



IJSEP Space Mission: Critical Timeline

Two Phases:

1. **Experiment Design Phase** – From community onboarding to flight experiment selection
2. **Flight Operations Phase** – From experiment optimization to launch, return, and analysis

Note: Launch is targeted for **Fall/Winter 2026**, likely from **Kennedy Space Center**. Return of experiments is expected by **Spring 2027**.

Phase 1: Experiment Design Phase

Sept 14, 2025: Announcement of Opportunity (AO)

– IJSEP Mission officially opens to participating schools and institutions.

Sept 15–Oct 15, 2025: Communities Come Aboard

– Schools and STEM groups confirm participation; teams are formed (Brazil + international partners).

Oct 16, 2025: IJSEP Program Begins

– Teams gain access to teacher/student resources and begin preparations.

Oct 21, 2025: Kick off meeting

– Online meeting to introduce the program, timeline, and objectives to all teams.

Oct 21–Dec 18, 2025: Experiment Design & Proposal Writing (12 weeks)

– Teams design experiments, draft proposals, and submit to local leads and StemMed.
– **By Nov 19:** Teams submit a Pre-Selection Briefing with a 15-lines project abstract to help organize review boards.

Oct 28, 2025: Master Class with Scientists

– Interactive session with scientists to explore microgravity research and experiment design.

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Nov 04, 2025: Mentoring Session 1 with Scientists

- Initial mentoring session to guide experiment design.

Nov 28, 2025: Mentoring Session 2 with Scientists

- Additional mentoring session.

Dec 18, 2025: Proposal Submission Deadline – 10:00 PM EST

- One proposal per school submitted for Step 1 Review.

Dec 19–22, 2025: Step 1 Review (in country review)

- Community in Brazil selects up to 3 finalist proposals per flight slot.

Dec 23, 2025: Finalist Proposals can be sent to MF

- Proposals must be in English.

Jan 7–18, 2026: Step 2 Review Board

- Finalist proposals reviewed; experiments tentatively selected.

Jan 19–27, 2026: Board Feedback Processed

- Teams informed of any required revisions before final selection.

Jan 30, 2026: Tentative Selection Announcement (Private)

- Communities notified; no public announcements yet.

Feb 3–9, 2026: Teams Address Review Issues

- Final experiment details locked for safety review.

Feb 27–March 20, 2026: Final Selection + Flight-Grade Kits Shipped (TBC)

- Public announcements allowed after safety review approval.

Public Presentation Opportunities

- **March 2026: Science Days Brazil**
 - 10 finalists invited to make a presentation of their project.
 - 3 semifinalists showcased publicly.
 - 1 finalist announced during the event.
- **June 2026: Space Conference, United States**
 - 3 finalist teams invited to make a presentation of their project.
 - 1 finalist officially announced for space flight.

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Phase 2: Flight Operations Phase (Coordinated with StemMed Team)

Mar 4–Apr 22, 2026: Experiment Optimization (5–7 weeks)

– Finalist teams refine experiments using flight-grade kits; samples, concentrations, and protocols finalized.

Apr–Jul 2026: Continued Refinements (with limitations)

– Only reductions or removals allowed; no new samples added.

Fall/Winter 2026: Earliest Launch Date

– Launch timing depends on NASA payload schedules.

Fall 2026–Spring 2027: Payload Return & Distribution

– Mini-labs processed in Florida, then shipped to teams with handling instructions.

Within 10 Days of Receipt: Inspection Report Due

– Teams inspect flight and ground labs, report anomalies before harvesting results.

Important Notes

- **Target Launch Window:** Fall 2026 (likely to be from Kennedy Space Center)
- **Expected Return:** Spring 2027

Phase 1: Experiment Design Phase (2025–2026)

- **Sept 14, 2025:** Announcement of Opportunity
- **Sept 15–Oct 15, 2025:** Communities Onboard
- **Oct 21, 2025:** Program Begins
- **Oct 21–Dec 18, 2025:** Experiment Design & Proposal Writing
- **Oct 28, 2025:** Master Class
- **Nov 04, 2025:** Mentoring Session 1
- **Nov 25, 2025:** Mentoring Session 2
- **Nov 27, 2025:** Notice of Intent (NoI) Due
- **Dec 18, 2025:** Proposal Submission Deadline
- **Dec 19–22, 2025:** Step 1 Review (In-country)
- **Dec 23, 2025:** Finalist Proposals to MF
- **Jan 7–18, 2026:** Step 2 Review Board
- **Jan 19–27, 2026:** Feedback Processed
- **Jan 30, 2026:** Tentative Selection Announcement (Private)

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- **Feb 3–9, 2026:** Teams Address Review Issues
 - **Feb 27–Mar 20, 2026:** Final Selection + Kits Shipped
 - **Mar 2026:** Science Days Brazil – Finalists Present
 - **Jun 2026:** Space Conference USA – Finalists Present
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Phase 2: Flight Operations Phase (2026–2027)

- **Mar 4–Apr 22, 2026:** Experiment Optimization
- **Apr–Jul 2026:** Continued Refinements
- **Fall/Winter 2026:** Earliest Launch Date
- **Fall 2026–Spring 2027:** Payload Return & Distribution
- **Within 10 Days:** Inspection Report Due