

# SURPRISINGLY STEM

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



## Surprisingly STEM Monthly Career Exploration

Surprisingly STEM is a video series that highlights exciting and unexpected careers at NASA. This series is designed to inform students about the broad range of career opportunities at NASA – outside of the typical associations of rocket scientists and astronauts – and to break down perceived barriers for working at the agency.

- Monthly Release of new pre-recorded 5 minute career episode
- Associated STEAM Activities
- Monthly Live Session with NASA expert to answer Student Questions



### Thermal Blanket Technician

You'll surely get wrapped up in this episode of Surprisingly STEM featuring Paula Cain, a thermal blanket technician at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. She covers why things sent into space need to be protected by a thermal blanket, and shares how two of her passions – fashion design and Star Trek – were interwoven into an exciting career at NASA!

[Click to register for a live Q&A on Oct 26 at 4pm ET](#)



[View the Episode](#)



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### Wind Tunnel Engineers

We're big fans of Sam Zauber and Frank Quinto – two wind tunnel test engineers at NASA's Langley Research Center! You'll be blown away as you learn how NASA uses its 14-foot by 22-foot subsonic wind tunnel. See some of the fascinating things Frank and Sam have tested there, and learn what propelled them into their exciting STEM careers.

[Click to register for a live Q&A on Nov 15 at 5pm ET](#)



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### Marine Biologists

NASA's Kennedy Space Center is known for its launch pads, rocket launches and cutting-edge technology -- it's also a national wildlife refuge! NASA has a team of biologists whose mission is to protect and preserve threatened and endangered species living near launch sites. Biologists Eric Reyier, PhD, and Bonnie Ahr share how their ecological work contributes the agency's larger mission and how they personally ended up on a boat in the Florida wetlands doing exciting work for NASA.

[Click to register for a live Q&A on Dec 6 at 5pm ET](#)



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### Space Tire Engineer

Where we're going, we don't need roads... but we still need tires! In this episode, we rolled on over to NASA's Glenn Research Center where engineer Heather Oravec is reinventing the wheel – literally! Heather explains her work in creating wheels intended for use on other celestial bodies, such as the Moon, and how she got traction in this unique career.

[Click to register for a Live Q&A on Jan 17 at 4pm ET](#)



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