

NASA Space Grant Consortium Summary Sheet **Council of State Governments – South**

Alabama Space Grant

Lead Institution: University of Alabama in Huntsville

Director / Point of Contact: Dr. Dale Thomas

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Alabama Space Grant supports NASA mission-aligned research, competitive projects, student teams, fellowships, scholarships, and internships with NASA centers and industry partners. The consortium provides undergraduate research and faculty mini-grants while supporting student participation in NASA competitions, challenges, mentoring, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics Ambassador activities. Alabama Space Grant also conducts statewide science, technology, engineering, and mathematics outreach through workshops, summer programs, science fairs, community college and educator programs, and events such as Space Week, the Wernher von Braun Symposium, NASA in the Park, and Space Day at the Alabama Capitol. These activities strengthen Alabama's aerospace and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce pipeline and expand opportunities for students to engage in NASA-related science, technology, engineering, and exploration.

Arkansas Space Grant

Lead Institution: University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Director / Point of Contact: Dr. Constance Meadors

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Arkansas Space Grant is emphasizing workforce development, student research, and hands-on aerospace experiences across its statewide affiliate network. In 2026, the consortium supported a high-powered rocketry workshop at Southern Arkansas University involving approximately 30 high school students, undergraduate students, teachers, and faculty in rocket design, manufacturing, instrumentation, flight preparation, and recovery. The consortium also continues to provide workforce-development fellowships that connect students with faculty mentors and NASA or aerospace internships. These activities strengthen practical engineering skills and create pathways for Arkansas students to pursue careers in aerospace and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Florida Space Grant

Lead Institution: University of Central Florida
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Florida Space Grant is supporting research and technology development across science, aeronautics, human exploration, and space technology. Current programs include the Florida Space Research Program, the Florida Space Grant Consortium–Space Florida–Kennedy Space Center Technology Development Program, graduate fellowships, NASA and industry internships, and student design activities. The consortium is also expanding workforce-development opportunities through programs such as the Florida Aerospace Development Initiative and senior design projects connected with Kennedy Space Center. Collectively, these activities provide students and faculty with opportunities to conduct NASA-relevant research while strengthening Florida’s aerospace workforce.

Georgia Space Grant

Lead Institution: Georgia Institute of Technology
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Georgia Space Grant is supporting research, higher-education engagement, kindergarten through grade twelve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, workforce development, and public outreach during the 2026–2027 academic year. Current projects include semiconductor and space-sensing research, astronomy and exoplanet studies, NASA-inspired aviation and aerospace programming, robotics, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing. The consortium is also supporting hands-on opportunities through programs such as GOT Space, GSPAACES, student research, internships, and engineering challenges. These activities are designed to connect students with NASA missions and technologies while strengthening Georgia’s aerospace and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce pipeline.

Kentucky Space Grant

Lead Institution: University of Kentucky

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Kentucky Space Grant is currently supporting NASA-aligned research, aerospace workforce development, student team projects, and faculty research opportunities across participating institutions. Active 2026 projects include research related to the habitability of fractures sustained by distant earthquakes, microstructural gas-material interactions, and development of lightweight sensors for particulate characterization. The consortium also provides opportunities for students to participate in NASA-related competitions and hands-on team projects, including rocketry, lunar exploration, rover, and payload activities. These efforts combine research experience, technical development, and student engagement to prepare Kentucky students for aerospace and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers.

Louisiana Space Grant

Lead Institution: Louisiana State University

Director / Point of Contact: Colleen H. Fava

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Louisiana Space Grant emphasizes NASA-aligned research, graduate education, undergraduate engagement, senior design, and aerospace workforce development. Current programs include Graduate Student Research Assistance, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics team projects, NASA-aligned senior design projects, and joint Space Grant–Sea Grant research addressing coastal and Earth-science priorities. Louisiana is also participating in the High-Altitude Student Platform, providing students with opportunities to develop and fly technology demonstrations and science payloads on high-altitude balloons. These activities integrate research, hands-on engineering, remote sensing, and workforce development with NASA mission priorities.

Mississippi Space Grant

Lead Institution: University of Mississippi

Director / Point of Contact: Nathan E. Murray, Ph.D.

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Mississippi Space Grant is focused on developing the state's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce through scholarships, fellowships, hands-on aerospace projects, and mentoring. Current activities include high-altitude balloon research, student rocket development and launch projects, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics mentoring programs at universities and community colleges. The consortium places particular emphasis on providing practical research and engineering experiences to students and expanding participation among groups traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. These programs support the development of technical skills and prepare students for careers aligned with NASA's science, engineering, and aerospace priorities.

Missouri Space Grant

Lead Institution: Missouri University of Science and Technology

Director / Point of Contact: David J. Bayless, Ph.D.

