

# NewsRelease



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

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March 21, 2003

RELEASE: 03-023

## **VIRGINIA BEACH STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT NORTHERN LIGHTS VIA NASA**

Students from Brandon and Landstown middle schools in Virginia Beach, Va., will participate in a videoconference with Svein Spjelkavik, Director of the Northern Lights Festival, in Andenes, Norway, on March 25 at 9:30 a.m. EST.

Via NASA LIVE™ (Learning through Interactive Videoconferencing Experiences), students will talk with Spjelkavik to learn about the mysterious Aurora Borealis (or Northern Lights). From the einstein.lab - a state-of-the-art computer lab located in the Virginia Beach school administration building - students will learn about the myths, legends, and folklore that have revolved around the Northern Lights throughout history.

This event is a continuation of the NASA CONNECT™ program, *Data Analysis and Measurement: Dancing in the Night Sky*, that premieres April 10 from 11:00 – 11:30 AM on PBS stations throughout the United States and on NASA-TV. After the videoconference, students will complete a piece of artwork on the Northern Lights to reinforce what they learned. Their artwork will be displayed on the NASA CONNECT™ web site.

In the *Dancing in the Night Sky* episode, students discover how NASA scientists and engineers use satellite technology to measure and analyze aurora data. They see how Norwegian scientists apply the concepts of data analysis and measurement to study the Northern Lights by using ground-based instruments and sounding rockets. By conducting hands-on and web activities, students will make connections between NASA research and the mathematics, science, and technology they learn in their classrooms.

NASA LIVE™, a series of free two-way videoconferencing programs available from NASA Langley Research Center, is designed to extend and strengthen NASA's commitment to educational excellence. It provides opportunities for learning, instructional enrichment, and professional development for students and faculty by engaging them in an interactive, virtual environment with NASA researchers.

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NASA CONNECT™, an Emmy Award winning research and standards-based program, focuses on math, science, and technology for students in grades 6 - 8. More than 160,000 educators, representing over 7 million students in 50 states, are registered with NASA CONNECT™.

For more information about NASA LIVE™ and NASA CONNECT™, visit

**<http://live.larc.nasa.gov>**

**<http://connect.larc.nasa.gov>**

NASA-TV is broadcast on GE-2, transponder 9C at 85 degrees West longitude, vertical polarization, frequency of 3800 Mhz, with audio at 6.8 Mhz.

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