



THE HERMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

"It's a special thing to be a human, and it's a special thing to be on planet Earth." -Reid Wiseman

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I24 Member Selected for Flight to Space!



Congratulations to I24 member Priya Abiram who will be flying on a suborbital research mission next year!

In a historic first, Priya Abiram and Manju Bangalore are slated to lead the first dedicated research mission to study menstruation in microgravity aboard a future suborbital spaceflight with Virgin Galactic. Bangalore is the founder and executive director of Operation Period, an organization that aims to advance menstrual freedom through research and community action. Abiram serves as the director of research for Operation Period's Redshift Lab.

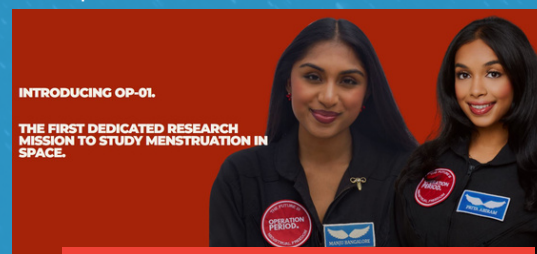
Together, they will conduct OP-01, a mission designed to study menstrual health and fluid dynamics in microgravity, an area of human spaceflight research that remains under-researched.

OP-01 builds upon prior microgravity research conducted by Operation Period and represents a major step toward ensuring the future of spaceflight is designed for everyone.

The flight is expected to take place in 2027, with Bangalore and Abiram leading research designed to better understand how menstrual dynamics function beyond Earth.

While more than 750 people have traveled to space, over 100 of which have been women, and decades of research have explored the effects of microgravity on the human body, menstruation has never been directly and quantitatively studied in space. Until now.

In addition to its scientific objectives, the OP-01 mission aims to spark a broader cultural and educational conversation around menstrual justice, representation in STEM, and the future of human-centered design in space exploration. [Click HERE for more info!](#)



"PERIODS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TREATED AS PRIVATE, BUT THEY'RE ALSO PROFOUNDLY UNIVERSAL. WHEN WE STUDY THEM IN SPACE, WE'RE SAYING THAT EVERY EXPERIENCE, EVERY BODY, AND EVERY CYCLE DESERVES A PLACE IN SCIENCE."

— MANJU BANGALORE, FOUNDER OF OPERATION PERIOD



Member Spotlight!

Nancy "Firefly" Coddington



The first person who taught Firefly to look up and wonder wasn't a scientist. It was her mom. Growing up, she would take her daughter outside to catch fireflies and watch the night sky. Firefly remembers watching Halley's Comet and seeing the Milky Way stretch across a dark sky. She was captivated by the Moon, amazed that people had actually walked on its surface. Watching the Challenger tragedy unfold live on television showed her that exploration demands extraordinary courage and perseverance.

Years later, Firefly found herself standing beside telescopes instead of looking through them. Working at Kopernik Observatory and Science Center gave her the opportunity to introduce young people and families to our solar system. Some of her favorite moments came from watching a child peer through a 20-inch telescope for the first time or making "dirty snowball" comets with dry ice. Firefly discovered that while telescopes reveal distant worlds, wonder reveals possibility.



With a background in environmental science and STEM education, Firefly spent 15 years at a PBS/NPR affiliate, producing science stories that connected research with everyday life. No matter the platform, her goal is the same: help people move from simply learning about science to seeing themselves as part of it. This is creating STEM Identity: the moment someone stops asking, "Do I belong here?" and starts asking, "How can I contribute?"

Today, Firefly creates science media, offering consulting to organizations, leading professional development for educators, and training scientists, engineers, and STEM professionals to better connect with young people. When young people can see themselves in the people doing the work, they begin to imagine themselves there, too. Her work helps organizations transform curiosity into confidence by creating experiences that build lasting STEM Identity.

Firefly believes the best way to start a conversation about space is by wearing it. She blends art and science to tell stories and invite conversations, from designing a fiber optic "Galaxy Goddess" dress, to creating Launch Pants inspired by Artemis and Dragon missions. Recently, she partnered with STEM Next Opportunity Fund and Apple to create a Moon Base project where students designed lunar communities. The students were able to imagine themselves living, working, and belonging on the moon. Those moments have taught Firefly that the greatest frontier isn't the distance between Earth and the Moon. It's the distance between someone believing space is for other people and realizing they belong in the story.





