education (ESTME)

April

Math Education Month
Sun-Earth Day

Earth Explorers Series

We're also soliciting articles and nominations for the new Earth Explorers series. This monthly series features explorers of all ages, backgrounds and interests -- scientists, researchers, students and educators -- who are connected by their curiosity about Earth system processes and have at least some sort of connection to NASA, whether they work for NASA or are just involved in a NASA-supported program. Article proposals for the Earth Explorers series may be submitted as described above.

Send Us Your NASA Facts!

We're also looking for interesting or unusual facts relevant to ESE for posting on the NASA Portal. Please send facts to dan_stillman@strategies.org. A fact should be able to be explained in one or two short sentences. For examples, see front page (left column) of any educator, student, or kids section.