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Missouri Space Grant is focused on aerospace engineering and space science research, student workforce development, and expanded science, technology, engineering, and mathematics participation throughout the state. Current activities include faculty-mentored student research at Missouri University of Science and Technology, graduate research assistantships, undergraduate internships, and projects addressing aerospace and space-related scientific topics. The consortium also emphasizes engagement of underrepresented and underserved populations and provides opportunities for kindergarten through grade twelve students and educators. These efforts are intended to provide authentic NASA-related research experiences while building a diverse and technically prepared science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce.

North Carolina Space Grant

Lead Institution: North Carolina State University

Director / Point of Contact: Dr. Susan White

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North Carolina Space Grant is currently supporting undergraduate and graduate research, NASA internships, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce development, and interdisciplinary Earth and space science activities. The 2026–2027 undergraduate research portfolio includes projects involving lunar regolith agriculture, rare-earth-element extraction, antimicrobial resistance in space habitats, astronomical observations, galaxy evolution, and atmospheric science. The consortium is also partnering with North Carolina Sea Grant on research using NASA mission data and aerial imagery to study wetlands and seagrass. These activities provide students with hands-on research experiences while connecting North Carolina institutions and students to NASA-relevant science and technology priorities.

Oklahoma Space Grant

Lead Institution: Oklahoma State University

Director / Point of Contact: Dr. Andrew S. Arena Jr.

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Oklahoma Space Grant is focused on expanding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, research opportunities, workforce development, and hands-on student experiences connected to NASA missions. The consortium supports interdisciplinary research, competitive fellowships and grants, student projects, and opportunities designed to increase participation of underrepresented populations in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Statewide aerospace activities also include development of unmanned-aircraft systems testing capabilities and broader efforts to strengthen Oklahoma's space-industry infrastructure and workforce. Together, these activities connect academic research and student development with the state's growing aerospace and technology ecosystem.

South Carolina Space Grant

Lead Institution: College of Charleston

Director / Point of Contact: Dr. Cassandra Runyon

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South Carolina Space Grant is supporting faculty and student research, NASA internships, mission-design activities, and collaborations across higher-education institutions. The Research and Education Awards Program is designed to initiate or expand aerospace-related research, strengthen collaborations, and increase connections with NASA, federal agencies, and industry. Students are also participating in NASA mission-design activities involving the design, construction, and testing of experiments for lunar exploration. These programs provide practical research and engineering experience while strengthening South Carolina's aerospace and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce pipeline.

Tennessee Space Grant

Lead Institution: Vanderbilt University

Director / Point of Contact: Dr. Alvin M. Strauss

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Tennessee Space Grant is focused on strengthening the state's aerospace and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics capabilities through education, research, workforce development, and partnerships among universities, government, industry, and NASA-related organizations. Current priorities include developing aerospace-related research and education programs, supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education from kindergarten through grade twelve through higher education, and expanding opportunities for students and faculty. The consortium also identifies space management, space nuclear power, and space medicine as strategic areas for developing specialized expertise. These efforts are intended to strengthen Tennessee's aerospace technology base and prepare students for future space and aeronautics careers.

Texas Space Grant

Lead Institution: University of Texas at Austin

Director / Point of Contact: Dr. Timothy Urban

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Texas Space Grant supports a broad portfolio of student design, research, workforce development, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics engagement activities across more than 50 participating institutions. The current Design Challenge pairs students with NASA Johnson Space Center mentors to develop solutions addressing NASA research objectives, with 2026 topics including lunar infrastructure, radiation-tolerant systems, and other exploration technologies. The consortium is also supporting Space Teams activities, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics Ambassadors, fellowships, scholarships, and NASA-related internships and challenges. These programs provide Texas students with hands-on experience in engineering, research, mission design, and professional development aligned with NASA's exploration and technology priorities.

Virginia Space Grant

Lead Institution: Old Dominion University Research Foundation

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Virginia Space Grant emphasizes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce development, NASA and industry internships, Earth and space science education, and experiential learning opportunities. The Commonwealth Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Industry Internship Program connects Virginia undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students with paid industry opportunities, including growing opportunities in cybersecurity, data science, engineering, and information technology. The consortium also supports the Virginia Earth System Science Scholars program, which uses NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data to engage high school students in Earth-system investigations and provides selected students with a residential experience at NASA Langley. These programs connect students with NASA-relevant data, industry experience, and professional pathways into Virginia's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and aerospace workforce.

West Virginia Space Grant

Lead Institution: West Virginia University

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West Virginia Space Grant is supporting undergraduate and graduate research, scholarships, internships, and student organizations in NASA-related STEM fields. Current programs provide competitive undergraduate research scholarships, graduate fellowships, NASA-center and industry internships, and support for college-level STEM organizations. The consortium also operates the West Virginia Science Public Outreach Team, which connects science education and public engagement with NASA-related activities. These programs provide research and experiential learning opportunities while helping develop a technically skilled STEM workforce in West Virginia.