

Ambassador Directory

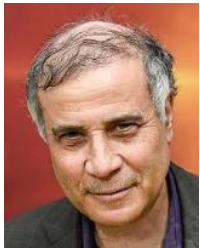
Mission Statement

The Mars Society Ambassador Program is designed to serve as a professional team of people dedicated to elevating public awareness of our mission to land humans on Mars within this decade and begin settling the red planet.



The Mars Society
www.MarsSociety.org

A Message from Dr. Robert Zubrin, Founder & President of The Mars Society



Today, technology has arrived at a level where we have the means to fully explore our solar system. We also have the resources, the ability, and the tools needed to make our vision of settling the planet Mars a reality—an achievement never before realized. Our challenge now is to convey this information with the global community on a grand scale.

Our ambassador program is designed for this purpose. We have a limited window of time to accomplish this, as Elon Musk of SpaceX so powerfully said, “With Extreme Urgency.” Become a Mars Society Ambassador and meet the challenge to inform and inspire the world.

THE STELLAR DOZEN

Twelve Valuable Guidelines

by James Melton, PhD

- 1. Use commonsense.** Yes, it’s rare. Often the simplest solution is the best place to start. Occam’s razor: Of two options, the simpler is usually the better.
- 2. Listen!** Listen with concern. Listen beyond words to what the other person is feeling. People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.
- 3. Be patient.** When possible, count to 10 before taking action. So often words spoken in haste will be regretted.
- 4. Breathe deeply.** Feed your brain with oxygen, the breath of life. This can be calming and strengthening.
- 5. Stop complaining.** Complaining helps nothing. Ask yourself, what would the person I aspire to be, do in this situation?
- 6. Advice.** The only time to give advice ever... is never. Wise words from Joey O. The teacher will appear when the student is ready.
- 7. My word is My bond.** The Four Agreements, by Don Rutz: *Be impeccable with your word. Make no assumptions. Take nothing personally. Always do your best—* which will change depending upon the situation.
- 8. Speak positively.** My daily word is: Everything I need is present and available to me now. I recognize it. I accept it and I am thankful. A positive attitude equals a positive result. A negative attitude equals a negative result. Make your choice.
- 9. Thoughts are things.** What you think about, comes about. Choose your thoughts wisely and guard them. Your thoughts can open or close doors.
- 10. SI=P.** Self-image equals performance. When you raise the opinion you have of yourself, you raise the level of your performance. The opposite is also true. The way you see yourself is the way you greet the world, and that’s exactly the way the world greets you back.
- 11. Life is sixes.** Six of one and half a dozen of the other. What you give out comes back. The return may not be in kind, but it will be of equal or greater value. Newton’s 3rd Law of Motion.
- 12. Do it now.** Get your DIN Degree. Procrastination is the enemy of action and decision is action’s friend. Tackle the most difficult item on your list first. Create at least one act of kindness each day.

This Directory is designed for Mars Society ambassadors to connect and exchange ideas for enhanced Mars Society presentations while executing the duties as a Mars Society ambassador. This directory is exclusively for the use of Mars Society ambassadors. The directory is not to be used for solicitation, copied, or shared with anyone other than Mars Society ambassadors without written permission from the Mars Society.

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- **Zubrin, Hope**
www.marssociety.org
- **Zubrin, Robert**
https://youtu.be/YEBx-pw_Y-g



Chief Ambassador James Melton. California.

Website: www.ChallengeTomorrow.com

Chief Ambassador of the Mars Society, southern California. Jim is a speaker and author on leadership and the future and a former professional pilot, college instructor and journalist. He holds a PhD in Management Science. *“Our human resource is our greatest resource. We are proud of our Mars Society ambassadors who spread a positive vision for our future to every part of our globe.”*

ACTIVITIES:

1/10/2020 Met with Dr. Robert Zubrin at Colorado office to establish an Ambassador Program.

4/2020 Began writing Ambassador Manual, identified criteria, and designed jacket patch.

8/2022 Began monthly virtual Ambassador Briefings, 20-50 people.

8/2022 Began monthly email updates, 100 to 250 people.

2017-2023 Mars Society Convention, general and ambassador presentations.

ACTIVITIES 2023:

3/6/23 Panhellenic, La Quinta Country Club, 120 people. Donated \$1,000 to the Mars Society.

3/14/23 Mars Society Chapter meeting, Yucca Valley, CA, 11 people.

3/23/23 Los Angeles City College physics and engineering students and staff, 50 people.

4/2/23 Why Mars? Why Now? LACC YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/JMr1v2d5DzM>

4/2023 Emails of Why Mars? Why Now? to 300 past clients.

7/2023 Speech Coaching – Ambassador complimentary sessions on building a presentation.



Ambassador Dean Arvidson. California.

For more than twenty-five years, professor Dean Arvidson taught physics and astronomy at Los Angeles City College. With humor and science fact, he makes “real science” become a part of everyday life. Dean resides in Los Angeles and Yucca Valley, CA.

Personal Statement:

For more than twenty-five years, professor Dean Arvidson taught physics and astronomy department at Los Angeles City College. His students state that through the study of physics and astronomy, he causes them to look deeply into how they can make a difference in our society by expanding our thinking into the future. His science examples and lecture delivery make “real science” become a part of everyday life. Through science fact and light humor, his presentations are a catalyst to look up into the night sky and ask, “Is there life out there?”

ACTIVITIES 2023:

3/14/23 Host of Hi-Desert Mars Society Chapter Meeting. Arranged for Dr. Christine Rodigue appearance.

3/23/23 Host of Los Angeles City College physics and engineering students and staff, 50 people. Participates in the monthly Ambassador Briefings.



Ambassador James Burk. Washington.

James Burk is a founding member of the Mars Society and was elevated to Executive Director of the Society in late 2021. He was the commander of crew 261 at the [Mars Desert Research Station](#) and is the lead organizer of our mission to the Devon Island, [Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station](#) in the Arctic Ocean. He is a software engineer and director of technical projects, formerly with Microsoft.

ACTIVITIES:

As the full-time Executive Director of the Mars Society, his activities are extensive with the focus to move our vision forward.



Ambassador William Carton. Oregon.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/spacexgroup>

Bill Carton is out there on the speaking circuit presenting talks on a variety of subjects like *Space Junk*, *History of Space Science*, *What's Happening in Space?* and is a docent at the space museum. He weaves the Mars Society vision into his talks which he delivers mostly in the state of Oregon.

Interview: 9/5/22 @ 10:00 AM.

ACTIVITIES:

Docent at the Portland Air & Space Museum.

Weekly talks at local gatherings on space, science, and pseudo-science.

Participates regularly in the monthly Ambassador Briefings.



