



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sally Ride invites local teacher, students to GRAIL MoonKAM Student Expo in Washington, D.C.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (May 29, 2012) — Harwich Middle School teacher Nancy Gifford and two of her students will be attending the GRAIL MoonKAM Student Expo in Washington D.C. on June 1 to showcase their involvement in the first classroom program to put kids in charge of cameras on board NASA lunar satellites.

GRAIL MoonKAM (Moon Knowledge Acquired by Middle school students) is a collaborative education outreach program led by Sally Ride Science and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Students in classrooms around the world are capturing photos of the Moon's surface using cameras on board NASA's GRAIL spacecraft, and learning valuable science lessons in the process. Gifford is one of 10 teachers in the U.S. who have been invited to participate in the GRAIL MoonKAM Student Expo.

Dr. Sally Ride, America's first woman in space and CEO of Sally Ride Science, will present opening remarks to the teachers, students, and political representatives in attendance along with speeches from GRAIL Principal Investigator Dr. Maria Zuber, NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Garver, and Dr. John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.

NASA's first missions to the Moon inspired generations of future scientists and explorers, including Ride. With her space exploration days behind her, Ride has set her focus on a different type of mission: igniting students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.



“Effective STEM education is about more than teaching concepts and theories, it’s about showing kids how fascinating, relevant—and fun—science really is,” Ride said. “MoonKAM is a great example of programs that help teachers make science cool again.”

GRAIL’s twin satellites, named Ebb and Flow, launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Base Sept. 10, 2011. The science phase of the mission began March 6. During its time in lunar orbit, GRAIL, which stands for Gravity Recovery And Interior Laboratory, will map the Moon’s gravity field in order to unlock mysteries about the Moon’s origin and composition, from crust to core.

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., manages the GRAIL mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. The GRAIL mission is part of the Discovery Program managed at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Lockheed Martin Space Systems in Denver built the spacecraft. The California Institute of Technology in Pasadena manages JPL for NASA.

Information about MoonKAM is available online at <https://moonkam.ucsd.edu>. For more information about GRAIL visit <http://www.nasa.gov/grail> or <http://grail.nasa.gov>.

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