



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO SHARE THIS 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW WITH YOU

I'm quite pleased to share some highlights of the NSS's key achievements and the impact we had on space exploration, development, and settlement in 2023. We are sharing our accomplishments so that you can better understand the results stemming from your commitment to the National Space Society—your investment through dues, donations, and other support enables our important mission, and we thank you for your continued commitment.

NSS Office Opens at the Kennedy Space Center

The NSS stepped into the future on January 2, 2023, when we proudly unveiled our new office at the iconic Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex (KSCVC). Located in the Center for Space Education (CSE) building, our new office offers a vantage point overlooking the rocket garden that celebrates the history of rocketry at America's spaceport. We are also within view of the historic launch pads that hosted the Apollo and shuttle programs and are opening new vistas to space. Having our own dedicated office allows us to follow a full service approach in which we tailor every personal interaction to serve your needs. Our new home at KSCVC places us at the heart of the bustling space coast, teeming with innovation and collaboration, and we are embarking on new partnerships with fellow space pioneers and organizations. We look forward to expanding our ability to serve NSS members as we become increasingly established at KSC.

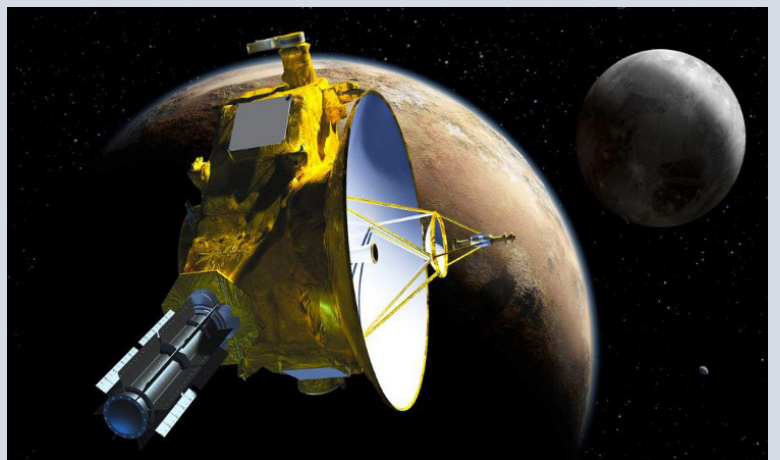
NSS Spearheads Saving the New Horizons Program

Now more than 5.4 billion miles from Earth, the New Horizons spacecraft will continue to explore the Kuiper Belt for many more years thanks to a successful effort spearheaded by the National Space Society. New Horizons, one of NASA's most successful deep-space robotic missions, was slated for major budget cuts in 2023. The NSS, in collaboration with the Beyond Earth Institute and the Space Frontier Foundation, dispatched a joint letter to NASA and Congressional leadership in September to support continued funding and the retention of the core science team. The NSS also initiated a Change.org petition, garnering support from 7,082 individuals. Launched in 2006, the New Horizons spacecraft achieved a historic first flyby of Pluto in 2015, and in 2019 explored a planetoid named Arrokoth in the



NSS Office: Burt Dicht (upper right), Anita Gale, former NSS CEO, astronaut Chris Ferguson, and NSS Membership Coordinator Jennifer Muntz (Lower Left)

Credit: Burt Dicht



Rendering of New Horizons near Pluto

Credit: NASA/JHUAPL

Kuiper Belt, the expansive region encircling the outer solar system. We are pleased to report that NASA announced the restoration of funds in October, ensuring that New Horizons will continue to provide invaluable scientific data for years to come as it explores the Kuiper Belt. The actions of the NSS and its members made a huge difference in space exploration in 2023.

Space Settlement Summit

Participants at the 2023 Space Settlement Summit heard from a range of distinguished space and industry leaders that included NASA Deputy Administrator Pamela Melroy, Major General Lee Levy (USAF-Ret), USSF Chief Scientist Dr. Joel Mozer, Paragon President and CEO Grant Anderson, and many others. These leaders provided thought provoking commentary to the influential figures in attendance who are shaping the cultural narrative surrounding near-term space settlement as well as those actively involved in its construction and funding. The Space Settlement Summit is an annual invitational event that convenes key individuals, companies, and organizations dedicated to advancing space settlement initiatives. The 2023 summit, co-chaired by NSS VP of Space Development Dr. Greg Autry and Dr. Zaheer Ali, was held in Phoenix on October 27 and 28, with over 100 participants meeting at the new Thunderbird School of Global Management campus in Phoenix, Arizona. The highly interactive format facilitated engaging workshops, discussions, and presentations focused on policies aimed at accelerating the development of technologies and capabilities necessary for establishing sustainable human habitation and commerce in space within our lifetimes.