I24 Members on the Move

Space Camp USA Graduate!

Congrats to Erika “Spectra” Rivera on completing Adult Space Camp at Huntsville, AL last month! Growing up in the Philippines, opportunities such as this didn’t exist for her. Completing the camp was a way to celebrate her 40th birthday and to honor her husband’s childhood dream, especially participating on the Multi-Axis Trainer.

Spectra and her husband attended together and were assigned as flight engineers for an ISS mission simulation during which they performed an EVA. She was happy to see people from all walks of life at the camp, ranging in ages 30-70, all brought together by a shared curiosity for space. Space Camp reminded Spectra that it is never too late to do something you have always dreamed about doing.



Join Project Torpor!

I24 member Antariksh Gujarati invites you to join Project Torpor, an independent research initiative focused on one of the most ambitious challenges in human space exploration: the development of reversible synthetic torpor (human hibernation) for future long-duration space missions.

As humanity prepares for missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond, significant challenges remain unresolved, including radiation exposure, resource consumption, psychological stress, muscle and bone deterioration, and the physiological limitations of long-duration spaceflight. Project Torpor seeks to explore whether controlled metabolic suppression could become a future solution to many of these challenges. The project is currently in its foundational stage, and the developers are assembling a network of passionate individuals interested in contributing ideas, research, technical expertise, and collaborative efforts toward this long-term scientific mission.

Whether you are a student, researcher, engineer, healthcare professional, entrepreneur, or simply someone passionate about the future of human space exploration, they would be honored to connect with you.

If this vision resonates with you, please feel free to complete a short interest form for more info or to potentially contribute to Project Torpor.
[CLICK HERE FOR THE FORM!](#)



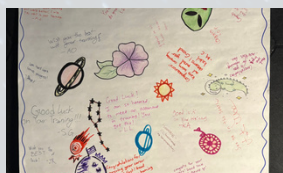
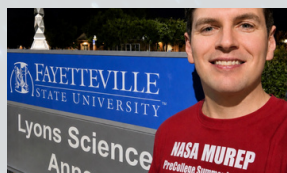
Members on the Move (cont'd)

124 Member Speaks at NASA MUREP Event!

As the K-12 STEM Officer for the AIAA Carolinas Section, Alex "Echo" Aun is always looking for opportunities to connect students with STEM, aviation, and space-related resources. Through his friend and NASA astronaut Tony Antonelli, Echo met members of the Fayetteville State University geospatial science team who invited him to speak with high school students participating in Fayetteville State University's MUREP space camp.

NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project, or MUREP, strengthens research, academic, and technological capacity at Minority Serving Institutions while also engaging students in STEM. During the event, Echo spoke about STEM, service, aviation, spaceflight, and his personal path toward astronaut candidacy. He shared lessons from his own experiences and stayed with the students for several additional hours enjoying lunch together, talking through their interests and future plans. For Echo, it was a meaningful opportunity to support K-12 STEM outreach, connect with students through the MUREP program, and help encourage the next generation interested in science, technology, engineering, aviation, and space.

[Find more info on NASA MUREP HERE!](#)



Member in Need



124 member Caitlin "Riot" Collom is taking her first major step toward earning her Private Pilot License while also self-funding a Master's degree in Planetary Science. Balancing the demanding workload and financial reality of a graduate degree is an incredible journey, but it leaves little room for the out-of-pocket costs required for hands-on flight training. To truly contribute to aerospace engineering and space systems, Riot believes you need to understand the skies from the inside out. Learning to pilot an aircraft from the cockpit is the essential next step in building that practical foundation. Because traditional student loans do not cover initial flight school, she is launching a GoFundMe campaign to bridge the financial gap for her primary training hours and equipment. The funds will cover aircraft rental, flight instructor time, flight simulator access, and essential cockpit equipment like an aviation headset and iPad Mini. Every dollar will go directly toward Riot's primary training hours and equipment, and any extra will help her work toward an Instrument Rating.

[Click HERE for Riot's GoFundMe page!](#)

If you aren't able to contribute at this time, please consider sharing her page with your network.



I24 News

We are thrilled to announce an exclusive opportunity for our I24 community!

[AstroLink](#) — the virtual platform giving you direct access to astronauts, founders, and aerospace leaders — is now opening early access for Inspired 24 members.

