

# Why Outreach is Important for You!

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GEM-CEDAR session

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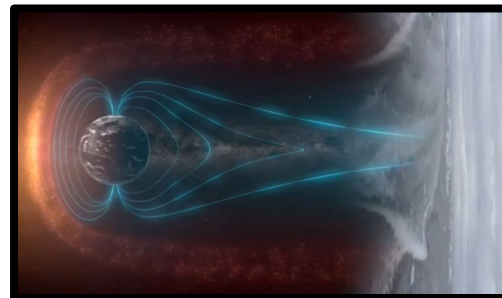


# Communication and Networking Skills

- Explain your science to a broad audience
- Learn how to answer questions in a “low” risk environment
  - You are on the spot during public events
  - Questions can be broad and/or specific
- Fourth grade students ask interesting questions!
  - “What are planets for?”
  - Great preparation for thesis defences and conferences!
- Community networking
  - What are people in your community interested in or unaware of?
  - You might find local/regional funding opportunities

# Many Different Styles of Outreach

- **Letters to a Pre-Scientist**
  - Pen pal for a year with a middle school student
  - Written communication skills, not on the spot
  - Feedback: they will tell you if you don't make sense
- **Planetarium volunteering or astronomy events**
  - Talk about heliophysics, the solar wind, aurora and/or airglow!
  - Great for practicing answering questions on the spot
- **Science Olympiad**
  - Variety of events to incorporate heliophysics into
    - Reach for the Stars
    - Dynamic Planet
    - Solar System
  - Practice pedagogy, learning can happen in well designed exams!



# It's Fun! (But Don't Overextend)

- Take a focused break
  - From coding, scientific writing, technical meetings, etc.
  - Still engaging in the science which you are passionate about
- Feel like you are **DIRECTLY** contributing to society
  - It's encouraging to see people excited about science and learning
  - (Most) people want to go to events, no grades!
- May be difficult at times
  - Even “failures” can be successful
  - You may not ever know how you've positively influenced people



Tsuchinshan-Atlas the day before an outreach event