Ambassador Jiangduo "Ginger" Chen. Florida.

Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jiangduochen/>

Attending Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL

Personal Statement: I am passionate about and capable of being a Mars Society Ambassador.

Each one is born with one mission at least, so I had been untiringly looking for it. Looking up to the sky and the stars since I was two to three years old, I was fascinated by the unknown and the mysterious dark space: far but attainable, I believe. Journaling down my dreams, exploring academic and career goals, operating the business... I have been lowering my head down with the Spirit to be patiently waiting for it to come. Until one day Elon Musk delivered me a vision, until the time the NASA scientist and SpaceX software engineer, Gholam (Ali) Shaykhian encouraged me to look up, until the moment Robert Zubrin reminded me of making history, I realized: Mars is the answer- my mission. If allowing me to do only one thing for the rest of my life, I will be more than satisfied to write, cultivate, and speak up about Mars propaganda, and help build Mars civilizations for the first group of Mars immigrants.

My knowledge of astrology and astronautics has built me a mind of both humanities and science. From examining humans' social behaviors with the study of planets, I am driven by both qualitative and quantitative research studies to better understand and deliver the beauty and truth of our space.

Thus, I will be a strong advocate for the Mars Ambassador Program and an eloquent voice representing the unconventional to occupy a virgin land.



Ambassador Lari Cujko. Luxembourg.

Website: <https://www.esric.lu/>

Interview: Thursday, December 1st at 2:30 PM Pacific Time.

Personal Statement:

Dear Mars Society Ambassador representatives, I am writing to you to express my interest in working as Mars Society Ambassador. Being part of this initiative would be a wonderful experience and fully in line with my experiences to properly serve an organization which I trust and see the positive contribution for the space sector globally and for mankind. My background lies in finance coupled with space industry experience. I would be pleased and proud to provide my 15 years of experience to the Mars Society by providing general support and act as a real representative in Europe and worldwide. My educational background in Economics has been completed by a master's degree in Space Sciences at the University of Luxembourg and I am currently enrolled in an online master's degree in Space Resources at the Colorado School of Mines to enlarge my knowledge of ISRU technologies. Currently living in Luxembourg, I am employed at the European Space Resources Innovation Centre as Startup Program Lead. An understanding of the space (resources) industry and the players in that field is an added value to the expected tasks. Previously I was working at KPMG Luxembourg in the Public Sector practice for 5 years and leading the space industry initiative for two years. You can rely on me to be present physically and virtually broad in meetings, events, or other needs and to develop the presence of the Mars society in Europe if needed.

I do really hope that those small words will give you sufficient incentives to provide you with an interest to meet me and to discuss it during an interview session to prove to you my interest in being a Mars Society Ambassador.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to discussing it further with you.



Ambassador Danylenko Sergii. California.

Website: [linkedin.com/in/sergii-danylenko-64b3ba4](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sergii-danylenko-64b3ba4)

Interview: by Dr. Robert Zubrin while in Ukraine in June 2023.

Mars Society President Dr. Robert Zubrin will speak on Sunday, June 18th at the InScience Conference in Kyiv. InScience is the largest science gathering held in Ukraine yearly. The theme of this year's conference is "Science for Victory, Science to Rebuild Ukraine." The title of Dr. Zubrin's talk will be "*Victory from Space.*"

Personal Statement: Until present. Chief Business Development Officer at Trigger Software. Relying on my 10+ years' experience of working in the banking space, I invest my energy to help Trigger Software on its mission to build the next generation of digital banking solutions. Redwood City, CA. formally, Ukraine.

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, specialist, international information, PR, theory of communication, new media, international relations.



Ambassador Aline Decadi. France.

Website: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Aline-Decadi>

Interview: MDRS crew 261, June 2023. Interview by Commander James Burk.

European Space Agency | ESA · Directorate of Space Transportation

Master of Science. Ariane 6 Launch System Safety Lead Engineer. Paris, France.

Aline Decadi is a Dependability and Safety engineer working on the development of the Launch System Ariane 6 at the European Space Agency. In addition, she is involved in ESA Moon/Mars workshops, and she volunteers on Mars analogue missions for the Mars Society. She is passionate about human space exploration and made a deep study on the evolution of the crew safety criteria for future exploration missions.



Ambassador Thorsten Eschweiler. Arizona.

Website:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Ro8crtjSVQdRs5wq8jEekym6NFxSXq>

Interview: Monday, March 27, 2023 @ 11:30 AM Pacific Time.

Personal Statement:

Hi James, Thank you for your message! I introduced myself to you at the ASU Mars Society Convention when you signed your book I bought there. I recently submitted my ambassador application and my proposed presentation. I wrote a research paper and held a presentation about "Audio-Visual Entrainment Technology (AVE) Providing Clinical and Physiological Mechanisms for Potential Applications in Space Environments" during the Inaugural Program and Founding Class "Mars Science and Engineering" in August 2022 with Mars University, International Space University, and Instituto Superior Técnico Engineering. This enigmatic topic about AVE technology would be a great asset to the next Mars Society Convention and the space community in general. I firmly believe this technology approach could mitigate many challenges on our way to Mars and establish the long-desired colonization on the Red Planet. Therefore, I would like to present a minimum of three in-person presentations about this superior technology this year, probably at the Analog Astronaut Conference, Humans to Mars Summit, and the International Space Development Conference in May 2023. Attached you will find my research paper on AVE technology, in addition to my proposed presentation. Best, Thorsten



Ambassador James Ehrhart. California.

Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ehrhart/>

Jim is an experienced IT professional and formerly a consultant and leader at Accenture and is currently a director at three startup companies that work on Virtual Reality, AI and drone inspections. He also founded MuseumWorks, a non-profit organization with a mission to apply immersive technologies to increase the accessibility of museums. He served as Crew Engineer for MDRS Crew 197 and is an aspiring private astronaut. From the days of the Apollo program, Jim has been passionate about space exploration. He is looking forward to contributing his experience with augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) to bring the excitement and learning from the new golden age of space travel to everyone who has the interest and curiosity to participate. He worked for 30 years as a technology consultant around the world. He is also a director of four startup companies, including Paracosma, an augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) services company, and an investor in many more, including a half dozen space-oriented startups. San Francisco is his home. His hobbies include being an AR/VR geek, space enthusiast, angel investor and startup advisor. He's also an avid skier and student pilot.



Ambassador Emma Eynon. England.

Website: <https://www.fantomfactory.com/>

Emma and her husband Steve own a digital business helping companies around the world with data science challenges through eLearning and custom software development. They are passionate about the future of STEM, especially in Space and on Mars. As ambassadors, they promote the settlement of Mars and the Mars Society vision through free public eLearning and local STEM talks and university events.

