



The Planetary Society We Make It Happen!

Founded in 1980 by Carl Sagan, Bruce Murray, and Louis Friedman, The Planetary Society is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization, with members in more than 125 countries. The Planetary Society is the largest and most influential space-interest group on Earth. Our mission: to inspire the people of Earth—through education, research, and public participation—to explore other worlds and seek other life.

DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGY

• **Launching the First-ever Solar Sail Mission**

The Planetary Society is launching *Cosmos 1*, the first-ever solar sail mission. This mission is designed as a novel test of exciting technologies that may one day pave the way for interstellar flight. *Cosmos 1* is staffed by a team of American and Russian space experts and represents the first privately funded mission of space exploration technology as well as the first mission by a private space interest organization.

• **Committed to Mars Exploration**

The Society's first **Mars Microphone**, which flew to the Red Planet onboard the *Mars Polar Lander* in 1999, was the first privately funded instrument to fly aboard a US planetary mission. Although the Microphone was lost when the spacecraft crashed, we're working to fly a new microphone experiment on an upcoming Mars mission. Our **Mars Outposts** initiative is working to promote the establishment of robotic stations on the Red Planet as the first step in establishing a human presence on Mars in the not-so-distant future. Additionally, early **Mars Rover** and **Mars Balloon** tests sponsored by the Society encouraged NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to further study these two very different technologies as alternative ways of exploring the Red Planet.

LEADING THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI)

The Society is the founding sponsor of **SETI@home**, the distributed computing sensation allowing millions of people around the world to participate in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. In addition, the Society has been a longtime sponsor of **Project BETA**—Earth's most powerful, dedicated, continuous search for possible radio signals from extraterrestrial intelligent civilizations. The Society also supports **Southern SETI**, which is scanning the southern skies from Buenos Aires, Argentina. And now, The Planetary Society is the world leader in sponsoring Optical SETI research, funding a brand-new dedicated **Optical SETI** Observatory in Harvard, Massachusetts, the first of its kind.

The Planetary Society

Making You a Part of Space Exploration!
See us online at <http://planetary.org>
email us at tps@planetary.org

65 N Catalina Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91106-2301
phone: 626-793-5100
fax: 626-793-5528

FIGHTING FOR SPACE EXPLORATION

The Planetary Society is the leading advocate for space exploration around the world, heading several of the most significant battles for planetary exploration in the last two decades. The Society is currently leading a campaign urging Planetary Society members and friends to write to the presidential Moon to Mars commission in support of the new space initiative. From 1990 to 1992, we mounted the strongest grassroots effort ever in support of a planetary mission when we fought against NASA's postponement of *Mars Observer*. In the 1980s, we succeeded in having the US Congress restore funding for NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. And, more recently, when NASA canceled the Pluto-Kuiper belt mission—a mission to the only unexplored planet in our solar system—The Planetary Society urged its members to write their congressional representatives in protest. Members responded by sending over 10,000 postcards to Congress. The mission's funding has now been restored.

TRACKING COMETS AND ASTEROIDS

The Planetary Society took the lead in recognizing the importance of comets and asteroids that pass close by our planet (the so-called near-Earth objects, or NEOs) with its support for the ground-breaking **Planet Crossing Asteroid Survey** at Palomar Observatory. Today, the Society funds the **Gene Shoemaker Near Earth Objects Grants**, providing much-needed money for studies of potentially Earth-threatening objects. The Society also sponsors expeditions to Italy and Belize, where members join scientists in searching for evidence of the great impact 65 million years ago that led to the extinction of the dinosaurs.

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION: PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Planetary Society's **Red Rover Goes to Mars** program gives students a chance to participate in a real space mission. Winners of the **Red Rover Goes to Mars** Student Astronaut contest worked in mission operations at JPL during the *Mars Exploration Rover* mission this year. In classrooms around the world, our **Red Rover, Red Rover** program challenges students to build rovers with onboard cameras and remote computer control capabilities. They then remotely control the rovers, driving them over Marsclapes they have designed and built themselves.

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