March Storm

The NSS citizen's voice was on full display during the 2023 March Storm event held March 7 and 8 in Washington, DC. Over two very busy days, 30 citizen advocates participated in nearly 60 meetings with key staff and members of the House and Senate. March Storm is an annual space advocacy event organized by the National Space Society and the Alliance for Space Development with the goal of influencing policy and funding decisions for space-related initiatives. Three primary objectives and six secondary objectives were presented. March Storm is an important annual event enabling the NSS to directly advocate for its policy objectives and to influence space-related decisions in the U.S. government. Its profound impact comes from the personal support, knowledge, and passion of our members.

Gerald O'Neill Space Settlement Contest

The 2023 Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest showcased the creativity and innovation of over 26,000 students from 19 countries around the world. Five hundred of these young visionaries gathered at the 2023 International Space Development Conference® (ISDC®) to support their teams' presentations of designs for future space settlements capable of one day housing thousands of people. The students demonstrated a deep understanding of cutting-edge space research and commercial enterprises and showcased their exceptional



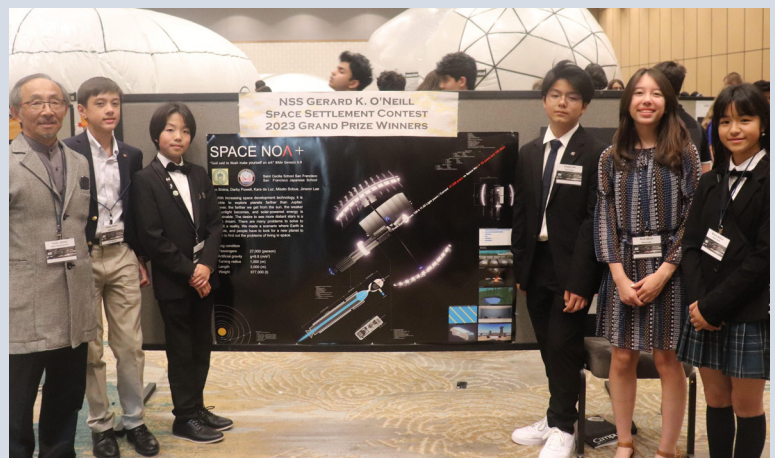
The 2023 Space Settlement Summit, held at Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management
Credit: Burt Dicht

Primary Objectives Citizens' Space Agenda



- **Extend the “learning period” limitation on FAA rule-making for human space launch for another eight years. (\$0 FY24)**
- **Initiate a clean energy technology demonstration of Space Solar Power beamed to Earth from low Earth orbit, deployed within 3 years. (\$75M FY24)**
- **Protect Earth from hazardous asteroids: increase funding for the NEO Surveyor space telescope, to recover from major funding cuts and carry out Congressional direction. (\$210M FY24)**

Goals of the ASD, a consortium of space advocacy groups that includes the NSS
Credit: NSS/ASD



Student Teams at ISDC
Credit: NSS

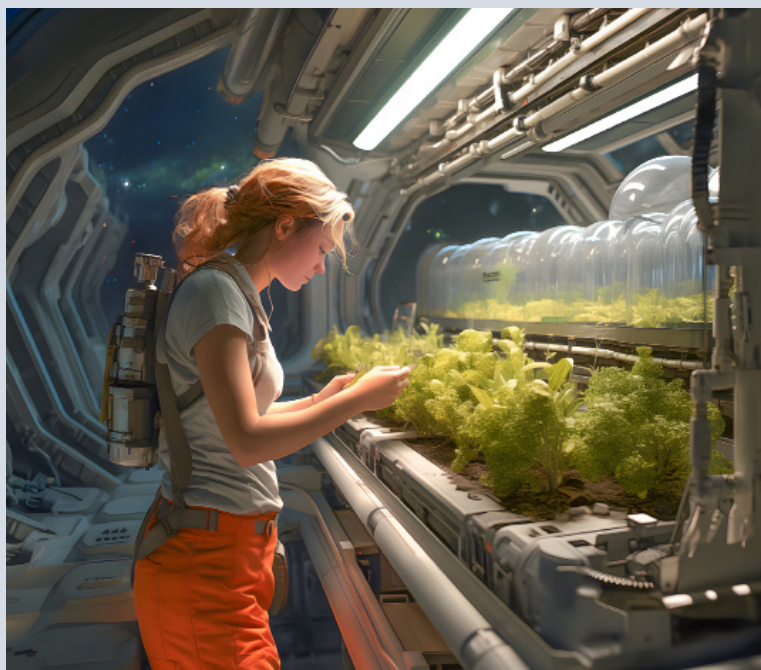
communication and presentation skills as they expressed their innovative ideas. The NSS Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest plays a crucial role in raising awareness and preparing the next generation of space leaders to tackle the complex challenges of designing and building free space settlements throughout the solar system and beyond. This ongoing contest is open to students up to 12th grade (age 18), and they are given the freedom to explore their unique space settlement concepts and to share their ideas, inspire others, and move us closer to shaping the future of human exploration and habitation beyond our planet.