Personal Statement:

We already give talks on STEM topics to programming groups and schools/colleges in our local area. We are very passionate about the future of STEM, especially in Space and on Mars and we would love to promote Mars colonization topics in an official capacity.



Ambassador Steve Eynon. England.

Website: <https://www.fantomfactory.com/>

Steve and his wife Emma, give talks on STEM topics to programming groups and schools/colleges in their local area in the United Kingdom. They are passionate about the future of STEM, especially in Space and on Mars and as ambassadors, they promote the settlement of Mars and the Mars Society vision.



Ambassador Derek R. Flickinger. Pennsylvania.

Website:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1h-bIB3vA1qEolitF-p14ucW2Q-RnX-T>

Mars talk title: *Evolving From Research to Residential*. His interest in space began in 1977 when he persuaded his college to add a class on space issues to their curriculum. With a degree in teaching, he shares his ideas in the classroom and the general community. Derek resides in Drexel Hill, PA.

Interview: 9/22/2022 10:00 AM PT

ACTIVITIES:

Evolving From Research to Residential. Created “*Our Footprints On Mars*” for Comcast, an internal effort to inform and deliver ideas of the future will look like in 10 to 20 years. Taught 8th grade science. Lifted the teaching to binary math. Produces laser shows. Wrote a paper on Ultra High-density Storage, DNA based.



Ambassador Frank Moreno Garcia. Spain

Website: https://drive.google.com/file/d/157dEDe6gYx7_n_fPd7gE-Wqyh-RBGrS/view

Frank resides in Spain and is an avid supporter of the Mars Society vision. His focus is to present ideas on our space initiative to the public and encourage membership in the Mars Society.

Personal Statement:

I have dreamed of Mars since I was 6 years old. At first, I was scared, then curious, later the need to learn everything about Mars. Movies, books, science manuals... Everything that fell into my hands was to devour news about that incredible adventure. I know that I can be an excellent ambassador for the Mars Society from Spain and for the whole world. I just need a chance.



Ambassador Isaac Macharia Gathu. Kenya.

Website: www.kenya.marssociety.org/cart/

As President/Founder of Mars Society Kenya, Africa, Isaac confidently leads his chapter to reach higher to find solutions for settling the new world of Mars. He feels that the Mars Society can play an enormous role in bringing our world together and his talks are targeted to that end.

Interview: 9/16/22, 10:30 AM PT, Isaac Machara. Gathu, Kenya

Formed Kenya Mars Society chapter. Has 800 Facebook members. Writes regular newsletters and has a powerful PowerPoint presentation.



Ambassador Roger Gilbertson. California

YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/HytJn6uaRk>

The Apollo Moon landings and sci-fi films and TV shows of the 1960s set Roger on a dual-track path pursuing space and storytelling. He cofounded an early leading robotics website, RobotStore.com, where he created educational products including “Muscle Wires” (which NASA included aboard the Mars Pathfinder Sojourner rover).

Activities:

Presented talk “Seven Things I LOVE About Living on Mars!” at the 2022 Mars Society Convention, Tempe AZ

Hosted a series of live presentations with the FMARS 2023 crew, including:

7/14/23 Mars Awareness Day Ghana with Ambassador Emmanuel Kyei Twumasi

7/21/23 Mars Society Australia chapter

7/22/23 Mars Society Canada chapter

Personal Profile:

In 2007 he joined SpaceX as their first full-time “media guy.” He has contributed to documentary films about electric cars, computers, and NASA. His discovery of a novel category of 2-day Earth orbits led to a TEDx talk now with more than 1.3 million views. He served on the ground support and marketing teams for FMARS 2023, and Commander of MDRS mission 286.

Co-hosted Ambassador Briefing 9/13/23f. Wrote Mars Trivia as resource for presentations. Help with clothing design, merchandise offerings. In 1967 he gave a presentation to his 2nd grade class describing how the Saturn V rocket and Apollo spacecraft would soon deliver astronauts to the Moon.



Ambassador Will Green. North Dakota.

Website:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1euFyzqHfyw2gx9mU7LgMwiZwIESVweRD>

Will is a PhD student at the University of North Dakota with his major in Aviation/Space. His professional goal is to be instrumental in designing the spacesuits that will first walk on the red planet. He is a track-session speaker at the Mars Society Conventions. “We need communicators to help tell this unfolding story and get people excited and motivated to play their part in the story of space.”

the Mars Society Conventions. “We need communicators to help tell this unfolding story and get people excited and motivated to play their part in the story of space.”

Personal Statement:

I am 28 years old, when I was born the Apollo era was long gone, and the shuttle for all its technical glory was destined to end. We stand at the edge of a new space era, where space flight will become economical, and true space exploration will be possible for the first time in just about 50 years. We need communicators to help tell this unfolding story and get people excited and motivated to play their part in the story of space.

I am a PhD student at the University of North Dakota, working on spacesuits. My professional goal is to have some part in designing the suits that will first walk on the red planet. At UND I have worked closely with North Dakota's Space Grant Office on a wide range of outreach activities. These experiences have been extremely rewarding and have let me share my passion for space. I have been interested in becoming more active in the Mars Society, recently I helped with CAPCOM at MDRS, and for the last 2 years have presented at the annual convention.

I believe this opportunity would be a great chance for me to bring my expertise on space topics together with my passion for Mars and to share that with others. Please consider me for becoming a Mars Ambassador.



Ambassador Carl Greenbaum. Florida.

Website:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O7tGqJE0XRZ6aS0HDwQd3Dw_Bozs57TF/view

Website: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t6TnVQsnPo6uMDJ-PH1XzQOEMWTgB0st/view>

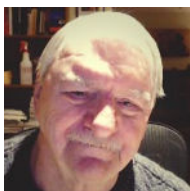
Carl is an engineer graduate of 1968. He worked with Grumman on Lunar Module for 6 years. Received 2nd place in Moon Base design and was a Tele-robotic finalist. He has given numerous Mars Society Convention talks. He plans to present to fraternal groups, high schools and will share his work with other ambassadors. Carl resides in Sioux Falls, SD

Interview: 9/8/22 @ 3:00PM PT. Carl Greenbaum. South Dakota

ACTIVITIES:

Contact your Congress person; Space Parties; Planetarium visits. Shows the Mars 1 minute video at end of his talk which encourages joining. Going to Florida in his motor home (they live in it). Will develop list of places to speak like fraternal groups, high schools and share with other ambassadors.

PLANS 2023: FYI: I will be attending the NSS conference in Frisco. I am a finalist in their competition "*Space Settlement in our Lifetime*". I will be one of 3 finalists presenting on Saturday afternoon, proudly wearing my Mars Society Ambassador Patch. I have also scheduled an ambassador briefing to the St Petersburg, FL Astronomy Club for June 22.



