

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio

- Learn about the NASA's plans for exploration!
- Write a short story about life on the Moon!!
- Win NASA prizes!!!



NASA hopes to send astronauts back to the Moon by 2020. Although the first trips will be short, the plan is to eventually build a base on the Moon where each successive astronaut crew will live and work for several months. This exploration will help NASA prepare to send astronauts on 3-year, round-trip expeditions to Mars.

Girl Scouts of ages 8-17, were challenged to write a fictional short story about the life of a female astronaut working on the Moon. Stories were judged by age level (8-9, 10-11, 12-14, 15-17) and many prizes will be awarded. Selected stories will be posted on the web site above with the author's first name, age, and city.

You can click on the title below to read the story named or just browse through the stories:

Short Story Submissions (12)

Age 8

- [The Gym on the Space Station](#), by *Taylor*, age 8

Age 9

- [My Amazing Astronaut Story!](#), by *Ariaha* age 9
- [A Woman on the Moon!](#), by *Kyla*, age 9, *Canton, Ohio*
- [Miranda](#), by *Margaret*, age 9, *Rocky River, Ohio*
- [Colonizing the Moon](#), by *Mary*, age 9, *Kent, Ohio*
- [On the Moon](#), by *Tara*, age 9

Age 10

- [Happy Halloween from the Moon!](#), by *Elizabeth*, age 10, *Hudson, Ohio*

Age 11

- [Moon Voyage: The Diary of Savannah Brown](#), by *Becky*, age 11, *Akron, Ohio*
- [Life on the Moon](#), by *Haley*, age 11, *Wadsworth, Ohio*
- [Moon Virus](#), by *Morgan*, age 11
- [A Day in the Life of Dr. Abigail](#), by *Rachel*, age 11, *Hudson, Ohio*

Age 12

- [My Passion, Earth's Future](#), by *Katelyn*, age 12, *Westlake, Ohio*
-

The Gym on the Space Station

by Tayler, age 8

Did you know that there is a person in the space station that helps the astronauts stay active and stay healthy. That person makes sure that the astronauts stay active by wearing ankle weights, hand weights and using the treadmill that's what they do to stay active. To stay healthy they drink milk. They have a lot of cool stuff in the space station like an exercising bike. The exercising bike is a bike that you can ride on inside the space station. A hand weight is a little thing that you can hold in your hand. An ankle weight is something that you can put on your ankle before you use the treadmill. A treadmill is a machine you walk or run on and you get to pick the speed limit. One of the astronauts is Michele Lee. Her favorite thing to do is JUMP ROPE. She even made her own jump called the "Smack". To do the smack, you smack your feet together and jump at the same time. When she was a little girl she always read all about astronauts. She used to use ankle weights, hand weights, use a treadmill, and ride her exercising bike. Michele always wanted to be an astronaut and she got that job. I always wanted to be an astronaut and when I grow up I will see if I get that job. I hope that you all learned something about what astronauts do to stay active and stay healthy on the moon. I sure learned something.

My Amazing Astronaut Story!

by Ariaaha age 9

My name is Ariaaha. I'm a female astronaut living on the moon for the very first time. I live in a dome. There is no electricity, no water, no plants, and no animals. It's mostly rocky here. I get around by a rover. There's lots of free time here. You can see the Milky Way really good and some black holes too! At night the stars are AMAZING! Here you can jump really, really high. You also have a really good view of the other planets. Once I almost got hit by a meteor; it left a BIG crater! There are many parts of the moon that have different textures; some are rocky; some are crumbly, and some are smooth. The sun reflects light on to the moon so I can do research and read. There are lots of neat things to do here. One is to see how high you can jump, find different things, and then find out what they are. The rover helps me carry things into my dome. "What's that?" How do you keep the oxygen in my dome? Well it's very simple; once I walk into the dome there is another door and once I go through that one the first one closes then the second door opens. When I'm going into the dome the door closes as quickly as it can. Then it sucks the oxygen and blows it into my dome. Here is an answer you've been waiting for! I bet you want to know how I get the oxygen I breath in my dome. Well in my dome it is like a whole other world. It has a roll out flower garden, a bed, a desk and so on, but the trick to my garden is "light." When I figure out how to make energy from the sun light I can get electricity and get a computer and research on the moon even better. It has tons of thousands of craters; you can also see lots of comets. It's weird to wonder what their made of! Well they're made of cold clumps of rock and dusty ice. Sometimes they can be colorful; you can also see asteroids. Did you know that they orbit the sun? Did you know that asteroids can have their own moons called the dactyl? Notable asteroids are smooth; here's some of their names: Ceres, Vesta, Gaspar, and Eros. Now back to my house. I have a question for you guys; how would you like to live on the moon?

