As of 5/31/26

Sunday, June 7

Registration
8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Foyer

Morning Plenary
8:30 am - 9:45 am

International BC
TITLE: *Space 2.0: A Lunar Base*
LUNAR PANEL: Dr. James Green, Former NASA Chief Scientist and Dr. Pascal Lee, Vice President for Planetary Development, National Space Society
MODERATOR: Rod Pyle, NSS Director of Communications, Space Author, and Editor-in-Chief, *Ad Astra* Magazine
As the Artemis program has evolved, a lunar base has become a national priority. But there is a lot to do between a handful of lunar landings and even the earliest Moonbase. What will be the first steps taken, what will the hardware look like, what delivery and operational infrastructure will need to be created, and where might this first base be sited? What will their primary activities be? What portion of the program should be robotic and what portion crewed? Lastly how might the existence of the Chinese/Russian International Lunar Research Station impact U.S. efforts?

Student Registration
9:00 am - 11:30 am

International A
Registration for students in the NSS Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest and the *Live in a Healthy Space* Design Competition.

NextGen & Industry
10:00 am - 11:30 am

International BC
Planetary Defense SPECIAL SESSION: "Look Up, It's an Asteroid!" (Third Edition)—The Johns Hopkins APL DART Mission Team: Hitting an Asteroid—From Dimorphos to Didymos and Beyond
PANELISTS: The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) DART Mission Team: Dr. Elena Adams, Principal Professional Staff (APL), Dr. Angela Stickle, Principal Professional Staff (APL), Michelle Chen, Principal Professional Staff (APL) and Dr. Andy Rivkin, Principal Professional Staff (APL), with Dr. Quanzhi Ye, Planetary Astronomer, University of Maryland, and James Anthony Wolff, Partner, Greenspoon Marder LLP
Moderator: Nancy C. Wolfson, Planetary Defense (PD) Program Management, AIAA, Founder: "Look Up, It Is An Asteroid"
Join leaders from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Mission Team for an in-depth exploration of NASA's historic first planetary defense test mission.

Exhibitors
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Atrium
Please visit the exhibitors and sponsors tables.

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Morning Sessions

Moon Symposium

Statler (lower level)

10:00 am	Fireside Chat: The Moon: Past, Present, and Future. Dr. Harrison H. "Jack" Schmitt (Apollo 17 Astronaut), Dr. Pascal Lee (SETI Institute, Mars Institute and NASA Ames Research Center), and Rod Pyle (National Space Society)
10:30 am	Building the First Lunar City—The Largest Infrastructure Mobilization in Human History. Jim Keravala (OffWorld)
10:40 am	Where Should the Artemis Moon Base Be Established?: The Case for an Off-Polar Site. Dr. Pascal Lee (SETI Institute, Mars Institute & NASA Ames Research Center)
10:50 am	First Sites, First Principles: Mapping the Foundations of Lunar Governance. Michelle Hanlon (Air and Space Law at Ole Miss)
11:00 am	NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation
11:15 am	Much Needed Cargo for the Moon. Ajay Kothari (Astrox Corp)
11:25 am	The Lunar Triad: Integrating ISRU Mining, Photonic Data Mesh, and Multi-Modal Habitats for a Self-Sustaining Settlement. William Kemp (Aethon Space, Inc.)
11:35 am	Lunar Orbital Infrastructure for a Sustainable Lunar Economy. Antonio Stark
11:45 am	Lunar Logistics Architecture with Permanent Earth-Based Infrastructure. Dr. Peter Swan (International Space Elevator Consortium)

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Living In Space — **Stevens** (lower level)

10:00 am Human Science on Mars: Exploration and Discoveries on the Red Frontier. Dr. Jim Bell (Arizona State University)

10:45 am NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation

11:00 am How We Can Settle Mars, and Why We Must. Dr. Robert Zubrin (Mars Society)

BioSpace — **Amphitheater** (lower level)

10:00 am Private Astronauts—Medical Considerations for Space Missions in LEO. Dr. William Tarver (NASA, retired)

10:20 am Eliminating the Pre-Conditions for Spaceflight Injury via Restoring Our Evolved Capacity for Good Health. Dr. William Gardiner (Laboratory Consulting Sources)

10:30 am Contests, Civilization and Space Migration. Dr. Gerald McLaughlin (National Institutes of Health, retired)