Ambassador Edward Heisler. Utah.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Edward%20Heisler>

Heisler was a railroad worker on freight trains and elected United Transportation Union representative for railroad workers in Chicago in the 1960's/70's. In the 1980's/90's he worked in the trucking industry and was a Teamsters Union international project organizer. He helped organize our participation in the 2022 Las Vegas Star Trek convention. Ed has been a speaker at the Mars Society Conventions. His focus is to bring Star Trek to reality.

Focus, to help and encourage our species from all races, backgrounds, occupations, women, and men to go where no humans have gone before, to Mars and beyond. I agree with the Star Trek and Mars Society hopeful and optimistic outlook for humanity's future. Space travel is our destiny if we take proper care of our homeland, planet Earth, and build a powerful international movement advocating the peaceful scientific exploration of outer space. Most humans want to find out what is out there in space. It's not empty. There is unending discovery! Mars exploration advocates will be invited to join us in that quest. It will be one hell of an adventure that we can all share and participate in by being active in Mars Society conventions, projects, social media, and outreach such as the Mars Ambassadors program. On the road to becoming an interplanetary and interstellar species what will we find or what will find us? Lots of surprises for sure. We may very well experience first contact! What an incredible wonderful time that will be for humanity. We are not alone!

ACTIVITIES:

8/2022 Star Trek Convention, Las Vegas, NV

10/2022 Mars Society Convention presentation at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.

3/18/23 We continue to grow our network of subscribers on Reddit. It's a bit too slow for me and I really don't understand why it doesn't grow much faster. Part of it may be that most of our members and supporters just don't know about it. Mike is going to put in a plug for us on the social media sites he visits. That should help and perhaps information on and our link [newest submissions : Mars Society \(reddit.com\)](#) could also be included in an announcement on our international Mars Society mailing list and/or our convention mailing list. I think a realistic goal is 10,000 subscribers by the time of our fall MS convention.

8/2023 Star Trek Convention, Las Vegas, NV. Volunteer.



Ambassador Akhilesh Jhavar. India.

Akhilesh is in his junior year in college. His passion is Aerospace, but he is currently studying Mechanical Engineering. His intention is to volunteer to serve on the MDRS crew in Australia and Mongolia. His plan is to seek speaking engagements in his business community.

Website: https://www.canva.com/design/DAFNDvP9sn4/88uXSiFJCjGPBz10Dcg-Pw/view?utm_content=DAFNDvP9sn4&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Interview:

9/29/22 Akhilesh Jhavar @ 11:00 AM Ambassador Interview:



Ambassador Conor McGibboney. California.

Conor McGibboney's mission is to advocate for space exploration. His undergraduate degree is in physics, and he is working on a masters in integrated science and technology for physics. His thesis is titled, *Ram Accelerator Design Considerations for Aerospace Engineers*. He resides in Hammond, Louisiana.

Website: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1emQWVpRZAAd3QVzndxTh3MdVHiEtVqnw/view>

Website:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370756195_Ram_Accelerator_Design_Considerations_for_Aerospace_Engineers

Interview: Wednesday 9/14/22 @ 1:30 PM Pacific Time

Personal Statement:

Conor McGibboney Introduction: I got my undergraduate degree in Physics from Southeastern Louisiana University. In my opinion, many students studying Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Computer Science have a great deal of interest in spaceflight and human exploration of space, yet they are not always sure how to participate, or get involved with the space exploration community. I do have the ability to inspire students about space exploration. On two occasions I got students to sign petitions to get classes offered in Space Physics and Astrophysics at my university. I think I could reach many STEM students and show them that there are all sorts of ways they can support space exploration, even if they do not choose to become Aerospace Engineers. And I think that the Mars Society is a great way to get STEM students involved in space advocacy.

ACTIVITIES:

2/23/23 Hammond, Louisiana - Department of Chemistry and Physics Southeastern Louisiana University / 11 people

I spoke about how awesome the Mars Society is, giving a overview of amazing projects that the organization manages. The MDRS VR (FREE on Steam) was a hit. The main focus of my program was to inspire students to do Mars related research projects and share them as Mars Society members at the next conference. One of the example projects that got the students and teachers talking after the program was, what would a bike on Mars look like since the atmosphere and acceleration due to gravity is different than on Earth. The program was 20min and the after-program discussion was 20min.



Ambassador Jonathan Nalder. Australia.

As a Mars Society Ambassador, Jonathan Nalder will continue his work as in the past by presenting 20+ times to students in Australia and select international locations who plan and design habitats and investigate Mars-related scenarios. His work with STEM related programs is extensive and both with virtual and in-person presentations. He will continue with the Mars Society Australia-endorsed FirstonMars.net program, and the STEMPunks.com involvement.

Website: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OZcwwCbO4XTtx3GSNieXy8W43jszMc38/view>

Website: www.STEMPUNKS.com

Interview: 9/1/22 @ 3:00 PT Jonathan Nalder, Queensland, Australia



Ambassador Jonas Narh. Arizona.

Website: <https://thunderbird.asu.edu/alumni/engagement-refer-a-student>

A third-year student at Thunderbird School of Global Management, Ambassador Jonas Narh continues his interest in space exploration and the expansion and preservation of consciousness. He is pursuing his plan to establish a Mars Society Club at the school. He will promote initially to Thunderbird classes in Space Leadership and Business Policy. He resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Interview: 9/26/9:00 AM PT - Jonas Narh – Phoenix, AZ - 40-minute interview

ACTIVITIES:

Interested in forming a Mars Society Club at the school. The global reach the school could offer is amazing. The club would be open to all, but specifically directed to students, staff, alumni and prospective students.

He is in his third year at Thunderbird. He will reach out to the Dean to authorize the formation of the club. He will promote initially to classes in Space Leadership and Business Policy.

Mars Society Club meetings plan to meet biweekly, (twice a month.) Currently he attends monthly Leadership Meetings and monthly General Meetings. Also, he is interested in creating offshoot projects like space debris and his idea of a luminosity lab for use on Mars.

Author of 6 articles published in school publication. School paper has connections to the Wall Street Journal. He is writing a book, titled, (Become a First Entry Magician,), includes Relationships and Systems & Structure. May self-publish.



Ambassador Kent Nebergall. Illinois.

Website: www.Macroinvent.com

Kent Nebergall is the son of a former test pilot and an artist. In 2004, Kent won the Kepler Prize for Mars Mission Design from the Mars Society and was later part of Mars Desert Research Station Crew 32. He has done space technology presentations for Mensa, The Mars Society, the Heinlein Centennial, the Chicago Astronomical Society, and several science fiction conventions. Kent resides in

Vernon Hills, IL and is the chairman of the Mars Society Steering Committee.

