

ARTEMIS LAUNCH PARTY KIT



WHAT IS ARTEMIS II?

Artemis II is an exciting NASA mission that will send astronauts around the Moon – without landing – using the powerful Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and the Orion spacecraft. It's the first crewed mission in NASA's Artemis program and a big step toward future Moon landings and, one day, journeys to Mars.

POTENTIAL LAUNCH DATES:

Feb. 6 – 8, Feb. 10 – 11, March 6 – 9, March 11, April 1, April 3 – 6, and April 30, 2026

- Mission length: About 10 days
- Mission type: Fly around the Moon and return safely to Earth

Mission Citrus: Meet the Crew



REID WISEMAN – COMMANDER, VICTOR GLOVER – PILOT, CHRISTINA KOCH – MISSION SPECIALIST, & JEREMY HANSEN – MISSION SPECIALIST

ARTEMIS II WILL CARRY FOUR ASTRONAUTS, INCLUDING CHRISTINA KOCH, WHO IS MAKING HISTORY ON THIS MISSION!

SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTINA KOCH

Christina Koch will be the first woman to travel to the Moon. She holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman: 328 days aboard the International Space Station. She is an engineer, explorer, and role model who shows that curiosity, teamwork, and perseverance can take you to space. Christina's journey reminds Girl Scouts that there is a place for you in STEM, space, and leadership.

WHY ARTEMIS II MATTERS

- Tests the Orion spacecraft for long-duration space travel with astronauts onboard
- Helps NASA prepare for future Moon landings and potential deep space travel to Mars
- Inspires the next generation of explorers – like YOU!

FUN SPACE FACTS

- The Artemis missions are named after Artemi, the twin sister of Apollo in Greek mythology.
- The SLS rocket is the most powerful rocket NASA has ever built.
- Orion will travel farther from Earth than any spacecraft built for humans has gone before.

GIRL SCOUT CONNECTION

Just like Artemis II, Girl Scouts are all about bravery, discovery, and teamwork. Whether you love science, art, leadership, or helping your community, you're building skills that can help change the world – and maybe even take you to the Moon someday!

RESOURCES FOR LEARNING MORE

<https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub>

<https://www.nasa.gov/artemis>

<https://www.youtube.com/@NASA>

Launch Party Activities: Artemis Straw Rocket Launch

BUILD, TEST, AND IMPROVE ROCKETS – JUST LIKE ARTEMIS ENGINEERS.

SUPPLIES

- Drinking straws (wide straws work best)
- Paper (large enough to wrap around the straw)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers
- Measuring tape

DIRECTIONS

- Show your Girl Scouts a picture of the Artemis II rocket and talk briefly about the different parts of a rocket and how rockets launch.
- Give each Girl Scout a straw and a small piece of paper.
- Roll the paper tightly around the straw to form the rocket body. (Note – do not tape the paper to the straw)
- Tape the paper together along the edge to create a tube.
- Tape together one end of the tube to create the top of the rocket.
- Decorate the rocket – adding fins, nose cones, and any other decorations.
- Place the straw inside the rocket and blow to launch.
- Measure how far each rocket travels.
- Change one thing (fins, length, weight) and launch again.
- Compare results and talk about what worked best.

LEADER TIP

Use painter's tape on the floor to mark distances and compare the flights!



Launch Party Activities: Edible Moon Phases

LEARN ABOUT THE PHASES OF THE MOON AND HOW THEY CHANGE – JUST LIKE ASTRONAUTS STUDYING THE MOON DURING THE ARTEMIS MISSIONS.

SUPPLIES

- 1 sleeve of sandwich cookies
- 1 plastic knife or craft stick
- 1 napkin or paper plate
- Moon phases reference image or poster (optional)

DIRECTIONS

- Open Your Cookies. Carefully twist each cookie apart so one side has the frosting.
- Use a plastic knife to scrape the frosting off the cookies and create the different phases of the moon. Label the cookies as you finish each phase.
 - New Moon: Scrape all the frosting off the cookie.
 - Waxing Crescent: Take a new cookie and scrape away most of the frosting, leaving a thin curve on the right side.
 - First Quarter: Scrape off half of the frosting so only the right half of the cookie is covered, and the left half is plain.
 - Waxing Gibbous: Leave most of the frosting, scraping off only a small-curved edge on the left side.
 - Full Moon: Leave all the frosting on the cookie. This is the brightest Moon!
 - Waning Gibbous: Scrape a small curve on the right side of the cookie.
 - Third (Last) Quarter: Scrape off half of the frosting. The left half should be covered, and the right half should be plain.
 - Waning Crescent: Scrape away most of the frosting, leaving a thin curve on the left side.
- Line up the cookies in order from New Moon to Waning Crescent
- Review and reflect. Talk about why the Moon appears to change shape and which phase astronauts might prefer for landing or observing.
- Mission Complete. Once reviewed, enjoy your edible Moon phases!

LEADER TIPS

- Younger Girl Scouts can focus on just four phases: New, First Quarter, Full, and Last Quarter.
- Explain to Girl Scouts that waxing means growing and waning means shrinking.
- Emphasize that the Moon doesn't change shape. It only appears that way on Earth because of the light reflected from the Sun.

