



**SERCH | 03.00.03
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**Southeast Regional Clearinghouse (SERCH)
A Coalition of 14 Space Grant Consortia**

OBJECTIVE

The goal of this SERCH initiative is to support education/outreach initiatives that increase the awareness and understanding of the four major scientific themes/forums of NASA's OSS:

1. Structure and Evolution of the Universe (SEU) | <http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/seuforum/>;
2. Astronomical Search for Origins and Planetary Systems (ASO) | <http://origins.stsci.edu/>;
3. Solar System Exploration (SSE) | <http://sseforum.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm> and;
4. Sun-Earth Connection (SEC) | <http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

SERCH is particularly interested in proposals for education/outreach efforts that support the education mission of OSS and NASA:

OSS Education Mission

- Share the excitement of space science discoveries with the public.
- Enhance the quality of science, mathematics, and technology education, particularly at the pre-college level.
- Help create our 21st century scientific and technical workforce.

OSS Education Program | <http://spacescience.nasa.gov/education/index.htm>

NASA's Mission

- To understand and protect our home planet,
- To explore the Universe and search for life,
- To inspire the next generation of explorers,
. . . as only NASA can

NASA Program | <http://www.nasa.gov>

NASA Education Priorities

- Motivating K – 16+ students to pursue careers in science, math and engineering.
- Providing educators with unique teaching tools and compelling teaching experiences.
- Seeking to ensure that we are investing the taxpayer's resources wisely.
- Engaging minority and underrepresented students, educators, and researchers in NASA's education program.

NASA Education Program | <http://educator.nasa.gov>

Furthermore, SERCH is interested in proposals for education/outreach efforts that support our operating principles, which include:

- Establishing strong and lasting partnerships between the space science and education communities.
- Highly leveraged programs/projects, relying upon a multiplier effect to reach as many communities, teachers, and students as possible.
- Being inclusive of the broadest possible audience. Activities that foster the meaningful participation of underserved/underrepresented groups are encouraged.

SERCH Overview

Fourteen Space Grant Consortia have joined together to form SERCH. Our purpose is to promote space science awareness and enhance interest in science, math, and technology through the use of NASA's OSS mission data, information, and educational products. SERCH serves as a broker and facilitator of services between the region's educational community and researchers involved in OSS missions. The SERCH office is located in Charleston, SC at the College of Charleston - Lowcountry Hall of Science and Math.

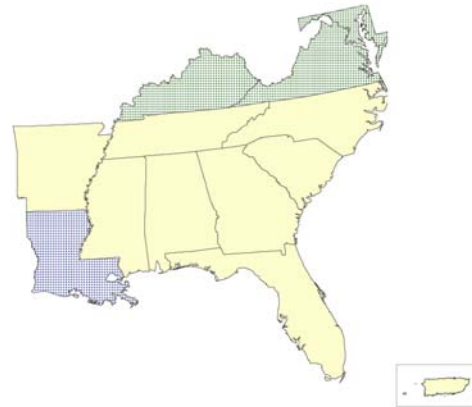


NASA Space Grant Connection

There are 15 "states" within the SERCH region, which have, or are affiliated with, Space Grant Offices and a statewide network of scientists and educators. The 15 Space Grant/SERCH members are as follows [shaded/italicized states are shared with Broker / Facilitators MARSSB (DC, KY, MD, VA) <http://www2.cet.edu/ossbroker/main.html> and LPI (LA) <http://cass.jsc.nasa.gov/education/broker.html>]:

SERCH Geographical Region

Alabama
Arkansas
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maryland
Mississippi
North Carolina
Puerto Rico
South Carolina / Virgin Islands
Tennessee
Virginia



OSS Overview

OSS missions and research ask the questions:

- How did the universe begin and evolve?
- How did we get here?
- Where are we going?
- Are we alone?

OSS is responsible for all of NASA's programs relating to astronomy, the solar system, and the sun and its interaction with Earth. The programs science covers everything from the middle levels of Earth's atmosphere to the edge of the universe billions of light years away.

What Space Science is NOT:

- NASA's [Earth Science](#) Enterprise is responsible for science relating to the Earth, up to the middle levels of the atmosphere (about 60 kilometers up). That includes things like global warming and ozone depletion research.
- NASA's [Human Exploration and Development of Space](#) Enterprise is responsible for the [Space Shuttle and the International Space Station](#). Although Space Science may occasionally use the Shuttle or Space Station as carriers for some of our spacecraft or science experiments, we are not the primary user of those vehicles and we do not manage them.
- NASA's [Biological and Physical Research Enterprise](#) is responsible for materials science and life science research done aboard the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station.
- NASA's [Aero-Space Technology](#) Enterprise works on technologies for better airplanes and future launch vehicles (rockets).



TYPES OF GRANT PROGRAMS

SERCH has set aside \$60,000 from its budget to support stimulating educational ideas. Grants will be awarded for a period of one year in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The amount allocated does not reflect possible additional contributions from individual Space Grant states. Inter-disciplinary teams involving both scientists and educators are strongly encouraged to apply. Programs that include inter-disciplinary teams, which are able to have a statewide reach, have a multiplier effect through the regional education network, and are inclusive of the broadest audience possible will be highly competitive. Working with regional informal education venues is recommended.