A Woman on the Moon!

by Kyla, age 9, Canton, Ohio

Once there was a woman on the moon. Her name was Shirley. She was a former Girl Scout. One day she was chosen to be on NASA's team to go to the moon. When she got to the moon she ate Girl Scout cookies and she loved them. She remembered her years in Girl Scouts and she wished she could do it again, but she really liked being on NASA's team so she chose to stay on the team and she loved it because she got to go to the moon at least 5 times. Have you ever wanted to spacewalk? Well, when Shirley got to the moon for the seventh time she was now able to spacewalk, and when she first took two steps out of that space shuttle she could hardly believe her eyes. The sight of the moon just made her want to go explore but that was okay with her. But she still wishes she could explore. Have you ever thought about being a teacher? Well, when Shirley was 25 years old she became an elementary school teacher. But she never wanted to leave the NASA team until she had to retire but she never lost those memories and right now today she is 66 years old and she can still remember those days like it was yesterday.

Miranda

by Margaret, age 9, Rocky River, Ohio

One day, Miranda was gazing at a couple of nearby stars outside her space house on the moon. Suddenly there was a flash of light. It was just a reflection of space junk. Miranda leapt her way back to the space house. But just as she was about to leap one final leap, she found herself falling, well, more like floating down to the bottom of a large crater. But it was not a problem. She jumped up and floated down and as soon as her feet touched the ground she pushed up and landed on the ground above. She took a small leap and opened the door to the space house. She took off her space gear and hung them up. Just as she was walking out of the room her husky Laika came bouncing into the room and jumped on top of Miranda. She licked her all over. Miranda pushed off playfully, fed her dinner, played slow motion fetch, and gave her a bone. Miranda prepared her own dinner and ate it. Then she cleaned the dishes. After that she retrieved her Sherlock Holmes book and sat down in a chair and she began to read. She read till 11:00 p.m. then put the book away and got ready for bed. She slept until 10:30 a.m. in the morning. She got dressed and had breakfast. She fed Laika and got her space suit on. She went outside and continued working on fort she had been working on out of moon rocks. Char (her robot) helped her collect moon rocks and attach them. She and Char worked on it from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at night. Just before she went inside she saw an interesting piece of space junk. It was a circular piece of junk with blinking lights! Miranda couldn't believe it. She looked harder, blinked, and let out a gasp of disbelief. It was a UFO. She could just make out five tiny creatures in the window. Then she noticed that the UFO was coming closer. She panicked. She did not know what to do. Char retreated to her compartment attached to the side of the space house. Miranda thought about her daughter, Margaret. And her husband, Travis. Just as she was looking at the Earth the UFO touched down. A ramp slowly but surely came down and the five little creatures came out. They were aliens. They started walking toward Miranda. They stopped in front of her. Then they started to talk. Their language was from a different galaxy so Miranda did not understand. But thankfully she had invented a translator. She translated their language into English. This is what they said, "Do not be afraid. We come in peace. We have been watching you build your, your, your, your thing. We are very impressed. Come with us to our galaxy so you can live happily with us and build us things." Miranda thought hard. She looked at them in disbelief. Then she answered. "No," she said. "I have a dog and a robot to take care of, and I have a daughter and husband on Earth. I cannot come with you." The aliens turned to each other, shrugged, and started back for the UFO. They took off and flew away. By this time it was 8:00 p.m. and she needed to get inside. She was running low on air. She went inside, took off and hung up her space gear, fed Laika, played slow motion fetch, prepared and ate her own dinner, washed the dishes, and went straight to bed. She slept till 11:00 a.m. It had been one year since she had

gone into space. She would soon be going back. She missed her daughter and husband. She gazed out the window at Earth, at the blue sky, the fluffy white clouds, the dark blue ocean, the green and brown land. She sighed, and continued her work. Suddenly, there was a big explosion somewhere on the moon. A small explosion followed it from somewhere in or on the space house. Miranda put on her space gear and went outside to inspect. As soon as she walked out, she was blinded by a cloud of moon dust. She waved the dust away and saw that a big hole was in Char's compartment. Char was hiding behind a large moon rock. As Miranda approached Char's hiding spot, she gasped as she glanced towards the hole. There was an asteroid the size of a large moon rock. She immediately began making the repairs. After seven hours, she was finished. She didn't go inside though it was 8:30 p.m. at night. She wanted to do a little work before she went to bed. She collected a few moon rocks to bring back to Earth for scientists to sample. Then she went inside to do some work she had to take care of for NASA. The next week Miranda was loading everything into the rocket. Once she had everything in she played around for about an hour. Then she got onto the ship and blasted off back to Earth. A helicopter was waiting for her to land in the water. Waiting to greet her at the NASA base was her husband and daughter and Houston and a bunch of other people. And people came and went to the moon for generations. But only a few got to share Miranda's adventures.

