

October 2011 E-note (Number 62)

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Next CERES instrument to be launched this month!

NASA is preparing to launch the next Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System ([CERES](#)) instrument in late October on the new Earth-observing satellite, NPOESS Preparatory Project ([NPP](#)). National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System ([NPOESS](#)) is the next generation of low Earth orbiting environmental satellites that will be used to study the Earth System.

As you know, S'COOL observations are timed to contribute to the validation of the CERES satellite instruments, by collecting ground observer reports of cloud type, amount, etc. The S'COOL team would like your help with an Intensive Observation Campaign to contribute to the initial validation of this new CERES instrument. By participating in this campaign, you and your students have the opportunity to engage in real science that will help NASA. This campaign will take place during the month of December, which is expected to be the first month of operation of the instruments on NPP, following completion of the on-orbit instrument checkout.

During December, we invite you to make and report cloud observations at NPP overpass times whenever you can. You will be providing ground-truth observations that will be used to evaluate the new satellite. The NPP satellite overpass times will be similar to the Aqua satellite, with overpass times generally in the early afternoon. You can find [overpass schedules](#) on the S'COOL website. NPP will be added as an option after its launch, currently set for October 27, 2011.

If you are interested in participating in the S'COOL NPP Observation Campaign please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/signupNPPObs>. We will send periodic updates about CERES on NPP to those signed up on this list, as well as reporting on results from comparison to the student observations. If you have forgotten any registration information or have any questions please enter them in the comments section.

S'COOL at NSTA Area Conferences

Are you planning to attend the [National Science Teachers Association \(NSTA\)](#) area conferences? S'COOL and MY NASA DATA will be there! See details below, and plan to stop by during the conferences!

Hartford Area Conference

S'COOL: Thursday, October 27 2:00–3:00 PM

Hartford Marriott Downtown, Capital 1 (Eileen Poling and Diana Soehl)

MY NASA DATA: Thursday, October 27 3:30–4:30 PM

Hartford Marriott Downtown, Capital 1 (Eileen Poling and Diana Soehl)
NESTA Share-a-thon: Friday, October 28 12:30–1:30 PM
Connecticut Convention Center, Ballroom C (S'COOL: Rick Varner; and MY NASA DATA: Missy Holzer)

New Orleans Area Conference

S'COOL: Friday, November 11 11:00 AM–12:00 PM
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 217 (Preston Lewis)
MY NASA DATA: Friday, November 11 2:00–3:00 PM
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 226 (Preston Lewis)

Seattle Area Conference

S'COOL: Thursday, December 8 3:30–4:30 PM
Washington State Convention Center, 213 (Denise Thompson)
MY NASA DATA: Saturday, December 10 8:00–9:00 AM
Washington State Convention Center, 214 (Denise Thompson)

Reminder! S'COOL@100,000 Events

The S'COOL program is counting up towards its 100,000th observation! At the current rate, we project we will reach that milestone in late October or early November. View the counter on the [main S'COOL page](#) to monitor the progress.

Please remember the contests and activities around this milestone, announced in the [August S'COOL E-note](#).

Exciting change! E-note merging with Observe Your World blog

Beginning January 2012, the S'COOL E-note will merge with the [Observe Your World blog](#)! The December 2011 issue will be the final issue of the traditional E-note. Archived E-notes will be available on the [S'COOL website](#). The OYW blog presents information that you have been receiving through the E-notes, but also allows for timely announcements, exciting features, and user comments.

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