



# SEU FORUM

<http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/seuforum/>

## **An introduction to NASA's Structure and Evolution of the Universe Education Forum**

How did the Universe, galaxies, stars, and planets form and evolve, and what is their destiny? How can our exploration of the Universe revolutionize our understanding of physics, chemistry, and biology (and ourselves)? These are the fundamental questions of NASA's Space Science research program. This guide introduces an exciting series of NASA space science missions that will explore the essence of time, gravity, matter and energy in the Universe - the SEU missions. Over the next decade, these missions will use space-based observatories to study the Universe by observing the Earth, the Sun, the stars and beyond.

A key goal for NASA's space science program is Education and Public Outreach (EPO) to share the excitement and knowledge generated by scientific discovery and to help improve science education. Each of the SEU missions introduced in this booklet has its own EPO group, and these space scientists and science educators have worked together to create the Seeing and Exploring the Universe kit of materials. We hope that by literally putting the Universe in your hands through posters, flyers, informational essays and, of course, images, you will see the Universe in a new way, explore it in a different way, and ultimately comprehend more of it in your own way.

SEU missions coordinate their EPO efforts with the support of the SEU Education Forum, one of four Education Forums funded by NASA's Office of Space Science (the others include the Solar System Exploration Forum, the Sun-Earth Connection Forum, and the Astronomical Search for Origins Forum). The SEU Forum is headquartered at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, a member of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### ***Be on the lookout - SEU Science is coming to a science museum near you:***

Beginning in September 2002, the major exhibition and education program "Cosmic Questions: Our Place in Space and Time" will begin a tour of science museums around the country. This project is funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA, developed at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and supported by the SEU Forum and SEU mission EPO programs.