10:50 am Fungal Frontiers: How Might We Adopt the Genes That Protect the Chenobyl Fungus from Ionizing Radiation? Natalie Byrd (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)

11:15 am NSS *Live in a Healthy Space* Design Competition Presentation

11:30 am Starlink-Enabled Mobile Telehealth in Appalachia: Advancing Rural Healthcare Through an NP-Led, Digitally Connected One Health Model. Dr. Paula Hill-Collins (St. Mary's Health Wagon)

11:45 am Synthetic Biology Approaches to the Next Generation Space Nutrition. Leo Shiina (Stanford Online High School)

Lunch — **International A**

12:00 noon - 1:50 pm

TITLE: *Science, Settlement, and the Unknown: Boundary Conditions on Our Space Future*
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Lindy Elkins-Tanton, Principal Investigator, NASA Psyche Mission; Director, Space Sciences Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley
Presenting of the NSS Space Pioneer Award to Jesus Charles, Descent Flight Director, and Lauren Arkell, Blue Ghost Mission 1 Flight Controller, on behalf of Firefly Aerospace.
MC: Dr. Pascal Lee, Vice President for Planetary Development, National Space Society; ISDC 2026 Conference Co-Chair

Student Ceremony — **International BC**

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Student Recognition Ceremony
FEATURED SPEAKER: Dr. Steven Hawley, Astronomer and former NASA Astronaut

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm — **Afternoon Sessions**

Moon Symposium — **Statler** (lower level)

2:00 pm Panel: International Activities and Advocacy. Joseph Pelton (ACES-ISU), Dr. James Green (NASA, retired), Jim Keravala (OffWorld), Michelle Hanlon (Air and Space Law at Ole Miss), Dr. Fredrick Jenet (National Space Society), Lakshmi Narasimhan (ISRO), and David Jun Yang (Tsinghua Shanghai International Innovation Center). Moderator: Dr. Bernard Foing (Space Renaissance International)

2:40 pm Quo Vadis, Artemis? Artemis Follow-On Missions. Madhu Thangavelu (University of Southern California Viterbi School of Astronautical Engineering)

2:50 pm Can We Terraform the Moon? Joseph Pelton (ACES-ISU)

3:00 pm An End-to-End Robotic Process to Sandbag Regolith for Radiation Shielding of Habitats on the Moon and Mars. Ela Sen (Mars Institute)

3:10 pm Offworld Arcology for Sustainable Infrastructure and Settlement (OASIS). Gary Barnhard (Xtraordinary Innovative Space Partnerships)

3:20 pm tbd

3:30 pm Instruments and Moonbase Astronauts Simulations: ILEWG LUNEX EuroMoonMars. Dr. Bernard Foing (Space Renaissance International)

3:40 pm Lunar Coral Propagation: Wetlabs as a Staging Platform for Mars Settlement and Terraforming. John Parks (ExoScientific)

3:50 pm Novel Junction Design for Cryogenic Fluid Transfer on the Moon. Braedyn Kim (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

4:00 pm Blue Ghost & Beyond: Repeatable Moon Landings. Jesus Charles and Lauren Arkell (Firefly Aerospace)

4:20 pm Raising the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of Your Lunar Payload. Anastasia Ford (NASA)

4:30 pm Pathogenic Engineering, Salutogenic Architecture: A Critical Framework Approach for Space Habitats & Interiors. Stephanie Brick (Salutogenic Design & Consulting Group)

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4:40 pm	A Rock and a Hard (and Cold) Place: Risk-Informed Choices in Lunar Sampling and Site Planning. Dr. Caitlin Ahrens (NASA GSFC/UMD)
4:50 pm	Preliminary Pressurized Rover Traverse Paths from Clavius Crater to NASA Artemis Candidate Landing Regions Near the Lunar South Pole. Apoorva Somani (United States Air Force Academy)
5:00 pm	Dual-Stage Excavation and Autonomous Material Handling for Dust Prevention in Lunar Regolith Operations. Luis Torres (Torres Orbital Mining, Inc.)
5:10 pm	Beyond Energy: Why Water Will Define the Future of AI and Space Systems. David Jun Yang (Tsinghua Shanghai International Innovation Center)
5:20 pm	Debris Remediation Credits (DRCs): A Tokenized Market Mechanism for Sustainable Cislunar Commerce. Wanjiku Chebet Kanjumba (Vicillion and University of Florida)
5:30 pm	Panel: Law and Policy. Steven Marvin, Dale Skran (National Space Society), Jeffrey Liss (National Space Society), and Dr. Fredrick Jenet (National Space Society). Moderator: Michelle Hanlon (Air and Space Law at Ole Miss)