Personal Statement:

Kent Nebergall is the son of a former test pilot and an artist. He has been an avid follower of space technology since Apollo-Soyuz, when he was seven years old. In 2004, Kent won the Kepler Prize for Mars Mission Design from the Mars Society and was later part of Mars Desert Research Station Crew 32. He has done space technology presentations for Mensa, The Mars Society, the Heinlein Centennial, the Chicago Astronomical Society, and several science fiction conventions in the Midwest. Several of his Mars Society papers are included in "On To Mars, Volume 2" from Apogee Press. Kent is also a NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador. He is currently chairman of the Mars Society Steering Committee.



Ambassador Sydney Phillips. Texas.

Website: www.thesydneyphillips.com

Sydney is an entrepreneur on a mission to push humanity forward. She has built five successful companies at the mere age of twenty-two. As a keynote speaker and realtor, she has designed an innovative and world-changing concept of 3D immersive experience scaled to true size. With AR, VR and AL she has primed these technologies for simplicity. The technology can be adapted for future use in space. She has been named as one of the Top 100 US Business Leaders and earned the title of 'Young Female Entrepreneur of the Year'. She is based in Austin, Texas.

Personal Statement:

ON A MISSION TO PUSH HUMANITY FORWARD & LIVE INTERESTINGLY ⚡ Serial Entrepreneur. Inventor. Futurist. Speaker. Race Car Driver. AR & Metaverse Builder. CEO @ Zuke AR

ACTIVITIES:

Writing and editing stage with publicist for TED talk, it takes 6 months for the talk to be workshopped by the TEDx groups. I should start conversations soon, depending on their availability.



Ambassador Ashwini Bhadravati Ramesh, India.

Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashwini-bhadravati-ramesh/>

Website:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KI0nf7ePfg9qEwT6lj56u0EW16wWwqDh/view>

Ashwini Ramesh is an Aerospace Engineer and a space educator. She has presented topics such as flight, rocket, space, orbital mechanics, the universe, and colonization to students aged between 7-18 years old from more than 20 countries. She feels that space education is the perfect approach for this generation of students to prepare them for the space industry. She resides in Canada and India.

Interview: 9/19/22

Personal Statement:

I have been an Aerospace engineer and a space educator for the past three years. I have taught many Aerospace subjects such as flight, rocket, space, orbital mechanics, the universe, and colonization to students aged between 7-18 years old from >20 countries. I recently mentored the high school Mars design challenge (organized by the Mars Society), in which my team won. Moreover, I found that my ideologies match that of the Mars Society, i.e., space education is the perfect tool to teach this generation of students and keep the classes interesting through engineering designs, analysis, and more. This type of education will not only prepare them for the space industry but with the student's creativity, the space sector will also be rewarded.

I am looking to bring space education into the Canadian Ed-tech sector because:

1. CSA has a good relationship with both NASA and ESA
2. the students have immense interest in space (I know this from my interactions)
3. there is an Ed-Tech Summit happening on the 19th and 20th of Oct

2022: <https://summit.canamedtechalliance.com/>.

I believe representing The Mars Society there will help us gain attention from the Canadians.

Therefore, with my experience and Mars Society's support, I am heartily willing to represent our objectives.

My status: I am from India and intending to create awareness about Space Education in North America. I am traveling to Canada on Visitor Visa and will be there for six months starting on the

24th of September 2022. During this, I intend to visit schools, science clubs, education-related events, and more. Since our mission aligns well, our association will turn- out to be fruitful.



Ambassador John "Camp" Ratliff. Texas.

John Ratliff is a geologist, geophysicist, and IT solutions architect. With the topic of *Solution Architect*, he will present his information to those of the next generation who will participate in this human expansion into space. By setting our sights on the settlement of Mars, a myriad of spinoff benefits applicable to Mars and Earth would be self-evident, sooner rather than later. John is based in Austin, Texas.

Interview: 9/14/22 @ 4:15 PM PT. Austin, TX

ACTIVITIES:

10/31/22 Zoom video call

Reviewed presentation and it resulted in a new Mars Society member. Next presentation will be to local high school astronomy class.

***** 3/21/23 /High School teacher set up a Google Meet / 25 people**

Reviewed presentation with astronomy class and then fielded about a dozen questions. Make the google forms report function better...seem to be having problems with browsers providing a clean form.

***** 3/21/23 Google Meet set up by High School teacher/ 30 people**

Reviewed 2nd presentation today on Mars activities to another high school astronomy class...not as many questions as the first class, but more students.

***** 3/22/23 Google Meet remote to HS astronomy class / 12 people**

Reviewed Mars and other space industry activities and associated career opportunities in STEM. Fielded several questions relating to reusability and nuclear propulsion.



Ambassador Alita Regi. Florida and Dubai, UAE.

Website: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cUTvSVQbwBR1WEIR-ffFmXN3q0rQ9jU4/view>

Alita is in her first year of her PhD program at Florida Tech in Melbourne, FL. She is engaged in hands-on activities and experiments like designing and building a wind tunnel, high altitude balloon experiments, space suit construction and operation, and physiological body functions. Her intention is to pass her knowledge on, and she asks the question, "How many children will be able to live their dreams?" With refreshing enthusiasm Alita Regi is spreading the word of our new world in space. Alita resides in Dubai and Florida.

Interview: 9/6/22 @ 8:00 AM Pacific Time. Alita Regi, Dubai, UAE

Personal Statement:

Close your eyes and take a moment to look back on your childhood dream. Countless children wished to become dancers, doctors, teachers, or scientists. Years from now, how many will be living their childhood ambitions? Ever wonder why some dreams remain as mere dreams until we take action? This thought drives me to fulfill my goal to become an astronaut to study and explore the universe. I first decided I wanted to become an astronaut when I read about Neil Armstrong. He was not just an astronaut to that six-year-old; he was a STEM ambassador who inspired the

next generation to become the upcoming scientists, engineers, and doctors to make a difference in our world.

Following in his footsteps, I grew from a girl who dreams to one who makes her dreams come true no matter how hard things get. I firmly believe that being an ambassador can boost your confidence, enhance awareness in our society, and create better opportunities for underrepresented communities. I want to become the next Neil Armstrong to help inspire the youth through this program in developing countries and appeal for equal opportunities and the idea of Space for All while helping to make the world a better place.



Ambassador Rich Alan Reynolds. Utah.

With a solid background in the aircraft and space industry at Boeing Aircraft, he holds a master's in science degree and speaks on questions and issues that are posed by most of the general public. His intentions are to share these ideas with our youth in STEM programs and at gatherings in his local community.