Colonizing the Moon

by Mary, age 9, Kent, Ohio

When I am 20, I will hover over the moon in complete space gear. I will reach into my backpack-jetpack and pull out a bucket full of melted plastic. And I will begin to float over the surface of the moon, and slowly pour out the liquid plastic. It will have a wavy texture because of the zero-gravity laws of physics. I will add in a steel door the size of a garage door before covering the top and bottom of the moon. Then I will go inside the hardening dome, and I will dig a foot down into the moon rock. I will fill it with earth soil up to six inches before opening up a cup holder with a bottom on my shoulder, filled with seeds and nuts. Apple seeds and ash nuts, beech nuts and blackthorn seeds, elder seeds and hawthorn seeds, holly seeds and lilac seeds, all kinds of nuts and acorns, rowan seeds and willow seeds. I will then fill the dome of oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide. Living on the moon will offer a second chance not to screw up our home planet, and I want it perfect when the people arrive. I will plant the seeds of every endangered and regular plant known to humankind, and, now that there will be oxygen everywhere, I will take off that stuffy helmet and take a deep breath. I will go back to my ship, Noah's Ark, and there will be a reason for that name. Every type of animal, regular and endangered, male and female pairs, will pad onto the soil covering the moon rock. I will make a river, take a deep breath, slide on my not-to-stuffy-anymore helmet, and fly home. In my first year of coming home from the moon, I will fly back and build a small fountain over the river. All the endangered and regular plants will be blooming cutely. All the trees will be growing strong, firm, wooden roots. My fountain will be a sight for sore eyes, and it could help water the trees and plants. After my second year of creating Moon Town, I will bring the people over and add a small, brick, dome-like supermarket. We will sell food as the trees will only just have sprouted. It will be cold on the moon, so we would use the dome to trap oxygen and keep the temperature sixty-five degrees, plus to keep artificial gravity in and anti-gravity out. In another year, I will add a public library. The trees will be saplings. When I next come back, the trees will be flowering. I will add in a hotel for people who need to escape from strict parents or siblings that make you want to pull your hair out, to relax so they can work it out easier, or a whole family can come for a family fun night. In another year, I'll add my finishing touch before promoting it to a ship pilot who brings over the people: a comet observatory, so we know if we should pack our bags and fly home if a new crater is going to be born soon. The trees will finally be all the way grown. You will then be able to see me flying across the sky, and, maybe, someday, flying you to the moon.

The End

On the Moon

by Tara, age 9

I'm sure you all have heard of the moon, and how it circles the Earth. But what you don't know unless you are or were an astronaut is what is on the moon. I'm going to tell you all about it though. So all you need to know about the moon will be coming from an astronaut's view.

Cindy Lynn, is going to space and we're going to follow her. Her job is to find proof of living things in space. On her past trips to space, she has been listening to the radar and has been trying to figure out what has been making that horrible sound. She is ready to find it.

"We have just set foot on the moon," Cindy said. "Now we must look for where the squeaking is coming from."

"SQUEAKKK!"

"There," yelled Cindy. "Over there!" She ran over behind a giant asteroid that hit the moon some hundreds of years ago. She just about fainted when she saw what was behind it. It was a giant circular shaped ring that was as big as an airplane! She knew that airplanes couldn't go to outer space. So she knew it had to be....."ALIENS!" When she got back to the space station, she screamed, "Aliens have landed on the moon!"

"Yeah right" said one of the other astronauts.

"It's true" insisted Cindy.

"Prove it" snapped the other astronaut.

"I will" said Cindy. When they got to the place where Cindy first saw the ring shaped print, the other astronaut was astonished by the proof Cindy had shown him.

"I can't believe it," said the other astronaut. "You actually have proof. I'll phone NASA down on Earth and tell them about the ring you found."

Ring, ring, ring. Cindy ran over to the phone and answered it. It was NASA from down on Earth. They said to try and look around for a more logical explanation. So when Cindy and the other astronaut went out on the moon, they tried to think of a better idea of what could have created the giant ring shaped crater in the center of the moon.

