

California Space Grant Consortium

Student STEM Collaborative Projects

Program Announcement Date: November 14, 2025

Proposal Due Date: January 15, 2026

Performance Period: February 15, 2026 - September 30, 2026

The California Space Grant Consortium (CaSGC) will provide support for student team projects, student competitions and other student-club programs enrolled at CaSGC affiliate institutions that is consistent with NASA Mission Directorate challenges and NASA STEM engagement priorities (<https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/colleges-and-universities/>).

A major goal of the CaSGC is to help produce engineers and scientists of the future. The Student STEM Collaborative Program was established to encourage students to engage in opportunities that provide hands-on learning environments, teamwork development, and plant the seed for lifelong learning and curiosity.

Program Overview:

Projects will be funded up to \$2,500. There must be a faculty or staff member who agrees to serve as the project advisor for the student groups and organization/clubs must be university recognized. All project team members must be full-time students at a Consortium Member Institution at the beginning of the project. All funds must be spent by 09/30/2026. As with all Space Grant Funds, no indirect costs are allowed, and funds may only support students that are U.S. citizens. Please note that we are not seeking to support classroom-led senior projects, but rather activities that extend beyond the classroom, as part of national competitions, student organizations, or other space/STEM research projects.

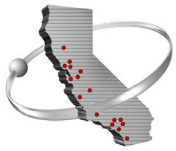
Project Reporting:

Principal Investigators/Project Advisor for awarded proposals will be expected to:

- Have each student involved in the project fill out the CaSGC awardee form at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY26_Student_STEM_Collaborative

The CaSGC office will work with you to inform you which students from your campus have filled out the form.

- Fill out the relevant project report form as needed for NASA. CaSGC will send online links to report forms directly and NASA Gateway system requests.
- Send a financial report at the end of the project showing all expenses made against the award; total expenses should equal the award amount. It can be in the form of a spreadsheet or pdf.
- Send a short 1-page summary post-project or competition about how the funds benefited your goals. Summaries can be sent to aarkwright@ucsd.edu. Pictures are highly recommended.



Proposal Submission:

- This opportunity does not require official submission through a university contracts & grants office. The CaSGC Student STEM Collaborative Program will be handled entirely within the CaSGC organizational structure. We request that a foundation or university entity be available for award acceptance. However, if your university requires submission through a contracts & grants office or similar entity, please adhere to those requirements.
- Clear specification of the activity/competition is required. There are several NASA-affiliated student challenges that can be found at <https://stem.nasa.gov/artemis/>. Some examples include Student Launch, Human Exploration Rover Challenge, and Spacesuit User Interface Technologies for Students. Participation in a NASA affiliated challenge is not required; however, the proposed activity must have clear timelines, tasks, and requirements.

Funding Requirements:

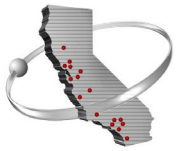
- As with all Space Grant Funds, no indirect costs are allowed, and funds may only support students that are U.S. citizens.
- A detailed budget justification must be included in your proposal to receive funding under this program.
- No equipment, food, or clothing may be purchased with Space Grant funds under this solicitation.
- No funding can be applied to salaries.
- Funds for this opportunity must be spent by 09/30/2026.

Proposal Elements:

- 1) Cover Page: Include proposal title, Faculty/Staff advisor and student project lead name and contact information (one page).
- 2) Proposal Main Body (3 pages or less)—Includes:
 - a) Abstract
 - b) Background/identification of competition or project
 - c) Main project goals or purpose
 - d) Ties (if any) to NASA Centers or Mission Directorates
 - e) Description of matching resources (if any)
 - f) Plans for outreach to engage the public or K-12 in your team's activities.

This section must be brief, three pages or less. Projects seeded by these CaSGC funds must meet the rigorous standards of evaluation and reporting associated with the National Space Grant program.

- 3) Budget Summary: Provide a budget summary in the form of a table that clearly identifies travel support, supplies and services (commodities, research-related expenses, etc.). Please separate funds requested directly from CaSGC and any matching funds or other sources. If applying on behalf of a student organization, please disclose the official organization name and any other sources of funding. Provide subtotals for each group of items and totals for the overall budget request. Make sure that all items are compliant with your institution's spending and reimbursement policies. Note that Space Grant funds are not allowed for the purchase of equipment.



- 4) If applicable, a summary of the outcomes of your past California Space Grant supported projects. Please include number of students involved, partners, publications, and/or outreach.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria:

- Project Description: clear and realistic goals and timeline
- Ties to NASA (NASA competition, Facilities, and/or Resources)
- Budget request: clear and meets requirements, adequate justification
- Matching Resources
- Past Project Performance, where appropriate

Proposal Submission (on or before January 15, 2026):

- 1) Email your proposal in pdf format to

California Space Grant Administration
sgrant@ucsd.edu