



# TREX Public Engagement and Online Efforts to Support Communities Virtually

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The Toolbox for Research and Exploration (TREX) is a node of NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI). TREX aims to develop tools and research methods for exploration of airless bodies, like the Moon and asteroids, that are coated in fine-grained dust in order to prepare for human missions. Laboratory spectral measurements and experiments accompany studies of existing datasets to understand surface characteristics and to investigate potential resources on airless bodies. The TREX team is made up of multidisciplinary scientists from 12 institutions.

## Public Engagement

The TREX Public Engagement team is composed of 11 TREX scientists along with additional scientists and education and communication specialists. The overall Public Engagement effort has strong emphasis of leadership and meaningful engagement by subject matter experts.

The TREX Public Engagement website (<https://trex.psi.edu/>) shares scientific discoveries and multimedia resources. Other engagement includes social and new media through Twitter, blogs, and videos. Scientists have given public presentations at museums, conferences, schools, and public events including celebrations of the Apollo 50th anniversary and International Observe the Moon Night.



Amanda Hendrix gives a keynote presentation at the Apolopalooza Celebration at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver, CO.



Eldar Noe Dobrea gives a presentation for Galaxy Explorers, teen docents, at Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland, CA.



Panoramic view of the Dawn exhibit at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science curated by Tom Prettyman at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (NMMNHS) in Albuquerque.

<https://trex.psi.edu>



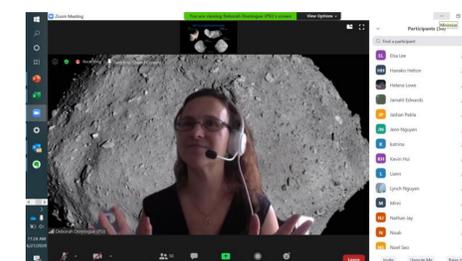
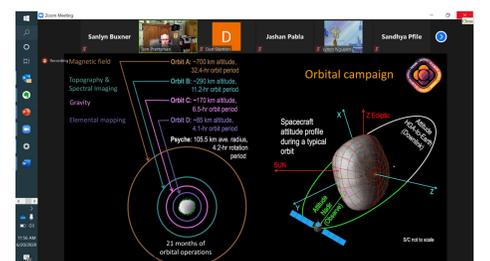
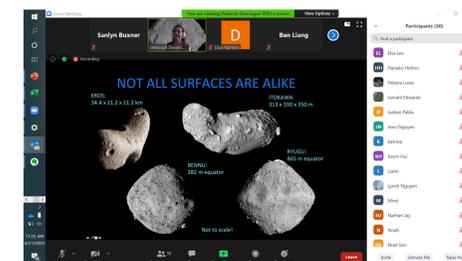
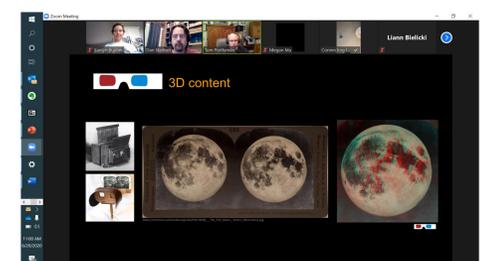
## Featured Programs

The Science Communicators Workshop for Disabled Writers will be a 7-week online workshop for self-identified disabled writers to support their interest in space science and create a collaborative network of writers and scientists who will produce content for the TREX website and other media outlets.

The TREX Artist in Residency Program will engage both team scientists and artists in collaborations and science inspired artwork that will be displayed in public spaces and scientific meetings.

## Online Efforts to Support Communities

The rapid spread of COVID 19 resulted in not only the closure of schools and museums but also delayed planned public engagement events associated with cancelled programming and field work. In an effort to support educational communities, the TREX Public Engagement Team is working with Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, CA to provide weekly lectures for the Galaxy Explorers, high school volunteers.



TREX Scientists Deborah Domingue and Tom Prettyman give Zoom lectures to the Galaxy Explorers from Chabot Space and Science Center.