



Annual Report 2020

Our Vision

People living and working in thriving communities beyond the Earth, and the use of the vast resources of space for the dramatic betterment of humanity.

Our Mission

To promote social, economic, technological, and political change in order to expand civilization beyond Earth, to settle space and to use the resulting resources to build a hopeful and prosperous future for humanity. Accordingly, we support steps toward this goal, including human spaceflight, commercial space development, space exploration, space applications, space resource utilization, robotic precursors, defense against asteroids, relevant science, and space settlement-oriented education.



A Message from our Senior Vice President

The past year has been a challenging one for the NSS. With widespread death and illness resulting from the pandemic, the NSS has been forced to cancel or postpone all in-person events, including the ISDC and chapter meetings. This has put the organization under significant financial pressure. We have fought back by moving all of our activities on-line. We have also created a new bi-weekly event, the Thursday night Space Forums, in which NSS members can interact directly with leading space experts, NSS leaders, and the rising stars of space.

The NSS looks forward to returning to in-person events in the fall of 2021. As a result of the pandemic, we have dramatically increased our expertise in holding on-line events, and reached audiences far larger than that normally reached by the ISDC. A major initiative has been the sale of ad Astra subscriptions and newsstand sales. We anticipate good results from these programs in 2021. The NSS has received a significant donation from Martine Rothblatt, a member of our Board of Governors, to hold a business plan competition focused on “space settlement in our lifetime,” with the first awards given in late 2021.

2020 has also been a year of dramatic progress in space. We have seen the SpaceX Dragon 2 ferrying crews and cargo to the ISDC, the rapid growth of the SpaceX Starlink LEO mega-constellation, the sampling of asteroid Bennu by OSIRIS-Rex, the return of the samples of asteroid Ryugu collected by Hayabusa2, and the first high-altitude flight of the SpaceX Starship. 2021 is shaping up to be even more amazing. ad Astra!!!

2020 Major Program Highlights and Accomplishments

Conferences

Due to the pandemic, ISDC 2020 was postponed, and replaced with a virtual event, “A Day in Space,” which was viewed by a large audience via youtube, facebook and e360TV.

Publications

NSS published four issues of the award-winning publication *Ad Astra*. NSS also published about 24 issues of the twice-monthly electronic newsletter, *Ad Astra Downlink*.

Policy

NSS conducted along with its partners in the Alliance for Space Development (ASD) its 2020 March Storm on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, virtually for the first time during the pandemic. Starting in August, NSS members also visited congressional offices in their districts in the Fall Fury Congressional Event. NSS also maintained Political Action Network for stimulating responses to policy issues related to the goals of NSS. NSS also produced three white papers on the following topics:

- A Public/Private COTS-Type Program to Develop Space Solar Power (Feb. 2020)
- The Artemis Moon Program (May 2020)
- An SPD-3 and NAPA Informed Model for a Safe and Sustainable Space Economy: Six Recommendations (Sept. 2020)

Unlike in 2017, we were not able to brief the Biden Administration NASA transition team, apparently due in large part to the impact of the pandemic.

Our primary ASD-aligned 2020 goals on Capitol Hill were:

1. Support planetary defense by fully funding NEOSM.
2. Support commercial development of Low Earth Orbit by fully funding the LEO Commercialization Program.
3. Support commercial development of the Lunar surface.
4. Start developing and demonstrating Space Solar Power.

There is growing support for NEOSM that we believe will result in a budget line item in 2021. NASA continues to evolve its LEO commercialization plans, which substantially implement our requests. Now that Commercial Crew is operational, we anticipate a burst of LEO commercial activity in 2021. We achieved considerable success in the area of lunar commercialization, with CLPS being fully funded, and the first CLPS Moon landings expected in late 2021. Also, NASA is

on a good course in terms of making use of commercial services for Artemis, and will look forward to more success in this area in 2021.

Contests and Awards

Space Settlement Contest: The National Space Society conducted its annual Space Settlement contest for 6-12th grade students. The NSS Space Settlement Contest was significantly smaller in 2020 than previously most likely due to COVID, although the registration fee was up to \$15 per entry which may have had some effect. There were 1,619 entries with a total of 6,862 students in 2021, down from 2,646 entries with 14,359 students in 2020. The quality was very high with a team from Hawaii taking the Grand Prize after a spirited debate amongst the judges. In 2021 there were teams from 22 countries, exactly the same as 2020. Note that the 2020 entries were submitted prior to the start of the pandemic, while the 2021 entries were submitted during the pandemic in the fall of 2020.