Living In Space — **Stevens** (lower level)

2:00 pm	Moon and Mars Bases: Lessons from the Arctic and Antarctica. Dr. Pascal Lee (SETI Institute, Mars Institute, NASA Ames Research Center)
2:30 pm	Genetic Bottlenecks—How Few People Can Start a World? Or Restart One? Isaac Arthur (National Space Society)
3:00 pm	Leading the Commercial Spaceflight Era: Blue Origin Astronaut Leadership Patterns and Trends Over Time. Dr. Gretchen Green (Blue Origin Commercial Astronaut) and Julia Lantos (Saint Mary's School)
4:00 pm	Problematic Use of Artificial Intelligence: Psychological Risks for Astronauts. Dr. Logan Smith (Space Psychology Institute)
4:45 pm	Into the Deep: From the Blue Economy to the Space Economy. Nick Georges (Central Wyoming College and Astra Nova)
5:00 pm	Panel: Moon vs. Mars vs. Somewhere Else: Settling Space in the Next 30 Years. Moderator: Dr. Logan Smith (Space Psychology Institute). Isaac Arthur (National Space Society), Dr. Gretchen Green (Blue Origin Commercial Astronaut) and Julia Lantos (Saint Mary's School).

BioSpace — **Amphitheater** (lower level)

2:00 pm	Space Exodus to the "Vacuum Deserts" of Space Will Restore Our Evolved Capacity for Unlimited Life. Dr. William Gardiner (Laboratory Consulting Sources)
2:25 pm	GOLDEN Framework™: Cognitive Mapping for Human–AI Integration in Space Health. Ginger Chen (Florida Institute of Technology)
2:50 pm	Artificial Gravity is the Best Countermeasure in Space. Richard Kacik (Retired Aerospace Engineer)
3:15 pm	A Plan to Test and Implement Artifiical Gravity. Richard Kacik (Retired Aerospace Engineer)
3:40 pm	The Chiral Label Release Experiment: An Experiment to Irrefutably Prove Extant Microbial Life on Mars. Dr. Ron Levin (Raytheon Technologies)
4:05 pm	From Replicants to Pioneers: Engineering Humanity for the Final Frontier. Dr. Erik Seedhouse (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)
4:30 pm	The Anthropocene Era Imperative: Exporting Our Grown Children for the Sake of Our Sibling Species! Bennett Rutledge (Denver Space Society)
4:55 pm	Healthy on the Moon Thanks to the Original Galileo. Holger Isenberg (Independent Researcher)
5:15 pm	AI Workshop: How to Validate AI Ouptut and Avoid "Hallucinations" When Developing Scientific Hypotheses. Dr. William Gardiner (Laboratory Consulting Sources)
5:30 pm	Panel: How Will People Young and Old Prepare in Mind, Body and Spirit for Mars Departure. Dr. William Tarver (NASA, retired), Dr. Gerald McLaughlin (National Institutes of Health, retired), Ginger Chen (Florida Institute of Technology), Richard Kacik (Retired Aerospace Engineer), Dr. Erik Seedhouse (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University), and Holger Isenberg (Independent Researcher). Moderator: Dr. William Gardiner (Laboratory Consulting Sources)

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Sunday, June 7

Networking Reception
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

International A
Join us for an open reception that includes a cash bar and appetizers.

Dinner
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

International BC
TITLE: *The Search for Life Beyond Earth: How It Works, Where It Stands and Why It Matters*
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Bill Diamond, President and CEO, SETI Institute
Presenting of Student *Live in a Healthy Space* Design Competition Grand Prize Award
Presenting of the NSS Space Pioneer Award to Keith Cowing, Editor, NASA Watch
MC: Rod Pyle, NSS Director of Communications, Space Author, and Editor-in-Chief, *Ad Astra*

NSS Meeting
10:00 pm - Till

NSS Networking

Monday, June 8

NSS Board Meeting
9:00 am - 6:00 pm

International C