



SLOVER
LIBRARY

NASA@
My Library

STARnet
Science-Technology Activities &
Resources For Libraries

MEDIA RELEASE

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Slover Library to Host Live Chat with NASA Astronaut from the International Space Station

NORFOLK, VA—Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the Moon on July 20, 1969. Who will be the Space explorers 50 years from now and what will they be exploring? Slover Library will help local students, as well as those across the country, be inspired to play a role in this future challenge.

The Slover Library in Norfolk, Virginia will be the host site for a live downlink event from the International Space Station (ISS) on August 9, 2019 during a 20-minute time period when astronauts can communicate live with Earth by sending data through a set of satellites to antennas on the ground. As a part of the ISS's *Expedition 60*, the connection will be made with the astronaut between 12 – 2 p.m. EST.

Approximately 200 young space enthusiasts will convene in Slover Library's 6th floor Community Engagement Room to ask NASA Astronaut Christina Koch questions about what it is like to live in space. Koch will be setting the record for the longest consecutive days a woman has been in space during this expedition, with a mission scheduled to last 328 days.

Students will also participate in many space-related, hands-on STEM activities. The local kids at Slover Library and other Norfolk Public Libraries will be joined by children from libraries all over the country, thanks to this exciting NASA education program and its connection to Space Science Institute's STAR Library Network (*STAR NET*) and its *NASA@ My Library* program. These programs are managed by SSI's National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL).

Spanning *Expedition 59* and *Expedition 60*, the ISS crew members will spend more than six months conducting about 250 **science investigations** in fields such as biology, Earth science, human research, physical sciences, and technology development. Seventy-five of the investigations are new and have never been performed in space. Some of the investigations are sponsored by the **U.S. National Laboratory** on the space station, which Congress designated in 2005 to maximize its use for improving quality of life on Earth.

Highlights of upcoming investigations the crew will support include devices that mimic the structure and function of **human organs**, **free-flying robots**, and an instrument to measure Earth's **distribution of carbon dioxide**.

Slover Library was selected for this program because of its strong attachment to the Space Science community. The library previously hosted *STAR Net's* Discover NASA exhibit and is currently partnered with Old Dominion University and the Virginia Space Grant Consortium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing through an intergenerational contest, "Voyages and Discoveries: Cross-Generational Reflections on the Significance of Space Exploration."

STEM and technology education is a library focus and technology is a strength of Slover Library in particular. The goals of the in-flight program are to

- Inspire youth and adults about human space exploration.
- Learn about the important role that the International Space Station serves as a stepping-stone to human exploration on the Moon and on Mars, and why and how NASA scientists and engineers explore our Universe.
- Discover that libraries are physical and virtual information sources about people, STEM topics, and the world we live in.

To learn more about *Expedition 60* and its crew, please visit

https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/expeditions/expedition60/index.html

To learn more about the 50th Anniversary Moon Landing Contest, please visit

<https://www.sloverlibrary.com/moonlandingcontest>

About Slover Library:

Slover Library blends traditional library functions with the best of contemporary library resources and services. The innovative space design creates a vital and dynamic center of community learning, leading-edge technology and civic engagement, available to all citizens of the region. More than just a public library, it is known as an attraction for residents and visitors alike.

Slover Library is located in beautiful downtown Norfolk on the corner of Plume and Atlantic Street near MacArthur Square and the MacArthur Memorial. Call (757) 431-7491 for more information.

About the Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL):

The Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) (www.nc4il.spacescience.org) is dedicated to developing and implementing projects and initiatives that improve formal and informal STEM education and the evaluation/research foundation on which they are based. NCIL works with national partners to develop STEM exhibitions for public libraries, science centers, and museums; conducts professional development for informal educators; and creates educational games and apps that can be deployed on websites, mobile devices (e.g. smartphones and tablets) and multi-touch tables and kiosks. *NASA@ My Library* is an initiative of the STAR Library Network (*STAR Net*), a hands-on learning network for libraries and their communities across the country (www.starnetlibraries.org). *STAR Net* focuses on helping library professionals build their STEM skills by providing "science-technology activities and resources" (STAR) and training to use those resources. *STAR Net* resources include the STEM Activity Clearinghouse, blogs, webinars, workshops and meet-ups at library conferences, partnership opportunities, information about upcoming national STEM events, and the *STAR Net* online newsletter.

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