ELIGIBILITY

- Scientists/Educators who work in one of the fifteen SERCH/Space Grant states.
- Scientists/Educators who are working toward education reform.
- Scientists/Educators who are interested in space science, including mathematics and/or technology.
- Team members must be US citizens and associated with an organization. No grants will be made to individuals.

Definition of an educator:

- Traditional formal educator - K-12 teacher or college/university faculty
- Informal community educator - examples include - educators at a science center, planetary, or museum.

SPECIFIC PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

Each proposal must include the following:

- a. Letter of Intent: Complete the **on-line** Letter of Intent the SERCH website, **before April 21, 2003**: http://serch.cofc.edu/serch/funding/2K3_intent.htm. Include: name, full address, phone number, fax number, email, total budget request, and a concise (200-300 word) abstract describing the objective of the proposed effort and the method of approach. Proposals will not be considered if the on-line letter of intent is not received by the deadline.
- b. Project Description: The main body of the proposal shall be a detailed statement of the work to be undertaken and should include objectives and expected significance. (Maximum of 5 single-spaced pages).

- Cover Letter: To be submitted with the final proposal including a signature from the principle investigator, co-investigator, and an authorized institution official.
- Abstract: Include a concise (200-300 word) abstract describing the objective of the proposed effort and the method of approach.
- Introduction - Include a brief background, statement of goal(s) and justification for your proposed project.
- Detailed Project Description - The description should provide a full statement of the educational objectives and significance of the effort(s) proposed. Include what you propose to do, how it will satisfy educational needs within your state and ease for replication within the region.
- Method - Describe the methods and/or general approaches to be used. As appropriate, discuss the advantages of the proposed approach over alternatives; and discuss the significance of the expected results.
- Relevance - This section should address the relevance of the proposed outreach efforts to NASA OSS and SERCH goals and objectives, and where applicable how it meets state and/or regional educational needs and national standards in science, math and/or technology.



- c. **Personnel:** A short one-page biographical sketch of the principal investigator, an abbreviated list of principal publications and any exceptional qualifications should be included. Give similar biographical information on other senior professional personnel who will be directly associated with the project. (Omit social security number and other personal items, which do not merit consideration in evaluation of the proposal).
- d. **Proposed Costs:** Include a short budget justification and timetable. As applicable, include separate cost estimates for salaries and wages; fringe benefits; expendable materials and supplies; services; domestic travel; publication page charges; consultants; other identifiable costs. List salaries and wages in appropriate categories (e.g., principal investigator, other scientific professionals, graduate students, student assistants, etc.).
- e. **Certifications:** Normal government certification forms such as Debarment, Suspension and other Responsibility Matters; Certification Regarding Lobbying; and Compliance with NASA Regulations Pursuant to Non-discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs must be submitted along with your proposal.

Visit individual Space Grant web pages for specific mailing/submittal addresses.

EVALUATION FACTORS

The principal elements considered in evaluating a proposal are its relevance to NASA OSS and SERCH objectives, intrinsic merit as well as its relevance to statewide education goals. Applications will be rated based upon the extent to which they meet specific criteria (see below) and will be ranked according to their scores. The 15 state Space Grant offices will recommend competitive proposals to SERCH for review by an external panel of scientists and educators.

Evaluation scale:

- Overall quality of the proposal: methods, approaches, or concepts demonstrated. (20%)
- Demonstrated potential for being inclusive of the broadest possible audience and reaching as many communities, teachers, and students as possible. (20%)
- Demonstrated relevance to state educational needs. (20%)
- Demonstrated relevance to NASA OSS educational goals. (15%)
- Demonstrated ability to establish strong and lasting partnerships between the space science and education communities. (15%)
- Consideration of the realism and reasonableness of the proposed cost and the relationship of the proposed cost to available funds. (5%)
- The qualifications, capabilities, and experience of the proposed principal investigator, team leader, or key personnel who are critical in achieving the proposal objectives. (5%)

COST SHARING AND ALLOWABLE COSTS

Cost sharing is strongly encouraged. Some Space Grants may provide matching or additional funds available to support their state's educational efforts. Application solely for the acquisition of equipment will not be funded. A proposal that primarily funds the salary of the Principle Investigator is not likely to be competitive. Foreign travel, indirect costs, and overhead charges are prohibited.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

1 original plus 5 copies of your proposal should be submitted for evaluation to your state Space Grant office. The Space Grant office will then recommend competitive proposals to SERCH that best meet their statewide and Space Grant educational goals. Recommended



proposals will be sent to SERCH for further reviewing by appointed OSS Forum/Mission/Education reviewers.