Space Settlement Design Competition: Despite challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Space Settlement Design Competitions (SSDC) carried on the tradition of inspiring high school students world-wide, by transitioning to virtual formats for accomplishing design challenges involving space settlements in cis-lunar space, Mars, and the Asteroid belt. Sessions and presentations were conducted in Zoom meetings, and internal communications in student “Companies” were accomplished using Discord, a gaming tool. The 2020 Finals (late July)—involving 20 student Teams on six continents—were managed by a “core team” of about a dozen volunteers who co-located at Kennedy Space Center, and volunteers on-call around the globe to be available for helping students at all hours of day and night. The experiences of 2020 enabled SSDCs to enter the 2021 Competition year (starting mid-2020) with confidence to plan a full schedule of Semi-Finals for 12 Regions. The 2021 Finalist Competition is planned to be a hybrid format, with about 50 of the 256 student participants on-site with volunteers at KSC.

The third year of the spUN (space policy and UNiversalizaiton) debates, normally held at the NSS International space Development Conference resulted in a pivot to a 100% virtual preparation and tournament Zoom platforms. Each 4-person (ages 11-18) debate team had students from different countries, never meeting in-person yet forming cohesive, effective teams after completing preliminary on-line courses offered through the NSS Spacedge.academy, an online repository of space science related lessons, activities and resources. The debates were used as a tool to raise awareness and to educate their peers, the coaches, judges, and spectators about the complexities of building a spacefaring society and how to go about setting their governing policies. The resolutions debated during the May 28-June 6, 2020, virtual tournament are listed below.

- A. Money spent on space exploration is not justified when there are so many problems here on Earth that we need to solve first.

B. The Gateway will be critical in expanding human presence to the moon and deeper into the solar system. (Lunar Orbital Platform – Gateway)

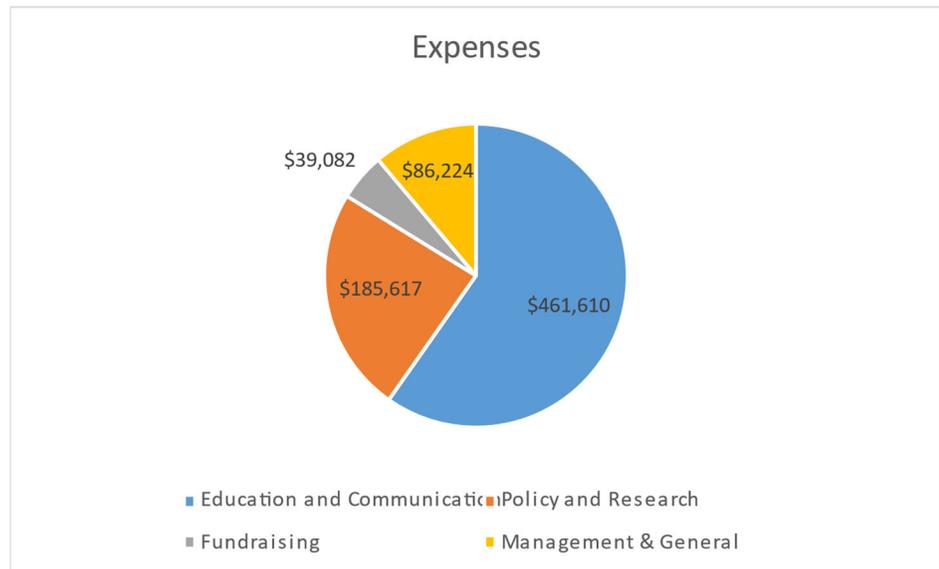
spUN Depate: The spUN Debate program 2020 resulted in 4,805 volunteer hours (including debaters) and were viewed by over 5,000 people. The program continues into 2021 with a June 2021 spUN Virtual Debate.

NSS also honors individuals and groups who have made significant contributions consistent with the Society's mission of creating a spacefaring civilization. These include the von Braun Award, the Space Pioneer Awards, NSS Awards for Excellence for individual volunteer efforts in service to the Society, the Chris Pancratz Space Activist of the Year Award, the NSS Chapter of the Year Award, and Chapter Excellence Awards. These awards were given out virtually due to the pandemic.