This is your chance to be among the first to book a 1:1 video call or mentoring session with Astronaut Chris Sembroski.

Why This Matters Right Now

Chris Sembroski flew to space on the historic Inspiration4 mission in 2021— the same mission that inspired so many of us to pursue our dreams in space, regardless of background or barriers. Connecting directly with leaders like Chris is exactly why we built AstroLink.

Whether you're looking for career advice, collaboration, insights, or simply to share your journey, this is your chance for a real, personal conversation with someone who has been there.

As an early registrant from the I24 community, you'll receive:

- 10% discount on your booking once AstroLink officially goes live
- Automatic entry into our drawing for two free 1:1 sessions with Chris (two winners randomly selected from early registrants)

Spots are limited!

[Sign up NOW for AstroLink Early Access and secure your slot for a 1:1 session with Chris Sembroski!](#)

(Everyone who signs up during early access is automatically entered to win one of the two free sessions.)

I24 News (cont'd)

The I24 Spaceflight Training Class #5 is fully booked for Sept. 26-27, 2026!

Participants include I24 members Ariane "Leto" Fikki, Roger Lascorz, Kendra "Lady Base" Base, Spencer "Goldielocks" Bramwell, Victoria "Cliffhanger" DeFazio, and Alex "Echo" Aun.

If you missed this opportunity, Class #6 will be held in January 2027. For early access sign-up, email Titan: titan@theinspired24.com



Affiliate News

The next cohort of SpaceKind Training begins September, 23, 2026. It will be led by SpaceKind Founder, [Loretta Hidalgo Whitesides](#). This non-traditional learning course will invite you to open your heart, define your dreams, and share your life vision. You will use Loretta's book [The New Right Stuff](#) as a text book for exercises that help you navigate your own hero's journey and come out the other end ready to make your unique contribution to the cosmos. Many of our I24 members and other well-known space industry professionals have participated in this life changing program. Virtual sessions will be held on Wednesdays 12:00 pm Pacific for 8 weeks. [Click HERE to register!](#)



[CLICK HERE FOR I24 MERCH!](#)



We now have I24 pins,
patches, name tags, &
engraved drinkware!



Get the latest I24 committee
updates and news!

[CLICK HERE to watch the replay of
June's All-Hands Meeting!!](#)

About The Inspired 24

"Inspired 2 Space 4 All"

We, The Inspired 24, are an inclusive group of like-minded, space positive people dedicated to promoting the access to space for all.

Our mission objectives are:

Network with organizations that support inclusive participation in space exploration.

Collaborate to create opportunities to experience the overview effect.

Train for space flights and provide space-ready individuals for future missions.

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NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

(June 2026)

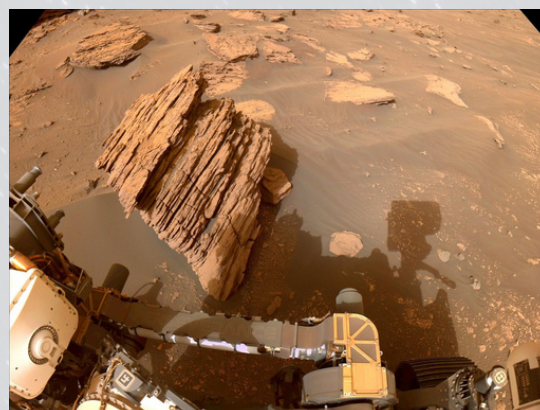
Nevin Shah	Prakhar Srivastava
Sara Cavagna	Girinath Anandhan
Michael Suchocki	Kiran Balam
Anaëlle Goncalves	Nicole Chase
Alessandro Morano	Kyle Arcurio
	Agnibhu
	Chakraborty

Just for fun!

Space science trivia :

NASA's Perseverance Mars rover captured this image of "Bettys Rock" on June 20, 2022. The rock is named after Bettys Rock in what national park?

- A. Joshua Tree
 - B. Shenandoah
 - C. Badlands
 - D. Grand Teton
- (see below for answer)



NASA's Perseverance Mars rover captured this image of Bettys Rock using one of the rover navigation cameras on June 20, 2022, the 474th Martian day, or sol, of the mission.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Trivia answer: B. Shenandoah
[Click HERE to learn more from JPL](#)