When the two got outside they looked around and saw that the giant craters, were very common around the moon. They found many ring shaped objects all around the moon. But Cindy and the other astronaut knew that the crater they found was different than the rest of them. No crater could be a perfect circle and be so small. Plus they saw that the rocks were much warmer than the whole rest of the moon. They knew though, that NASA would say it was from the sun hitting the rocks at the right angle to warm them to that temperature, even if it was hotter than the sun all together. But they knew that the rest of NASA would never believe them about the aliens landing on the moon no matter what they said. So they decided to just say that they were wrong and that they got it mixed up with the natural craters on the moon.

When Cindy and the other astronaut got back to Earth they told NASA that they were wrong and that they were sorry. Though Cindy continued to research the crater, she kept it to herself. She found out that the squeaking was from the UFO rubbing up against the rocks on the moon. Cindy knows that she saw a UFO mark, and laughs to herself at every one who comes back from the moon telling how all they found was a bunch of dust. But that's where our story ends for now. BYE!

Happy Halloween from the Moon!

by Elizabeth, age 10, Hudson, Ohio

October 31, 2021

Good Morning! Happy Halloween from the moon! WOW – never thought I’d be saying that! Since this is my first intergalactic blog LOL I suppose I should take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Elizabeth, I am 24 years old and I have just finished my degree in Veterinary Medicine from Ohio State University. Ok, yeah, I know, get to the cool stuff, like how I ended up on the moon. Well, I must have really wished upon the right star because I was selected from a huge group of students to help fulfill a few of NASA’s Lunar Exploration Objectives. For all of those keeping track of the 58 pages of objectives LOL this blog and I are helping with Objective ID #mEOR3.1 in the Public Engagement category! Lots of training, lots of work, lots of luck!

Ok, I know that you all aren’t checking this out just because of me. We all know that the little German Shepherd puppy that got to come with me is what you really want to hear about! DOGS IN SPACE! First, for all of you Girl Scouts out there who entered the name contest, well, I didn’t even look at your entry unless you sent me a box of Thin Mints! LOL No, really, the winner is.....drum roll please...Kathryn M. from Denver, CO.....with her winning name of “Big Whack”! Yeah, chosen pretty much because it made me laugh and I could also tie it into the creation of the moon theory for all of those science people LOL. I think I’ll just call her BW for short.

So, here we are with our first full day on the moon and let me tell you that BW is mighty confused. No real water bowl, no food dish, the feeling that she’s only a couple of pounds and let’s not forget the doggie spacesuit, with the doggie diaper! Talk about a Halloween costume! LOL I have to admit that letting her play with a water bubble for almost a hour gave the crew a few laughs! Well, you might ask what it is like taking a dog out for a walk out on the moon. Let me see if I can even explain. There are definitely no trees, shrubs, or fire hydrants to slow you down! LOL The sky is always black and the stars are always right there above you. At home I can remember always looking up to see the moon on my night walks and it seems funny to be here knowing that I’m looking down at all of you! What else can I tell you? The surface is dusty, and our first walk early this morning was fairly short. The other astronauts have so much to do here and we all have to be thoughtful of each other and stick to our schedules. There is so much to say but, even though I had to go through a lot of training, I still feel shocked, surprised, nervous....you get the picture. “Al”, the crew’s nickname for the Lunar Lander (Altair) we are all on, is small, and I think that growing up sharing a bedroom with my sisters was probably the best training for this part of my adventure anyway! The ride on the ARES I and the Orion was remarkable and that’s for another time. Right now I need to get going on BW’s role in the Constellation Program. For

those of you playing Objective Bingo LOL, she's helping to complete Human Health Objective mHH6. Sadly, while I only get to "vacation" here on the moon for a week, BW will call it home for awhile so that we can all learn long term effects of lunar life. My training in veterinary medicine will help me collect the samples and data needed for this part. Well, like I said, timing is everything up here so....

More later, bloggers!! Over and out from the pizza pie in the sky!

Moon Voyage: The Diary of Savannah Brown

by Becky, age 11, Akron, Ohio

June 21, 2021 – 5:32 AM

The shuttle leaves at 7:30, so I have to get ready. The scientists at NASA have asked me to keep a journal telling all about my trip to the moon station, but I'll start with explaining who I am. My name is Savannah Brown, and I am 32 years old. I was chosen as one of twelve female astronauts for the shuttle Memory. I am sorry if my definitions of the moon seem odd, but I will try to explain the moon station as clearly as possible.