SPACE GRANT CONTACTS

AL	Jackie Reasoner	jfreasoner@matsci.uah.edu	www.uah.edu/ASGC/
AR	Lynne Tull	asgc@ualr.edu	asgc.ualr.edu/spacegrant/
DC	Megan Kemble	SpaceGrant@aol.com	www.dcspacegrant.org/
FL	Jaydeep Mukherjee	fsgc@mail.ucf.edu	fsgc.engr.ucf.edu/
GA	Wanda Pierson	wanda.pierson@aerospace.gatech.edu	www.ae.gatech.edu/research/gsgc/
KY	Karen Hackney	Karen.Hackney@wku.edu	www.wku.edu/ksgc
LA	Greg Guzik	guzik@phunds.phys.lsu.edu	phacts.phys.lsu.edu/
MD	Anne Anikis	anne@pha.jhu.edu	www.mdspacegrant.org/
MS	Sally Lott McLellan	smclella@olemiss.edu	www.olemiss.edu/programs/nasa/
NC	Jean Page	space_grant@eos.ncsu.edu	www.mae.ncsu.edu/spacegrant/index.html
PR	Maria Schwarz	io@shuttle.uprm.edu	web.uprr.pr/prsgc/
SC/VI	Tara Scozzaro	scozzarot@cofc.edu	www.cofc.edu/~scsgrant/
TN	Ellie Weiss Rosenbloom	ellie.w.rosenbloom@vanderbilt.edu	tsqc.vuse.vanderbilt.edu/
VA	Brenda Neil	bneil@odu.edu	www.vsgc.odu.edu/

SERCH Contact Information:

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E-mail: serch@cofc.edu SERCH Homepage: serch.cofc.edu/serch/

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

If successful, your grant will be awarded in two increments during the period of August 1, 2003 to August 1, 2004. An interim report of your progress is required to be submitted to SERCH **and** your state Space Grant office by December 15, 2003. Additionally, SERCH and your state Space Grant office reserves the right to review projects and/or require additional reports whenever such actions are deemed necessary. A final report with budget expenditures and justification will be due within 30 days of project completion (by July 1, 2004).



TIMETABLE

March 20, 2003	Funding Opportunity released: http://serch.cofc.edu/serch/funding/2003opportunity.htm
April 21, 2003	Deadline for submitting the letter of intent (including abstract) at the SERCH web page: http://serch.cofc.edu/serch/funding/2K3_intent.htm
May 21, 2003	Deadline for postmark of proposals. <u>Send to your state Space Grant office:</u> See table above for location and address. <i>Note 1:</i> Proposals sent to the SERCH home office will not be considered. <i>Note 2:</i> Proposals received without the required number of copies (1 original plus 5 copies) will not be considered.
July 21, 2003	Award notifications sent to you and your state Space Grant office.
August 1, 2003	Anticipated start date of funded project.
December 15, 2003	Interim report due to SERCH and your state Space Grant office. Reporting requirements will be posted at SERCH website and sent to you via electronic mail.
July 1, 2004	Final report due to SERCH and your state Space Grant office. Reporting requirements will be posted at SERCH website and sent to you via electronic mail.



SERCH-03.00.03

Cover Page

1. Title of Project: _____

2. Principal Investigator(s): _____
(Name)

3. Co-Investigator(s): _____
(Name)

4. Name of Organization: _____

5. Total Funds Requested: \$ _____

By signing and submitting this proposal, the signatories are certifying that the institution and the proposed project are in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws [including, but not limited to, (1) Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters; (2) Certification Regarding Lobbying; (3) Certification of Compliance with the NASA Regulations Pursuant to Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs] and regulations and funding of this project does not supplant other forms of direct state support for the project. Signatories also agree to allow SERCH, OSS, and NASA to issue news releases if project is selected.

6. Signature(s) of All Investigators: _____

7. Date: _____

8. Name and Signature(s) of Authorized Official: _____

9. Date: _____



**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and
Other Responsibility Matters**

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 34 CFR Part 85, Section 85.510, Participant's responsibilities. The regulations were published as Part VII of the May 26, 1988 Federal Register (pages 19160-19211).

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
 - (a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and
 - (d) Have not within three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.



Certification Regarding Lobbying

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000, and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.



**Certification of Compliance with the NASA Regulations Pursuant to
Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs**

The _____
(*Institution, corporation, firm, or other organization on whose behalf this assurance is signed, hereinafter called "Applicant "*)
hereby agrees that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1962 (20 U.S.C. 1680 et seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 16101 et seq.), and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Regulation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (14 CFR Part 1250) (hereinafter called "NASA") issued pursuant to these laws, to the end that in accordance with these laws and regulations, no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicapped condition, or age be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Applicant receives federal financial assistance from NASA; and hereby give assurance that it will immediately take any measure necessary to effectuate this agreement.

If any real property or structure thereon is provided or improved with the aid of federal financial assistance extended to the Applicant by NASA, this assurance shall obligate the Applicant, or in the case of any transfer of such property, any transferee, for the period during which the real property or structure is used for a purpose for which the federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits. If any personal property is so provided, this assurance shall obligate the Applicant for the period during which the federal financial assistance is extended to it by NASA.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts, or other federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Applicant by NASA, including installment payments after such date on account of applications for federal financial assistance which were approved before such date. The Applicant recognized and agrees that such federal financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance, and that the United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the Applicant, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and the person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign on behalf of the Applicant.

