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Subject: NASA Quest Challenge: Exploration Through Navigation
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Greetings science teachers!

Join us! NASA Quest invites you to participate in the Spring 2009 Challenge, "*Exploration Through Navigation: Charting a Course to the Moon.*"

Connect kids to NASA through science! The theme of this Challenge is "exploration," and the purpose is to connect students to a current NASA lunar mission, called LCROSS, while teaching them about space navigation tools, skills, and methods. During the 8-week Challenge (March–April), students will research the topic of space navigation and then devise a navigation plan for sending an unmanned spacecraft from Kennedy Space Center to the Moon's north pole in search for water ice. Other activities will include weekly questions (with prizes) and 3 web casts with subject matter experts, including Andrew Chaikin, the author of "A Man on the Moon." The opening web cast will be hosted online at 9:30a (Hawaiian Standard Time) on Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

Great for whole classes or science clubs! The target grade level is upper elementary and middle school, and the content is primarily science with some mathematics. You can make it a daily activity or dedicate an hour or two a week—your choice. An online educator guide will be provided to participating teachers as well as regular communication via email. Registration is now open, and participation is free!

Challenge main page: <http://quest.nasa.gov/challenges/lcross3/index.html>

Challenge registration page (no cost): http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=iUIDVvaGZhhqKBnJVCobeA_3d_3d

Side note: This is actually Part II of a two-part Challenge. Part I, "*Exploration Through Navigation: Charting a Course at Sea,*" was conducted last Fall with particular focus given to ancient Polynesian wayfinding and Earth-based navigation skills. The Challenge included two web casts with 'Imiloa's resident navigator, Kalepa Babayan, and students across the United States and around the world tuned in and submitted ocean navigation plans based on what they learned. It was a wonderful science and cultural learning opportunity for everyone, and provided a nice lead-in to our Spring space navigation Challenge. Participation in Part II (space nav) does not require participation in Part I (ocean nav), but if you would like to read about the Fall 2008 ocean navigation Challenge and bring the Polynesian connection into your classroom, then you can do so by visiting this web site:

<http://quest.nasa.gov/challenges/lcross2/index.html>