June 22, 2021 – 12:00 Noon

The lift off happened exactly as planned, so no one was really surprised by it. It still was exciting, however. There is a fire ring right beneath us, which is fire arranged in such a way that it can generate enough force to push a shuttle, heavy as it may be, off the ground. Those in charge of the fire refused to tell us exactly how the ring worked, probably for security reasons.

June 24, 2021 – 11:17 AM

This is strange. I never imagined that I'd be gardening in space. But I am! There is a Bio-Dome in the station and I work there. I grow tomatoes, carrots, strawberries... all sorts of things. These plants grow in this strange potting soil, which is actually crushed moon rocks mixed with nutrients and water brought from Earth. I've met a Japanese astronaut who told me that the kitchen is thankful for the food we grow in "the dome".

June 25, 2021 – 6:45 AM

I just woke up, so I may as well write. Everyone shares their sleeping quarters with a roommate, which actually isn't too bad. I share with an astronaut from Sri Lanka, Sanji Ru. She's leaving on the shuttle Comet, which will leave around August 15th. My bed is a cushion strapped to a wooden frame. The straps aren't absolutely necessary, but they make sure the cushions don't slide off while we sleep. The building we sleep in looks about like the places on earth. The ISS had some engineers come here and build it. One thing that's really nice is the pipes that blow in oxygen while we sleep so that we don't have to wear those space suits people wore 50 years ago.

June 29, 2021 – 5:30 PM

Today the Memory crew visited a water pit. Water pits are places where water has been stored in the moon's surface. Since water is not naturally found on the moon, water is taken to it by way of spacecraft. There is an odd fabric inside the pit, which keeps the water contained. I got to feel the fabric, and there are no words to describe it. It is slimy, but with no slime, slippery, but with no slippery feeling. It's not soft or anything, just odd.

July 4, 2021 – 7:15 PM

Happy Fourth of July! Today the cafeteria served red, white and blue burgers. We also celebrate other countries' holidays. And guess what! Another shuttle, Patriot, landed. The landing is very strange. Each shuttle has a magnetic area on the underside, and the landing pad also has magnetic power. The pad pulls the shuttle toward it to create 'gravity'. Then, out of nowhere, walls spring up and a roof snaps on. Oxygen is pumped through the pipes, and the crew can walk off easily. The excess oxygen is then sucked back through the pipes, and everything disappears. In this process, no oxygen is wasted but nothing uncomfortable happens to the astronauts.

August 2, 2021 – 6:50 PM

I don't think I've mentioned it, but there is an interesting way of surrounding parts of the moon. The outdoor areas are covered in blue plasticish material, with air pipes in the corners. Joe Smith is in charge of the air vibrator, which blows oxygen through the pipes. Martha Henrison told me that Memory, Skyhawk, Patriot, Wings and Windstreamer will leave on September 20th and go into Earth Orbit the first day that everything is cleared by NASA engineers.

August 14, 2021 – 9:30 AM

Shanji has left, so I am alone in our dormitory room. After I leave, two new astronauts will move in. I don't know who they will be and I wonder which country they will call home.

August 30, 2021 – 9:35 AM

We have less than a month before we go into EO, and I know that in less than a month Martha and I have become great friends. She commands Wings and has many plans for her career and I expect she will achieve them. My biggest concern is for the people on Skyhawk. I don't know how they'll fare returning to Earth as they are older than us – 40 to 50 years.

September 19, 2021 – 7:00 PM

I can't get to sleep because this is the last night Memory will be on the moon. This trip has been awesome, and I know I have to go back, but why so soon? I'll always remember this trip, especially looking out the shuttle's window at Earth... it was SO pretty...

September 22, 2021 – 8:30 AM

This is the end of my journal of my journal of Memory as I am on Earth. I wish to give NASA, the ISS and everyone that I met on the moon a huge thank you for making it possible to have a great trip to the moon. *THANK YOU EVERYBODY!!!*

Life on the Moon

by Haley, age 11, Wadsworth, Ohio

When I first looked out of the space shuttle, I saw only a mass of blue, green, and brown. I was seeing the earth from in the main cabin, it was a beautiful sight. When I went to breakfast my crewmates greeted me as they do every morning. When one of my crewmates mentioned that we were less than a day away from the moon, I sat there in disbelief. "Really one day?" I asked. "Yes, Lily. Didn't I just say that?" "Be easy on her, Josh," said Katie.