A Year of CFF Grants for 2023

In 2021, the NSS was honored to receive a one million dollar grant from Blue Origin's Club for the Future (CFF). The NSS has always focused on the next generation, but this generous grant provided us with the resources to expand our scope, resulting in a greatly enhanced impact on STEM education. After establishing a rigorous review process, the NSS created its own grant program, and we are pleased to report that a number of the funded projects are showing results. The **Liftoff with STEAMSPACE Outreach Program** brought together over 300 students and industry professionals for their **Cities in Space Competition**. The **Inspire via Art** project is a multi-year effort to create new and inspiring artwork that illustrates the human migration into space—the emotional impact of high-quality space artwork is profound. Multiple well-known artists have been engaged in the first year of the project and the art created will be used in all aspects of NSS programs and outreach activities to maximize impact. The **Kids Read! STEM** book distribution project has distributed more than 3000 STEM books to Title I schools in the Orange Unified School District, impacting more than 2000 students. In addition to these new programs, the NSS was able to enhance existing programs such as the **Space Settlement Design Competition**, the **spUN Debates**, and the **SpacEdge Academy** website, enabling us to reach more students and teachers. The grants mentioned are selected highlights—there are other impressive achievements still to come.

The International Space Development Conference

Three celestial explorers, Jared Isaacman (Inspiration4), Dr. Bonnie Dunbar (STS 61-A, 32, 50, 71 and 89), and Col. Eileen Collins (STS-63, 84, 93 and 114), were among the many space experts and professionals who were featured speakers at the 41st International Space Development Conference (ISDC). More than 1000 NSS members and interested citizens attended the conference, including 500-plus students, held in Frisco, Texas from May 25 to 28, 2023. The theme, *A New Space Age*, reflected the wondrous collection of tracks and presentations on all things related to space exploration, development,



A space habitat greenhouse
Credit: NSS /Samantha Clark



Astronaut Eileen Collins with students
Credit: Burt Dicht

and settlement. Special sessions such as the finals of the **Martine Rothblatt Space Settlement in Our Lifetime Business Plan Competition** and the **Space Policy and UNiversalization (spUN)** debates, as well as presentations from students vying for top honors in the **NSS Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest**, added layers of excitement and inspiration. Whether attendees were drawn to the exploration of the Moon, the allure of Mars, innovations in technology, or engagement with the next generation of space professionals, ISDC 2023 proved to be a profound immersion in all things space and the boundless possibilities to come.

Ad Astra Magazine

Ad Astra, the flagship magazine of the NSS, won the 2023 MARCOM Gold Award, which was presented for “Excellence in marketing and communication while recognizing the creativity, hard work, and generosity of industry professionals.” The award is a reflection of the magazine’s commitment to cover a wide range of topics related to space, including space settlement, space technology, space policy and current space events. Published quarterly, 2023 highlights included an expanded issue on space education, a look at the next ten years in spaceflight, a focus on NASA’s plan to return to the Moon, an introduction to India’s space program, an exploration of space law, and many other key space topics. With its compelling articles from leading experts, insights from industry leaders, and inside reporting, *Ad Astra* continues to be an important resource for those interested in the future of space exploration and settlement. In addition to being a critical membership benefit, *Ad Astra* is now available in more than 1200 bookstores across the U.S. and Canada, spreading the word about the role and importance of space.

In Conclusion

With your support, we made significant strides in 2023 that advanced our vision of “people living and working in thriving communities beyond Earth, and the use of the vast resources of space for the dramatic betterment of humanity.” Our informational programs, such as *Ad Astra* magazine, *The Downlink* newsletter, the International Space Development Conference (ISDC), the Space Settlement Summit, and our Space Forums and Town Halls, provided valuable knowledge and insights to the citizen’s space community. Our numerous contests and competitions and NSS/CFF STEM grants have inspired the next generation. Our advocacy work, including March Storm and the successful effort to save the New Horizons program, had profound impacts. Finally, the opening of our new office at the Kennedy Space Center was an important milestone, providing a physical hub for our organization at America’s spaceport and creating new opportunities to collaborate with other space focused organizations.



Credit: NSS

Overall, 2023 was an impactful year for the NSS, filled with significant achievements that advanced our vision and mission. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to building on this momentum in the years to come with you. A gift of \$50, \$100, or any amount you can give will allow us to build on this progress and expand our impact even further. To make a donation please use the enclosed response card, or you may donate online at go.nss.org/longimpact. To ensure your donation is credited to you as a member, sign into inside.nss.org first.

Thanks again for your ongoing commitment to the NSS. On behalf of the entire NSS leadership team, we are grateful for your support and look forward to all that we will accomplish together in 2024.

Best wishes and ad Astra,

Burt Dicht, Managing Director of Membership