

What is JASON?

Great Explorers and Great Events

Have you ever imagined flying directly into a hurricane? Or submerging into the darkest depths of Earth's oceans?

Have you ever wanted to join a real science mission, or create your own video for a global online science fair?

Welcome to The JASON Project, your gateway to adventure.

CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH GREAT EXPLORERS AND GREAT EVENTS

JASON is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Geographic Society, JASON connects young students with great explorers and great events to inspire and motivate them to learn science. Its core curriculum units are designed for 5th – 8th grade classrooms but are flexible enough to be adapted for higher or lower grades.



JASON's inquiry-based curricula are grounded in the principle that students learn best when challenged to apply their knowledge to exciting, real-world scenarios. Compelling scientists, taped on location with our student and teachers.

Argonauts, come to life for students through videos, podcasts and Web casts, live chat sessions and interactive computer games.

Each unit is aligned to state science standards and provides at least five to nine weeks of material with suggested lesson plans, extensions, interdisciplinary connections and other teacher resources.

Dr. Robert Ballard

Dr. Ballard founded The JASON Project in 1989 after receiving thousands of letters from young students inspired by his discovery of the *RMS Titanic*. Today, he is chairman of JASON's Board of Trustees and Explorer-in-Residence at National Geographic Society.



JASON WORKSHOP

Fall

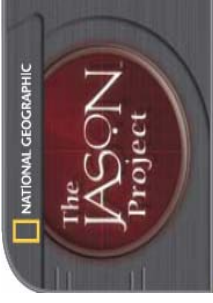
**JASON Workshop
Sponsored By the
State Department of
Education in**

**Coeur d'Alene, ID
October 10, 2009**

**597 Professional
Development Graduate
Credit Offered Through
Idaho State University (ISU)
for \$50.00 a Credit**



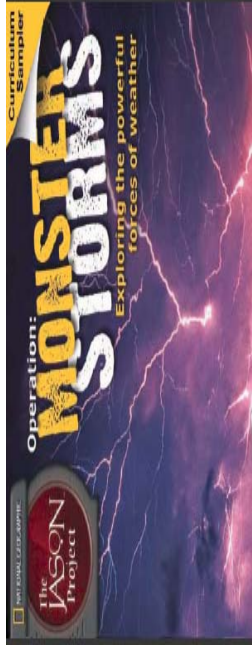
IDAHO
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Creating the 'Spark' To Engage Students in Science

JASON's theory of science education is based on lighting the spark of inspiration through sustained connections with "great explorers and great events" in core curricula. The result is deeper student engagement, increased motivation, and higher achievement. Two well-known, factual examples illustrate the power of great explorers and great events to create this spark. The first was the October 1957 sighting of Sputnik by Homer Hickam, a West Virginia schoolboy whose future as a coal miner was preordained until he saw the satellite. Transformed, Hickam struck up a correspondence with scientist Werner von Braun, learned the requisite science and math virtually on his own, and overcame great obstacles on his path to becoming a NASA engineer. A similar spark was lighted nearly 30 years later, when Dr. Robert Ballard's discovery of RMS Titanic generated 16,000 letters from students asking to join his next expedition. Understanding the power of the spark, Ballard wrote back to many of them and then founded JASON in 1989. These two episodes capture what I call "the October Sky Phenomenon," because Sputnik's remarkable impact on Homer's life carries a set of principles that can be applied to education. For Homer, the spark—the event itself, the mentorship—was completely random. If we can plainly see what excites and engages students, why not use this approach in core curricula? With National Geographic Society as our steward and NOAA, NASA, and the Department of Energy as our partners, we can expose students to an endless supply of great explorers and great events, systematically and on-demand.

Caleb M. Schutz
President, The JASON Project



Operation: Monster Storms

Operation Monster Storms transports students to the center of Earth's most extreme weather events as they learn the science needed to save lives and protect property.

The curriculum covers key National Science Education Standards such as Science as Inquiry, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science, Science and Technology, Life Science and Science in Personal and Social Perspectives.

Educators

Operation Monster Storms, the first in JASON's new curriculum line, is a nine-week core unit for weather. Designed for 5th-8th grade classrooms—with the



flexibility to adapt to higher or lower grades—it covers key National Science Education Standards for Physical Science (transfer energy and properties, changes in matter), Earth Science (structure of the Earth system), and Science and Personal Social Perspectives (understanding of natural hazards).

**WATCH FOR
ADDITIONAL
WORKSHOPS**

**SPONSORED AT THE STATE OCTOBER
IN-SERVICE FOR MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS
IN BOISE, ID OCTOBER 1ST THROUGH THE 3RD.**



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

OPTION #1

Register on-line at www.arconnections.org under the **JASON Workshops Button**. Attend the JASON Workshop sponsored by the State Department of Education on October 10th in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Register for 1 graduate Fall 597 credit through Idaho State University for a cost of \$50.00 per credit. Attendance at the workshop plus additional independent activities will be required in order to obtain credit.

OPTION #2

Register on-line at www.arconnections.org under the **JASON Workshops Button**. Attend the JASON Workshop sponsored by the State Department of Education on October 10th in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Register for 1 graduate Fall 597 credit through Idaho State University for a cost of \$50.00 per credit.

Attendance at the workshop plus additional independent activities will be required in order to obtain credit. Also available is a Spring 2010 597 Graduate Credit by following the course additional syllabus throughout the Spring semester. This Spring credit will be a separate registration form and fee of \$50.00 for the credit. Registration forms will be sent at the beginning of the Spring semester 2010.

OPTION #3

Attend the JASON Workshop only. This would be a **NOT-FOR-CREDIT** attendance and no cost to teacher.

CURRICULUM

All Curriculum is now available on-line through the JASON website at www.jason.org. Hardcopy is also available for a fee of which is ordered on-line.