

EXPLORATIONS FISKE PLANETARIUM

Parker Solar Probe

<https://www.colorado.edu/fiske/about-us/fiske-productions>

Hundreds of engineers, scientists, and technicians spent nearly a decade constructing the Parker Solar Probe to send it into the Sun's atmosphere where it will study how the solar wind is created. The solar wind is a gas that streams off from the Sun, strong enough to strip away a planet's atmosphere. Scientists currently do not understand how that gas is accelerated away from the Sun. Parker Solar Probe will be able to answer these questions by physically going to the spot where we think the solar wind is created and watching it happen. To do this, the Parker Solar Probe has to go into the outer layers of the Sun, six times closer than Mercury. At this point, the spacecraft will be going 430,000 miles per hour and shielded from temperatures of over 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit.

Interview: Chris "Gilly" Gilbert, graduate student at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado Boulder.

Educational Resources

Why won't Parker Solar Probe melt?

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2018/traveling-to-the-sun-why-won-t-parker-solar-probe-melt/>

NASA Parker Solar Probe overview, images, videos, instruments

<https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/parker-solar-probe>

<https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/parker-solar-probe-instruments>

Parker Solar Probe activities

<http://parkersolarprobe.jhuapl.edu/Participate/index.php#Learn>

NASA report from first close approach

<https://blogs.nasa.gov/parkersolarprobe/2018/11/20/parker-solar-probe-reports-first-telemetry-acquisition-of-science-data-since-perihelion/>

NASA Space Place Sun tab

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/sun/>

NASA's Science Activation Program funds 24 teams to connect NASA science experts, real content, and experiences with community leaders to do science in ways that activate minds and promote understanding. Fiske's Explorations project is one of those teams.

<https://science.nasa.gov/science-activation-team/fiske-planetarium>

