

November 2011 E-note (Number 63)

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1. S'COOL NPP Observation Campaign

On October 28, 2011, NASA launched the next Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System ([CERES](#)) instrument on the newest Earth-observing satellite, known as the NPOESS Preparatory Project ([NPP](#)). NPP is the first operational mission of the NPOESS program, which has now been renamed the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS). Additional JPSS launches are planned in 2016 and 2021. The NPP CERES instrument was turned on November 9th, and check-out is underway. The first science data are expected to start flowing around December 10.

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 starting **December 10th and continuing through January 2012**, to provide a solid basis of comparison as the new instrument begins making measurements.

During this time, 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 very soon.

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.

2. S'COOL at NSTA Area Conference in Seattle

Are you planning to attend the [National Science Teachers Association \(NSTA\)](#)  area conference in Seattle? Ambassador Denise Thompson will present S'COOL and MY NASA DATA. See details below, and plan to stop by!

S'COOL: Thursday, December 8 3:30–4:30 PM
Washington State Convention Center, Room 213

MY NASA DATA: Saturday, December 10 8:00–9:00 AM
Washington State Convention Center, Room 214

Thank you to our ambassadors!! Rick Varner, Missy Holzer, and Eileen Poling presented S'COOL and MY NASA DATA at two sessions and at the NESTA share-a-thon at NSTA-Hartford.

3. Congratulations! S'COOL@100,000

After reaching the first 100,000 observations on November 11, 2011, we look forward to seeing how long it will take to reach the next 100,000. Watch the website for additional winners of the banner competition starting in mid-December.

[Read an article about how NASA scientists use the S'COOL observations!](#)

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

Please keep in mind that, beginning January 2012, the S'COOL E-note will merge with the [Observe Your World blog](#)! Next Month's issue (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. It features not only S'COOL news, but also MY NASA DATA, and the NASA LaRC Science Directorate. Check out OYW!

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