"6...5...4...3...2...1...TOUCHDOWN!!! We've landed on the moon," Josh said, looking excited. "Everyone ready?" he added. "Y-yep," Katie stammered. "Okay," Josh said. "Let's go!" as we got out of the rocket, an alien world met our eyes. As Josh went to investigate a strangely shaped moon rock, Katie and I went for a ride on the "Moon-Buggy." "Hey, look!" Katie gasped, "It's the flag that Neil Armstrong put here!" so we spent the rest of the ride reciting his speech, "One small step for a man..." which was quite enjoyable. Josh tried to catch up to us, but since we were going pretty fast he just gave up after about five minutes or so. "Hey, Katie," I asked her. "What's up?" "What day of the week is it?" as I could already feel the grin spreading across my face.

"Dinner from a tube *again*?" Josh protested. "I'm just going to let it float around and catch it in my mouth," Katie said, "Didn't your mother ever tell you not to play with your food?" as Josh started squeezing the tube into the air. Katie just shrugged and went back to her tomato soup. "Anyway, Josh, tube-food is the only kind of food we have!" I said. "Igknwthet," He said. "Excuse me?" I said. Josh swallowed and said, "I knew that. That was what I was trying to say!" "Sure. Let's go with that," Katie said in a finalizing tone.

"Wow," I gasped. "The stars are so bright from here!" "Whoa. It's like psycadellic, man!" Josh said, imitating a hippie. "Will you stop acting like a five year old," Katie said sternly to Josh. "And start acting your age?" Josh muttered something inaudible and Katie obviously heard it because she slammed his visor down quite hard. I shrugged and went back to collecting dust samples. Josh lumbered off, looking for small rocks to take back. I saw a small pile of dust a little distance off, I got up and bounced over to where the dust was and wondered how a small animal would react to weightlessness. In my minds eye, I saw a small cat floating around in a cat-sized space suit. It managed to entertain me for a few moments, but I remembered that *I* was on the moon, not the cat.

When I finally fell asleep that night, the moon-cat wove itself in and out of my dreams. It was very strange. When I woke up the next morning, I told Katie about it and she looked confused. "But it was only a dream..." I said. Josh didn't really pay attention either.

“Hey, Katie,” I said. “Let’s go and check out that huge crater over there!” “Good idea!” Katie said, looking wary, as though she wasn’t sure about it. “We’ll be fine,” I reassured her. “Let’s go!” I said. As we got over the initial ridge, it almost looked like a company had done a strip mining job. “Hey! Look over there!” Katie gasped. “Looks like an old moon buggy!” “You’re right!” I replied. “Let’s go have a look!”

“It *is* a moon buggy,” I said in disbelief. “Whoa,” Katie gasped. “I’m going to radio Josh,” I said. “Josh! Josh! Come to the crater directly North of the rocket,” “*Okay...coming...*” I heard out of my walkie-talkie. Five minutes later, Josh came bouncing over panting. “What’s up?” he asked. “Look what we found!” Katie said. “Oh, wow,” “It looks so old!” I said. “Let’s check it out again tomorrow,” Katie said.

I woke with a start the next day when Josh snored quite loudly. I went over to poke him hard in the small in the back. “Whuzzamtter?” he said sleepily. “Why did you wake me up?” “Because *you* woke *me* up!” I protested. “Oh, whatever,” Josh said. “Just wake Katie up. KATIE WAKE UP!!!” “But...oh well,” I mumbled. I went into the “kitchen” and started to pour out some chunky, vacuum-packed scrambled eggs.

The next few months came and went pretty uneventfully, unless you count when we turned on the zero-gravity chamber and someone, not naming names, got their head stuck in the space toilet. We found out that the space-buggy was from the original missions to the moon in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. I had always wondered whether NASA took the space-buggys back to earth. I took some more samples of moon dust, or Regolith, back to the shuttle.

“I can’t believe that we only have a day left here on the moon!” I said in mingled shock and disappointment. The last few months went so fast! “Me neither!” Katie said. “Let’s go and explore that crater to the southwest,” Josh said. “Okay,” I said. We were there five minutes later, examining the crater. I did some research on this crater earlier and it is called South Pole-Aitken basin. Many little moon rocks littered the ground where we stood. I don’t see why NASA doesn’t come to the moon more. It is really beautiful. I always thought that the moon was beautiful from Earth, but the Earth is also beautiful from the moon. We looked around the surface for a while and saw footprints from the expedition in 1969.

So, in the end we ended up fully enjoying our trip to the moon. I had a very enjoyable time. We ended up bringing about two hundred pounds of samples back to the base. Well, that’s my story of me on the moon. I really enjoyed telling you this story!