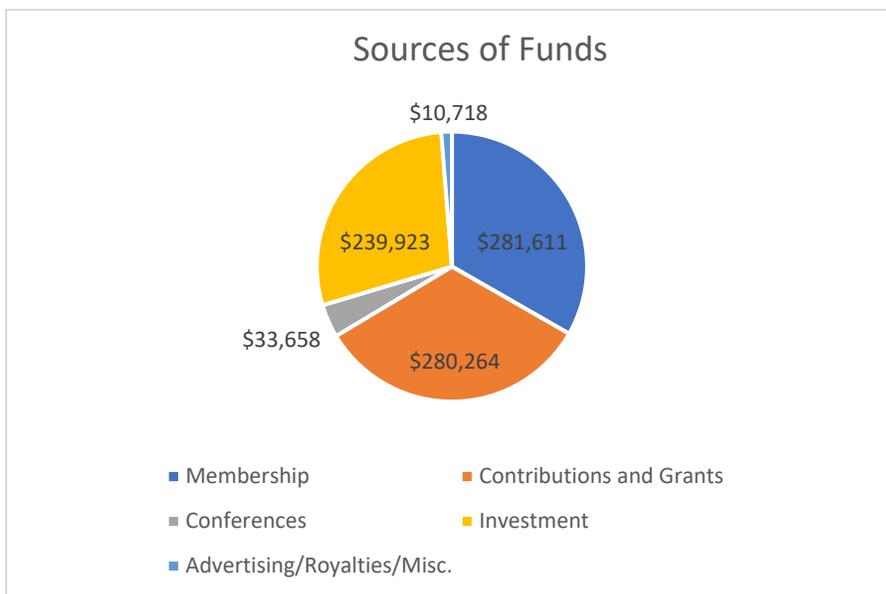
Financial Summary

The NSS independent auditor reports, a complete set of financial statements, and our annual 990 filings to the IRS can be obtained online at <http://space.nss.org/national-space-society-public-finance-documents/> or by calling our headquarters office at (703) 234-4135. The charts below detail our programmatic efficiency and source of funds followed by a financial summary of our activities for the year ending December 31, 2020. The information below is considered draft subject to an update upon completion of our 2020 auditor report due in mid-2021.

Programmatic Efficiency



Sources of Funds



Summary of Financial Activity for the Year Ending December 31, 2020

Income	
Membership	\$ 281,611
Contributions and Grants	\$ 280,264
Conferences	\$ 33,658
Investment	\$ 239,923
Advertising/Royalties/Misc.	\$ 10,718
Total	\$ 846,174
Expenses	
Education and Communication	\$ 461,610
Policy and Research	\$ 185,617
Fundraising	\$ 39,082
Management & General	\$ 86,224
Total	\$ 772,534
Balance Sheet	
Increase (Decrease) in net Assets	\$ 52,253
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 1,796,334
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 1,848,587

Please visit <http://space.nss.org/national-space-society-public-finance-documents/>
for complete set of financial statements.

NSS Leadership

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Paul Werbos

About the National Space Society

The National Space Society (NSS) is an educational, grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to the creation of a spacefaring civilization. The Vision of NSS is people living and working in thriving communities beyond the Earth, and the use of the vast resources of space for the dramatic betterment of humanity. The Mission of NSS is to promote social, economic, technological, and political change to expand civilization beyond Earth, to settle space and to use the resulting resources to build a hopeful and prosperous future for humanity. Accordingly, we support steps toward this goal, including human spaceflight, commercial space development, space exploration, space applications, space resource utilization, robotic precursors, defense against asteroids, relevant science, and space settlement-oriented education.

Founded as the National Space Institute (1974) and L5 Society (1975), which merged to form NSS in 1987, NSS is widely acknowledged as the preeminent citizen's voice on space. NSS has over 50 chapters in the United States and around the world. The society also publishes *Ad Astra* magazine, an award-winning periodical chronicling the most important developments in space. For U.S. tax purposes, NSS is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) educational, non-profit corporation. All donations to NSS are fully tax deductible (as allowed by your local laws). NSS grassroots political activities are governed by the 501(h) election, which permits a limited amount of activity aimed at influencing U.S. legislation.