

## NASA's SmallSat LEARN Forum Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the goal of NASA's SmallSat LEARN Forum?

NASA has extensive experience building and flying CubeSats and SmallSats but knowledge resides in individual pockets within the agency and its partners. To facilitate networking, information exchange, and collaborative learning within the NASA SmallSat Community, NASA implemented the SmallSat LEARN Forum.

NASA's SmallSat **LEARN Forum** is a resource aimed at providing the NASA SmallSat Community with collaboration and information. LEARN stands for **L**earning from **E**xperiences, **A**chievements, and **R**esolution **N**avigation and through the forum we will share and learn together as a community to become smarter implementers of these missions.

The goals for this forum include:

- Expand personal and professional networks
- Break down barriers and silos
- Increase community awareness
- Reduce redundancies across the agency
- Increase opportunities to leverage cross-cutting capabilities and technologies across the agency's SmallSat portfolio

NASA's SmallSat LEARN Forum utilizes multiple activities to achieve the goals: virtual meetings, an annual in-person meeting, business-utilized spacecraft (BUS) series, website, and online community.

- **Virtual meetings:** bi-monthly interactive webinar series focused on bringing in community speakers and content that will allow for thoughtful discussion and promote cross-sharing of information and lessons learned. Each virtual forum session lasts 1.5 hours and consists primarily of mission presentations and a community discussion.
- **In-person meeting:** yearly in-person gathering full of presentations, panel discussions, classes, workshops and networking opportunities to learn from each other and expand personal SmallSat networks.
- **Business-Utilized Spacecraft (BUS) Series:** bi-weekly presentations by spacecraft bus industry providers
- **Website:** online presence with additional information and archives to previous sessions (<https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute/LEARN>).
- **Online Community:** Linked-In group to share and connect with the NASA SmallSat community (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14097449/>)

The intended LEARN Forum audience consists of individuals who have directly worked on or submitted proposals to work on NASA SmallSat projects and missions. This includes, but is not limited to, principal investigators, project managers, and lead systems engineers.

**2. How many community members attend the NASA's SmallSat LEARN In-Person Forum?**

The NASA SmallSat LEARN In-Person Forum started in 2022, with a second session in 2023. Attendance to both activities was around 90 and 120 people respectively.

**3. Is there an option for virtual attendance to the NASA SmallSat LEARN Forum?**

At this time, this engagement is planned as an in-person activity only. Should things change, we will immediately notify all registered participants.

**4. I have a NASA issued PIV badge. Can I use that to access NASA's Ames Research Center if I normally work at a different Center?**

Yes, your NASA issued PIV badge can be used for accessing NASA's Ames Research Center (ARC). A NAMS request will be submitted on your behalf to request physical access upon registration. Present your badge to the security guards at the main gate to gain access to the Center.

**5. I am a US citizen or green card holder and do not have a NASA-issued PIV badge. What is the badging process at NASA's Ames Research Center?**

To access NASA Ames and Building 3 for a US Citizen or green card holder without a NASA-issued PIV badge, present a US government-issued form of identification (e.g., drivers license, passport) at the main gate. An Ames-provided badge is not necessary to access the location of the forum.

Note an Ames-provided temporary badge is necessary to participate in the facility tour. If you indicated interest in participating in the tour and received confirmation for the participation, the committee will submit a badge request for you. You will need to stop by the Visitor Control for NASA Ames Research Center (Bldg. 26) on or before September 26, 2024 to present a government identification and receive your badge. You will need to provide a valid form of identification (driver's license, passport, etc.) to the badging officers. The badging office is open Monday to Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If you are planning to pick up your badge the morning of September 26, 2024 in order to participate in the tour of Ames facilities, please understand that there may be delays at the badging office as there is limited staff available and there may be long lines. Please plan accordingly and arrive early so you do not miss the tour bus departure.

**6. I am a foreign national (not a US citizen or a green card holder). What process steps should I expect in order to be approved to receive a visitor badge?**

Foreign national access requires time to process the request to enter the center. The cutoff date to initiate the foreign national badging process is Friday, August 2. A representative from Ames will contact you if you identified as a foreign national during registration and the request for registration was approved. If your registration was approved and were not contacted, please reach out to Craig Burkhard ([craig.d.burkhard@nasa.gov](mailto:craig.d.burkhard@nasa.gov)).

Part of the process for foreign nationals includes logistics for when to meet at the badging office. You will need to provide two valid government IDs (a valid passport or VISA/ESTA) to identify yourself and receive the temporary badge.

Since Ames is a US Government facility and subject to additional security requirements you will be assigned a foreign national escort (who will be a badged and trained Ames employee) and you will be required to stay with the escort during the entirety of your visit and participation in the LEARN Forum while inside the NASA facility. One foreign national escort may be assigned to multiple foreign nationals, so please have patience with your escort and stay with the group that you are assigned. Foreign national are only allowed to be onsite between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

**7. I plan on driving an electric vehicle to NASA's Ames Research Center for the LEARN Forum. Is there a place to charge my electric vehicle on the facility or nearby?**

NASA Ames does not offer EV charging stations on site at this time. A list of charging stations close to NASA Ames is provided below.

- TESLA Supercharging station is located at 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View, CA
- Level 2 Charging Station is located at 850 California St, Mountain View, CA

**8. What lunch options are available at NASA's Ames Research Center during the LEARN Forum?**

Lunch options for the days of the forum are being reviewed including pre-ordering and paying for lunch online. Lunch will not be provided but the committee is working to organize lunch at the venue at a cost to the participant. Participation in the organized lunch is voluntary but highly recommended for seamless integration with the forum. Once available, lunch details will be sent to registrants.

**9. Is wireless internet available at NASA's Ames Research Center for my phone or my computer?**

Guest user accounts will be provided to forum participants. Detail information will be provided two weeks prior to the NASA’s SmallSat LEARN Forum. Foreign National attendees are not allowed to bring portable recording devices on Center but laptops, cellphones, smartwatches are acceptable.

**10. Where can I stay close to NASA Ames at the government per diem rate?**

Many lodging options exists in the NASA Ames area. For your convenience, the committee reserved a block of rooms in the following hotels at the government per diem rate. Additional details will be available within the next several months.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Rate (per night)</b>	<b>Rate Avail. Dates</b>	<b>Last Day to Reserve</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reservation Information</b>
NASA Exchange Lodge	TBA	TBA	TBA	Ames Research Center B19, Moffett Field, CA	TBA
Embassy Suites Santa Clara – Silicon Valley	\$219	Sept. 23-26	Sept. 02	2885 Lakeside Drive, Santa Clara, CA	<a href="#">Reservation Link</a>
TownePlace Suites Sunnyvale Mountain View	\$245	Sept. 23-26	Aug. 23	606 S. Bernardo Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA	<a href="#">Reservation Link</a>

**11. What airports are closer and more accessible from Ames?**

The San Jose Mineta International Airport is the closest to Ames. For more flight options, you can consider using the San Francisco International Airport or the Oakland International Airport.

**12. I have additional questions that you haven’t answered yet. Who do I contact for more information?**

If you have questions about NASA Ames Research Center or the LEARN Forum, please contact Julianna Fishman (julianna.l.fishman@nasa.gov).