Moon Virus

by Morgan, age 11

As I lay in bed I think about the last few months on this moon. Tomorrow will be my last full day. I was sent to work here for NASA as a repair engineer for the shuttles, lately there has been a virus blowing all the computer systems and I was sent to recover the damaged systems. So far I have failed, so tomorrow is my last chance before my replacement arrives. I fell asleep thinking about these things.

Without any sunlight streaming into my room I woke up. I wear the same white suit everyday so it is not that hard to get dressed. Cosmetics are not allowed due to sanitary rules. I walked out of my sleep capsule and down the sleep wing hallway to the shuttle garage for my job.

Immediately, I go to the back-up computer (the other one went dead) searching through all the files, looking for where the virus originated. We have the same sanitary, healthy breakfast everyday and I always eat mine at my desk. Five minutes later breakfast is delivered by my good friend, Sam. "Hey, how are you doing?" I hear myself say. Her answer is, "Fine", she seems down and I know it is because I'm leaving tomorrow. It is ten o'clock a.m. in moon time and Sam comes rushing up to me and starts screaming, "I'm going to go on a moon expedition." After that I jump up and start screaming too because the expedition crew is hand-picked and Sam has never before been picked. After Sam leaves I continue my work when the station manager comes through claiming to be checking on my progress, but I know he has come to say goodbye.

My work continues as I push myself to finish what I was sent for. Suddenly I come upon a file I doubt I've ever seen before. The deeper I click through this file the more I'm assured this is the virus's origin. Then I find it, rock solid proof that this virus started here and thanks to my technical engineer training I said goodbye to that virus for good. I knew I had just saved NASA lots of money and earned glory as a Girl Scout. The name, Emily Banks, would be hailed as a famous astronaut and Girl Scout for years to come.

A Day in the Life of Dr. Abigail

by Rachel, age 11, Hudson, Ohio

Brrrrrrrrrrring! Brrrrrrrrrrring! Oh, I don't want to wake up. It's too early. I half floated half crawled out of bed since to conserve energy I turned off my gravity producing device. I just can't get used to darkness and silence every morning. Oh how I miss the birds chirping and the sun streaming in the window. Work is hard being an astronaut here but I guess it is better being on the moon than being weightless on the International Space Station. I have my favorite blue diary in hand and I try to write in it every day since it is the only thing I have to remind me of home. There are many sad poems in my diary but today I feel pretty happy and very creative so I am going to write in it with my favorite pink bubble pen.

"Moon Paints"

The moon paints
For it is time for creativity
To live in the hearts
Of all

In a cloud of wonder and belief
The moon paints
In want
For why should creativity
Not live in the hearts of all.

Look, I'm not the poet laureate of the moon but I do love to write poetry as it soothes my soul and lets me express the real Abigail. This is the year 2020 and my real job is a Veterinarian of the newly established moon base. I'm studying the effects of life on the moon on small dogs and cats. So far I've recorded that most cats plain don't care where they are so I think they'd be great companions. Dogs are a whole different story. The dogs aren't too happy about the moon. They were quite happy on earth where they could run freely but the much smaller gravity on the moon plus the requirement to wear an oxygen mask due to the lack of oxygen on the moon drives them crazy. Today, I'm working with my favorite dog, Lilly, to find a way that we can train the dogs so that they don't bark, howl, and scratch all the time. It is so hard for these animals that don't understand what is going on. I wish I could communicate with them better to alleviate their fears. Our task this morning is to take Lilly on a walk on the moons surface with an oxygen mask on her face. Lilly is pretty cooperative but she isn't too sure about the whole feeling of rocks and dust. Although, if I was a dog I wouldn't be so sure either so I'm thinking about trying to create shoes for the dogs so the dogs won't bounce so high. The bad thing is that gravity isn't easy to defy or create. It's hard because the laws of gravity say that all objects have gravity. Also, I have to face the problem that I bounce but my thought is that we could install magnetic fields that are low on the ground and

