



# YEAR OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

## 23 Months... A Martian Year of the Solar System Calendar of Themes and Events

### How did our Sun's family of planets and bodies originate?

<p><b>OCTOBER 2010</b></p> <p><b>The Journey Begins (Overview)</b></p> <p>Get Involved: Solar System Scale Model YSS-Related Events: Astronomy Day; Astronomy Week</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 2010</b></p> <p><b>Birth of Worlds (Solar System Formation)</b></p> <p>Mission: EPOXI Comet Encounter; O/OREOS Launch Get Involved: Solar System Scale Model</p> 	<p><b>DECEMBER 2010</b></p> <p><b>The Planets: A Family Affair (Composition, Characteristics)</b></p> <p>Get Involved: Solar System Scale Model YSS-Related Events: Total Lunar Eclipse; Geminiids</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 2011</b></p> <p><b>The Planets: A Family Affair (Composition, Characteristics)</b></p> <p>Get Involved: Solar System Scale Model</p>
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### How has our solar system evolved to its current diverse state?

<p><b>FEBRUARY 2011</b></p> <p><b>Small Bodies/Big Impacts (Comets)</b></p> <p>Mission: Stardust/NEXT Comet Encounter Get Involved: Solar System Scale Model YSS-Related Event: Engineering Week</p> 	<p><b>MARCH 2011</b></p> <p><b>Ancient Astronomers/Modern Tools</b></p> <p>Mission: MESSENGER Orbit Insertion YSS-Related Event: Sun-Earth Day</p> 	<p><b>APRIL 2011</b></p> <p><b>Water, Water, Everywhere!</b></p> <p>YSS-Related Events: Earth Day; Earth Week</p>	<p><b>MAY 2011</b></p> <p><b>Volcanism!</b></p> <p>YSS-Related Events: Astronomy Day; Astronomy Week</p>
<p><b>JUNE 2011</b></p> <p><b>Impacts!</b></p>	<p><b>JULY 2011</b></p> <p><b>Rocks in Space (Asteroids)</b></p> <p>Mission: Dawn @ Vesta</p> 	<p><b>AUGUST 2011</b></p> <p><b>Windy Worlds (Atmospheres)</b></p> <p>Mission: Juno launch to Jupiter YSS-Related Event: Perseids</p> 	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 2011</b></p> <p><b>Gravity: It's What Keeps Us Together</b></p> <p>Mission: GRAIL @ Moon YSS-Related Events: Astronomy Day; Astronomy Week</p> 
<p><b>OCTOBER 2011</b></p> <p><b>Moons and Rings: Our Favorite Things</b></p> <p>Mission: GRAIL @ Moon Get Involved: International Observe the Moon Night</p> 	<p><b>NOVEMBER 2011</b></p> <p><b>Magnetospheres: Planetary Shields</b></p> <p>Mission: MSL launch, Searching for Signs of Life</p> 	<p><b>DECEMBER 2011</b></p> <p><b>Evolving Worlds (Planetary Evolution)</b></p> <p>YSS-Related Event: Geminiids</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 2012</b></p> <p><b>Evolving Worlds (Planetary Evolution)</b></p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY 2012</b></p> <p><b>Far-Ranging Robots</b></p> <p>YSS-Related Event: Engineering Week</p>	<p><b>MARCH 2012</b></p> <p><b>Shadows of the Sun</b></p> <p>YSS-Related Events: Sun-Earth Day; Venus, Jupiter Conjunction</p>	<p><b>APRIL 2012</b></p> <p><b>Ice!</b></p> <p>YSS-Related Events: Earth Day; Earth Week; Astronomy Day; Astronomy Week; Jupiter, Venus, Mars, Saturn Visible</p>	<p><b>MAY 2012</b></p> <p><b>New Data, New Ideas</b></p> <p>Case Studies: Pluto, Models of Solar System Formation/Evolution, Life in the Extremes</p>

### How did life begin and evolve on Earth? Are we alone?

<p><b>JUNE 2012</b></p> <p><b>Got Life?</b></p> <p>YSS-Related Event: Venus Transit</p>	<p><b>JULY 2012</b></p> <p><b>Got Life?</b></p> <p>Missions: MSL landing?</p> 	<p><b>AUGUST 2012</b></p> <p><b>Discovering New Worlds</b></p> <p>Missions: Kepler (Astro)? YSS-Related Event: Perseids</p> 	<p><a href="http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/yss">http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/yss</a></p>
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