Website: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cUTvSVQbwBR1WEIR-ffFmXN3q0rQ9jU4/view>

Interview:

9/6/3:00 PM Pacific Time. Rich Reynolds. Spanish Fork, UT

Formally with Boeing, with a master's in science. His desire to work with our youth in STEM programs. As he stated, his intentions are to present more than 3 programs a year.

Personal Statement:

I have been a space exploration enthusiast since I was a child. I remember instead of pretending to have forts in trees, I had a space station. In the last nearly 25 years of my career at Boeing, I was able to focus on space systems by supporting a proprietary data collections satellite, the Thermal Control and Power Subsystems of the International Space Station (ISS) and software for the emergency safety system of the ULA Atlas V launch vehicle for the Boeing Starliner spacecraft. I keep abreast of the major space missions and am a member of the Mars Society. In 2021, I virtually attended many of the Mars Society and H2M conferences.

I was an early contributor to the Mars VR app, so have my name on the plaque of the RAMM in that app. Earlier this year, I provided some feedback to Jeff Rayner and James Burk on the initial release of the Mars VR app in STEAM. I do intend to provide some more information in the future.

Upon my retirement in 2020, my personal major goal was to promote STEM in schools. That was defeated due to the pandemic, but I am looking for ways to get out and restart that goal. As a start this year, I was able to share some presentations about the Saturn V launch vehicle, and Apollo/LM Spacecraft (as I have a models of those vehicles) in my grandson's elementary school, plus shared some cool facts and videos about the ISS, (again with a model I have). As a matter of fact, the entire top shelf of my desk hutch is full of various models of different spacecraft.

This opportunity as a Mars Ambassador would allow me to share my enthusiasm for space exploration with many more audiences! Mars is the next place to explore in the Final Frontier!



Ambassador Jurgen Riedel. Abu Dhabi, UAE.

A former high school teacher Jurgen pursued studies in Physics and Astronomy and holds a PhD in Biology. As a researcher and entrepreneur, he worked 20 years in science related industries. His Mars Society outreach will be to high schools, universities, and service clubs.

Website: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Q3uEdyF60p3cDS5LuhboV4QkIEAQ1o5W>

Interview: 9/6/22 @ 10:30 AM Pacific Time. Jurgen Riedel, Abu Dhabi, UAE.



Ambassador Nasir Rizwan. Pakistan.

"My Astro journey started with teaching astronomy to an orphanage. Hosting star parties and being nominated Best Ambassador of Pakistan by SUPARCO in 2021 and 2022 followed. I believe that Space has the power to unite us all, and we must work together to unlock its full potential. Join me on this journey to Mars and beyond!"

Website: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ek7V3kU02rd9rzikK8psbHZEz1Y1kh22>

Interview: 2/16/23 @ 10:30 AM Pacific Time.

Personal Statement:

Dear Mars Society, I am writing to express my interest in joining your organization as an ambassador. I am also proud to mention that I am a newly appointed Chapter Coordinator of The Mars Society, and I am excited to take on this role and contribute to the organization in a meaningful way.

My background in space education, specifically in Pakistan, has provided me with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively communicate and advocate for the importance of space exploration and the settlement of Mars. For the past two consecutive years, I have been nominated as the best space educator in Pakistan during World Space Week by SUPARCO, creating and delivering educational programs and presentations on space science in different schools, colleges & public events (reaching up to 3,000 students in 2022). Through this work, I have developed a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities of space exploration and the ways in which it can benefit humanity.

I believe that my experience as a space educator, combined with my passion for space exploration and the settlement of Mars, make me an ideal candidate to serve as an Ambassador for The Mars Society. My experience as a space educator provides me with a unique opportunity to connect with and inspire the community, and I am excited about the opportunity to use my skills and experience to further the mission of the organization and help to educate others about the importance of space exploration.

PLANS 2023:

(10-minute video, here is my proposed plan for activities that plan to do in 2023 as an Ambassador of The Mars Society: <https://youtu.be/lenpudwYdlk>

1. Onboarding enthusiast volunteers for the Mars Society. For instance: one volunteer from the International School Lahore, (participated in Regional Space Settlement Design Competition)

2. Representing the Mars Society in The World Space Week WSW 2023. The theme WSW is going to be “Space Entrepreneurship. • Launching a weather balloon with the participation of the local schools and volunteers who will be invited to join the Mars Society, even as volunteers. • Combined lectures for schools about *The Case For Mars*, considering the theme of WSW as well.
3. Reaching out to 10+ private schools in the vicinity of Attock, Punjab, Pakistan.
4. Establishing an Astro Society at GIKI Ghulam Ishku Kahn University. Swabi, KPK, Pakistan.

Here's the link to the photos shown in the presentation as a reference:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EyHCZTbfGme2y5Wp2f3OORPhtJ5F3Jmc/view?usp=sharing>



Ambassador Bambarende Rohan Perera. Sri Lanka.

As a professional Pharmacist, Bambarende will speak to students, Engineering and Teachers Associations. He heard of the Mars Society through social media and supports their vision. Also, he is attentive to the current space programs as they unfold day-by-day.

Website:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qyU8Ecvk032ghaTMUtXDnbyddkCM70uH/view>

Interview: 9/5/9:00 AM (9:30 PM in Sri Lanka). Bambarende.

ACTIVITIES:

Planning presentations to several groups about why it is important to know about red planet.



Ambassador Garland Rush. California.

Garland Rush is an inventor, artist, and entrepreneur. His Graphene bubble concept is designed for a sustainable habitat living in space, on Earth and Mars. Although at present, only a concept. He will share the Mars Society mission mainly in print form—magazines, newspaper columns and newsletters.

Interview: 9/14/22, 3:00 PM PT.

ACTIVITIES:

Interested in the print form of promotion. Will be writing articles on Mars, space, and our future. Submission proposed to Popular Science, Popular Mechanics, Wired, and other related written media formats. He was a presenter at the 2022 Mars Society Convention at ASU.



Ambassador Sanjit Singh. New Jersey.

Interview Monday, March 20, 2023 @ 11:30 AM PT.

Website: <https://scarletknight11.github.io/>

Website: <https://www.youtube.com/@sanjitsingh3693/videos>

Personal Statement:

I am a graduate of Rutgers University with a bachelor’s degree in computer science with docs on 3D graphics, XR, Robotics, AI, Haptics, BCI & more emerging technologies. Mission to Mars has

been a huge interest of mine as I grew up watching a lot of sci-fi and superhero films. The vision I see for the Mars Society and for the future is we are going to create this sci-fi fantasy into reality.



Ambassador Anastasiya Stepanova. Colorado and Russia.

Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anastasiya-stepanova-8344382a/>

Mission specialist in Mars160, SIRIUS19, PhD candidate in Space Resources at Colorado School of Mines, space journalist, engineer. Anastasiya has a master's degree in journalism from Moscow State University, studied 4 years for space journalism under Russian astronaut Yuriy Baturin. She Anastasiya is a certified rescuer and serves in the public search-and-rescue squad "SpasRezerv".

Her dream, alongside going to Mars, is to unite the whole world in one goal—

space exploration!

Personal Statement:

Mission specialist in Mars160, SIRIUS19, PhD candidate in Space Resources at Colorado School of Mines, space journalist, engineer. Anastasiya Stepanova is the Crew Journalist, and is from Moscow, Russia. She has a master's degree in journalism from Moscow State University, studied 4 years for space journalism under Russian astronaut Yuriy Baturin. Her diploma work was "Space journalism", the field of research was first in the history of the faculty. Anastasiya is a certified rescuer and serves in the public search-and-rescue squad "SpasRezerv". She is a co-author of the book for teenagers about space "I wish you a good flight!". This book is an easy and entertaining way for readers to get to know about space history, life there nowadays and what to do to become an astronaut. Anastasiya is also a Mars One "round III" applicant. Her dream, alongside flying to Mars, is to unite the whole world in one goal – space exploration!



Ambassador Michael Stoltz. Illinois.

Website: www.linkedin.com/in/mstoltz

Michael is the long-time (volunteer) director of media & public relations for the Mars Society and a member of the organization's steering committee. His professional background involves non-profit fundraising, strategic planning, and government affairs. With a deep interest in astrobiology, interstellar travel, and the search for exo-planets, Michael is also one of the co-founders of Mars Society Chicago.



Ambassador Ron Storie. Texas.

Website: <https://chapters.marssociety.org/usa/tx/san.antonio/>

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065630342894>

I run the Mars Society San Antonio Chapter. We need to become a multi planet species if we want humanity to survive. The quest for this will generate new inventions that will improve the entire world. Mother Earth has experienced 5 major extinction events, it is just a matter of time before the next event. Imagine every invention, every song or book or hero—they will all be lost if we do not progress into space.

PowerPoint:



mars presentation
updated 21 Mar 2023

Personal Statement:

I run the Mars Society San Antonio Chapter. We need to become a multi planet species if we want humanity to survive. The quest for this will generate new inventions that will improve the entire world. Mother Earth has experienced 5 major extinction events, it is just a matter of time before the next event. Imagine every invention, every song or book or hero. No one will know about them if we don't progress into space.

ACTIVITIES:

Mars Society Chapter meetings, San Antonio Chapter.

Presented Chapter Facebook followers over 1000. Presented new presentation with updated space news. Open discussion on current events and how to build membership. 2 new members joined during the meeting.

*** **4/6/23** Continue having monthly in person meetings. Challenge each in person member to hand out their 5 Mars Society business cards by the next meeting. Continue contacting local STEM organizations to speak in front of their members. Planning a trip to Boca Chica to Starbase to see a test launch if possible. Planning to attend the annual Mars Society Convention.



Ambassador Aravinda Ravibhanu Sumanarathna. Sri Lanka.

As an Astrobiologist Aravinda is researching the fundamentals of extraterrestrial life and how samples correspond with factors of paleontology and petrology. Eco Astronomy mechanics and concepts are part of his PhD. He participated in the 2021 Mars Society Convention, titled, *"Space Archaeology in Mars: Anthropological aspect of Humans as a Multiplanetary Species in 2050"*.

Website: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AvZCR_8yoKnDKnP0pS7DxAg9mSDnH0gX/view

Interview: 9/6/22 @ 10:00 AM Pacific Time. Aravinda Ravibhanu Sumanarathna. Sri Lanka Impressive PowerPoint with strong emphasis on the Mars Society. His research in the medical industry and hi-energy water. As water is becoming the new GOLD, the research of its various uses is valuable. United Nations Research Fellow, History and Science Museum, University of Sri Lanka and contacts which would significantly expand our circle of influence. (Low and high color GEMS)?

Personal Statement:

As an Astrobiologist I am researching _ fundamentals of extraterrestrial life and how samples correspond with factors of paleontology and petrology. I have been setting out a harbor life explained by a union of the general theory of Eco Astronomy mechanics & concepts as a part of my PhD. It is a scientific study and analyses the extreme environmental conditions that affect the Harbor Life. I am currently involved in analyzing NASA's EDR images of Meridiani Planum on Mars. Also under the Eco Astronomy Inc event, we tried to develop the Earth-MARS virtual simulation test trail in Sri Lanka and successfully completed. Also looking to publish an article on the Mars Society Convention in 2022. Last year I participated in the 24th Annual International Mars Society Convention and presented the paper titled "Space Archaeology on Mars: Anthropological aspect of Humans as a Multiplanetary Species in 2050". It's a perfect place to dive into the Astro biological

subject in a multidisciplinary way. Mars society is the best place to aware the general people regarding space exploration, research, and other astronomy-based activities. Therefore, it's an honor to take part in Mars Society under the ambassador program.

Ambassador Emmanuel Kyei Twumasi. West Africa.



Founder and CEO of 14Space Engineering.

Website: <https://14spaceengineering.org/>

I am a budding, enthusiastic, innovative entrepreneur with a background in Computer Engineering. I am passionate about space and technology, hence, the establishment of 14Space Engineering. My shrewd leadership qualities combined with my work portfolio, thus as a tech professional within the Ghanaian contemporary tech space has contributed to my exposures, and by far position the company as a brand of grit and myth. My hands-on ethical understanding of technology and its administrative biases to resolving and advancing the frontiers of human capacity, has been recognized by private, corporate Ghana and government agencies on product specific needs.

My main intent or reason for wanting to be a Mars Society Ambassador is to basically serve the society. This is so important to me because I believe great leaders do not desire to lead but to serve. Hence, I want to help propagate extensively the core mission and visions of the Mars Society to benefit the next generation of both old and young space leaders in Africa and the world at large.

I am a very giving person who enjoys working alongside other like-minded individuals who want to make a difference in the work they are doing. Over the years, I have gained lots of transferrable skills and qualities that I feel would be suited to the position of an ambassador.

Aside me being a good communicator, I am a good organizer, and I work well as a supportive team member. My work or way of life can be said to be empowering, inspiring, innovative, and provocative. If you take me on, I promise to be a committed ambassador who acts as a positive role model for the organization and what you stand for.



Ambassador Stephen John Whyatt. England.

Website:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cHQGgkol1DlxNKbw72cawwT05yHTSRia>

Interview: 1/25/2023 @ 9:30 AM Pacific Time.