there would be magnets installed on the bottom of the shoes. Living on the moon brings back so many memories. I remember when we had moon shoes that I used to use to try and see what it would feel like walking on the moon. I got the moon shoes on my birthday when I was 9 years old. I can't believe that in a few weeks I will be turning 30 in Earth years. On the moon, we have a different type of year. A year on the moon is 29.5 earth days long because that is how long it takes for the moon to travel all the way around the earth. If an animal is five years old in human years on earth then on the moon they would be 147 ½ years old. All of the scientists on the moon don't like saying their age on the moon even though they shouldn't care. For example, I am 29 earth years old but on the moon I am 855 ½ years old. Oh, there I go drifting off to my memories of earth again. I better get back to work. I think we should put Lilly through some training inside before we venture outside where something could go fatally wrong. "Lilly, Lilly." I am excited, scared, stressed, and nervous all at the same time. Lilly has gone through her training easily and successfully but I am scared of going on the moon's surface, extremely scared. The newspaper has reported so many deaths because of accidents on moon walks and people jumping too high and getting lost in space. I must gather my courage since it is time to go and there is no turning back now. As we walked out, I tried not to let Lilly sense my fear, but I knew something was seriously wrong when I heard whistling in my ears and when Lilly's eyes glazed over. Sound can't travel in space so I knew the sound isn't real and I must get back to the lab. The next thing I remember is seeing Cathy, my co-worker, sitting on a bench next to Lilly and I see her recording numbers. She has a stethoscope hanging around her neck. Cathy proceeds to tell me that a comet had hit the moon very close to where Lilly and I were walking. Debris from the comet had hit us. Fortunately, both Lilly and I are fine. It is a miracle many say. I continue to walk Lilly every day along the crater and she is adapting very well.

My Passion, Earth's Future

by Katelyn, age 12, Westlake, Ohio

Ever since I was a Brownie Girl Scout and went on that field trip to the NASA Glenn Research Center, I wanted to travel to the moon. Of course, then I thought the moon was made of "green cheese", but now I know better -- the moon is mostly made of basalt, rocks, and other minerals. In the leader's van on the way home from the Research Center, I couldn't stop humming "Elbow Room," that School House Rock song which hints that people might eventually move to the moon because of overcrowding on earth. Although I did get that song out of my head, my interest in the moon and space grew stronger...

I trained for years to prepare for this trip. After a year of basic training, I learned how to be a mission specialist who would collect and analyze samples on the moon. (As if that PhD in geology wasn't enough!) I traveled in a space ship for what seemed like an eternity because it was the first 239,000 mile trip I ever took!

My job on this lunar base is to collect and analyze rock and soil samples that I gather and those that are retrieved by space probes on the moon's surface. I do this because I could discover new or useful things on the moon's surface, such as new elements or energy sources. If oxygen was found within these samples, it would mean that humans could have the ability to live on the moon without depending on oxygen tanks from earth so much. The space probes' samples are collected in places that are too far away for me to walk or reach on my lunar rover.

My personal travel is limited. I can't carry too many oxygen tanks, which are vital here because of the little atmosphere, even though the lower gravitational pull here makes things weigh 1/6 of what they would on earth. I'm thankful for the gravity difference because my 11 layer space suit weighs about 300 pounds on earth! Also, I could get boiled like an egg when the sun faces me directly. The temperature has been known to reach 265°F. Likewise, I could become the human popsicle when the moon faces away from the sun with a temperature as low as -170°F.

My living environment is also limited. Due to the extreme temperature swings, scientists decided to build the lunar base a few yards below the surface of the moon, where the temperatures are more comfortable. The base was also built underground to prevent it from getting hit by meteorites. Earth's atmosphere protects it from meteorites, but the moon's very thin atmosphere offers no protection from them or the sun's radiation. Ironically, these dangerous meteorites have created a spectacular and unique landscape here. There are more than three trillion craters on the moon, which can range in size from your fingernail to a few hundred miles!

I feel privileged to wake up each morning and see this remarkable place close up -- it's a great photo opportunity. When I wake up each day, I know it will be a long one, because the moon turns very slowly. Each day here is equal to four weeks back on earth! That's why we use artificial lighting in our base to simulate a normal earth day.

It took me a long time to get used to the environment here, but it took even longer to adjust to living in the base. On earth, I had plants everywhere in my house. Now that I'm here, there's only one place for the plants to grow: the pressurized greenhouse. The plants in my house on earth were for pure enjoyment, but plants are grown here to provide more oxygen for mission specialists to breathe.

However, the oxygen we need comes from more than one place. One section of the base is devoted to extracting oxygen from the moon's soil. Some is used to breathe, some fills tanks for when we walk outside of the lunar base, and the rest is compressed into liquid oxygen for space shuttle fuel. Remember, one of our long term goals here on the moon is to be a layover on the way to Mars and maybe beyond. Maybe someday a Girl Scout field trip will be out here!

Oh, there's the bell signaling the beginning of my work shift. I guess that my reflective lunch break is over! I have to get that "Elbow Room" song out of my head one more time.
