



# YEAR OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



## 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><b>Get Involved:</b> Solar System Scale Model</p> <p><b>YSS-Related Events:</b> Astronomy Day; Astronomy Week</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 2010</b></p> <p><b>Birth of Worlds (Solar System Formation)</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> EPOXI Comet Encounter; O/OREOS Launch</p> <p><b>Get Involved:</b> Solar System Scale Model</p> 	<p><b>DECEMBER 2010</b></p> <p><b>The Planets: A Family Affair (Composition, Characteristics)</b></p> <p><b>Get Involved:</b> Solar System Scale Model</p> <p><b>YSS-Related Events:</b> Total Lunar Eclipse; Geminids</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 2011</b></p> <p><b>The Planets: A Family Affair (Composition, Characteristics)</b></p> <p><b>Get Involved:</b> 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><b>Mission:</b> Stardust/NEXT Comet Encounter</p> <p><b>Get Involved:</b> Solar System Scale Model</p> <p><b>YSS-Related Event:</b> Engineering Week</p> 	<p><b>MARCH 2011</b></p> <p><b>Ancient Astronomers/Modern Tools</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> MESSENGER Orbit Insertion</p> <p><b>YSS-Related Event:</b> Sun-Earth Day</p> 	<p><b>APRIL 2011</b></p> <p><b>Water, Water, Everywhere!</b></p> <p><b>YSS-Related Events:</b> Earth Day; Earth Week</p>	<p><b>MAY 2011</b></p> <p><b>Volcanism!</b></p> <p><b>YSS-Related Events:</b> Astronomy Day; Astronomy Week</p>
<p><b>JUNE 2011</b></p> <p><b>Impacts!</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> Aquarius launch</p> 	<p><b>JULY 2011</b></p> <p><b>Rocks in Space (Asteroids)</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> Dawn @ Vesta</p> 	<p><b>AUGUST 2011</b></p> <p><b>Windy Worlds (Atmospheres)</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> Juno launch to Jupiter</p> <p><b>YSS-Related Event:</b> Perseids</p> 	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 2011</b></p> <p><b>Gravity: It's What Keeps Us Together</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> GRAIL @ Moon</p> <p><b>YSS-Related Events:</b> Astronomy Day; Astronomy Week</p> 
<p><b>OCTOBER 2011</b></p> <p><b>Moons and Rings: Our Favorite Things</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> NPP launch, GRAIL @ Moon,</p> <p><b>Get Involved:</b> International Observe the Moon Night</p> 	<p><b>NOVEMBER 2011</b></p> <p><b>Magnetospheres: Planetary Shields</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> MSL launch, Searching for Signs of Life</p> 	<p><b>DECEMBER 2011</b></p> <p><b>Evolving Worlds (Planetary Evolution)</b></p> <p><b>YSS-Related Event:</b> Geminids</p> <p><b>Mission:</b> GRAIL-A Orbit Insertion</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 2012</b></p> <p><b>Evolving Worlds (Planetary Evolution)</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> GRAIL-B Orbit Insertion</p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY 2012</b></p> <p><b>Far-Ranging Robots</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b> NuSTAR launch</p> <p><b>YSS-Related Event:</b> Engineering Week</p> 	<p><b>MARCH 2012</b></p> <p><b>Shadows of the Sun</b></p> <p><b>YSS-Related Events:</b> Sun-Earth Day; Venus, Jupiter Conjunction</p>	<p><b>APRIL 2012</b></p> <p><b>Ice!</b></p> <p><b>YSS-Related Events:</b> 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><b>Case Studies:</b> Pluto, Models of Solar System Formation/Evolution, Life in the Extremes</p> <p><b>Mission:</b> Dawn departs Vesta</p>

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

<p><b>JUNE 2012</b></p> <p><b>New Worlds, New Discoveries</b></p> <p><b>YSS-Related Event:</b> Venus Transit</p>	<p><b>JULY 2012</b></p> <p><b>Got Life?</b></p>	<p><b>AUGUST 2012</b></p> <p><b>Got Life?</b></p> <p><b>Missions:</b> RBSP launch, MSL landing</p> <p><b>YSS-Related Event:</b> Perseids</p> 	<p><a href="http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/yss">http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/yss</a></p>
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