Personal Statement:

It's been a long time since man returned to exploring the stars. In the last 50 years space exploration has continued around our own planet in the form of the International Space Station and the launch of Earth based satellites to study our own planet and provide, what have become to a large extent, essential services. Global Positioning System, Weather related Orbital watches and studies, Earth studies for the continuation of a healthy planet. There have also been many Robotic Studies carried out to areas away from the Earth, notably to the planet Mars, but many other locations in our Solar System too. But man himself, has not journeyed beyond our own orbit for many years. That is all about to change! A few months ago a robotic flight was

launched to explore a new kind of flight path around our moon. The Moon will be our steppingstone on our voyage to Mars.



Ambassador Ashton Zeth. Washington.

Ashton is the host of The Mars Society's **Red Planet Live Podcast** host.



As an ambassador, her target audience is high school students with a focus on STEM and space exploration, becoming an interplanetary species and future settlement of Mars. She was accepted for NASA Social, a program for space enthusiasts to learn and share information about NASA missions, people, and

programs. She resides in Spokane, Washington.

Website: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X9670PZPvFtpgZ-XsjoRo2Nk5QU9hOqN/view>

ACTIVITIES:

11/29/23 Virtually - Bethel School District / 300 people

This speaking engagement came about through a personal relationship with the Career Explorations program advisor of the Bethel School District. I had the opportunity to speak with ~300 7th graders, as part of their career exploration segment, featuring speakers from various industries. I spoke about my career journey, including my current role as Account Executive for an automation technology company, and serving as Ambassador for the Mars Society. Most of my presentation was showcasing the purpose of the Mars Society, discussing “Why Mars?”, the impacts of space exploration, and understanding the importance of human settlement on Mars. Additionally, I focused on education and pursuing careers in STEM. The students were engaged by sharing their ideas in real-time, asked lots of questions (even some questions intended to stump me), and receptive to the idea of settling Mars.

1/2023 Monthly **Red Planet Live** podcast host.

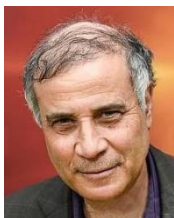
Personal Presentation: See website above.



Ambassador Hope Zubrin. Colorado.

Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hope-zubrin-85407a92/>

With a master's in education, Hope is a science teacher at Jefferson County Public Schools in Colorado.



Ambassador Robert Zubrin, PhD. Colorado.

Website: <https://youtu.be/1S6k2LBJhac>

Author of numerous books including, *The Case For Mars*, Aerospace Engineer and Founder and President of the *Mars Society*. Formally with Martin Marietta, now President of Pioneer Astronautics, an aerospace research and development company based in Lakewood, Colorado.

Another book that can be used for reference for ambassador presentations is *The Case For Space*. The following is a book review, again for use as a reference tool for presentations.



THE CASE FOR SPACE

How the Revolution in Spaceflight Opens Up a Future of Limitless Possibility by Dr. Robert Zubrin, Author, Aerospace Engineer, President, and Founder of The Mars Society. Prometheus Books, New York, 2019; hardcover: 395 pages, \$25.00.

As time is infinite, Stephen Hawking's book, *A Brief History of Time*, is an oxymoron. So might be *The Case for Space*, by Dr. Robert Zubrin. Dr. Zubrin intriguingly takes us on a journey, of what was previously a seemingly impossible fantasy. His book turns "Space" into a logical and doable reality. This is a compelling summary of the world of space and space travel with insightful details of how to bring the vision of human space flight into short-term view.

With his uncomplicated, rational graphs and projections and colored photo plates, we can easily see how space travel to Mars and other solar system destinations can be affordable for the common person and will be a highly and financially profitable adventure. A virtual gold mine awaits those willing to step forward into growth from the Space adventure. Asteroid mining, planetary protection and terraforming pacts, intellectual property such as patents, energy sale and rights, real estate plots and a myriad of other opportunities lie waiting to be tapped and nurtured. Financial gain and human curiosity may be the major initial impetus that will send Humans on an interplanetary exploration.

Zubrin enthusiastically states, "This is the greatest time to be alive." Keeping current with private companies like Elon Musk's SpaceX and multiple companies moving forward exponentially is challenging. With a myriad of government and private rocket launches annually, including launching thousands of Cube-Sats to circle the globe for worldwide internet connection, these launches are becoming increasingly difficult to monitor. So, how do we entice innovative solutions? Enter diverse entrepreneurial students, amateurs, and out-of-the-box thinkers with unconventional solutions.

Zubrin gives credit where credit is due by sharing visions, ideas and prizes to inspire space research by those taking steps to seriously explore space endeavors. Prizes are key incentives sponsored by organizations and people like Peter Diamandis of Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS) and founder of the XPRIZE Foundation, Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Galactic. Plus, The Mars Society, Friends of Amateur Rocketry (FAR), and the philanthropy and kleos of Elon Musk. What inspires some people to reach further and higher than others? And what makes them take giant strides toward an inspiring future in space?

Greater than money, the holy grail here is the power of an idea! Focus, dedication, and discipline while fully immersed in the idea. Zubrin adheres to the old adage that "Nothing succeeds like success," but in Zubrin's terms, "Nothing succeeds like persistence."

However, in *The Case for Space*, Zubrin states that success comes with a price tag that many are unwilling to pay. Implying that through the work of people like Musk, Bezos, Branson, Asimov and Zubrin himself, the reader is prompted to explore what tips the balance between social curiosity, focus, risk/reward, control, and likeability.

The space race is on. Space may very soon have ‘space’ for the average person to explore and innovate. The *how* and *why* of preparing and implementing a spacefaring future is realistically and eloquently addressed with subtle and dry humor with the science to back it up. Space tourism, orbiting hotels, Moon bases and Martian colonies all combined to deliver spinoff technology that will make the proposed financial investment utterly dwarfed by the benefits unveiled for use by Humanity.

Encouragement for action is the final request of this most complete and authoritative body of footnoted and documented research. Dr. Zubrin leaves us with his final words to prompt us to make a mark in history in our own inimitable way as he states, “Making history is not a spectator sport. It’s your turn at the plate.”

Prepare yourself for a grander view of our venture into space. Prepare to launch your mind on a journey that few dare to tread. Prepare to discover new worlds. *The Case for Space* makes the reader look deeper into why Space venture is critical for our time; why we can no longer ignore the inevitable, and how it can be accomplished. As has been said of other pressing issues needing our attention on planet Earth: “The hour is late. The stakes could not be higher. The project could not be harder, but the payoff could not be greater.”

—Book review by James Melton, PhD



Ambassador montage photo by Mike Stoltz

“There is no greater, or more essential task than one who guides our civilization toward a harmonious future.” Thank you, ambassadors, for your part in moving this vision forward.

—James Melton, PhD