

Mission Patch Party

Design a Mission Patch for Your Group!

Did you know that all NASA teams and missions design their own mission patch? They work together to design a patch (like a logo) that will represent them for the duration of their mission—this includes astronauts working on Human spaceflight missions and teams working on robotic missions with science and exploration goals. Mission patches are created by the group and create a sense of belonging. They incorporate names, designs, mascots and can be a variety of shapes: round, oval, triangular, octagonal, etc.



Watch SciGirls make their own mission patch in **Making Space!**

You'll Need (per small group)

45 minutes

- internet access for researching
- paper
- pencils, markers
- digital tools for design (optional)

1. Investigate. Put the youth into small groups⁵ to research other mission patches and logos.² Have groups share out things that they found that they liked and disliked about different mission patches.

2. Brainstorm. In each small group, brainstorm some things that are important to your group.^{1,5} Examples include: school mascot, class/club theme (robotics team, afterschool science club, Girl Scout troop), something the members all have in common.

3. Create. Introduce the **SciGirls Challenge**: As a small group, brainstorm design ideas and make sketches to create your own mission patch.⁵ Decide on a final design. Optional: Have youth write a short description of what each of the elements in their patch means.

4. Share. Have each small group present their patch to the larger group. What is the patch's theme? Why did they choose the design elements for their mission patch?



This activity is based off NASA's Mission Patches and Demos activity, an extension of their Calculator-Controlled Robots: Hands-on Mathematics and Science Discovery Educator Guide. The activities in this book are designed to engage students in hands-on inquiry-based missions while programming robots.