



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2019

## CONTACT

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## Mars Rover team member headlines Astronomy Day Dr. Melissa Rice to discuss the past, present, and future of Mars exploration

EVERETT, WA – Planetary geologist Melissa Rice reports on the latest research findings from NASA's Mars exploration program on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 2 p.m. in the Everett Public Library auditorium, at 2702 Hoyt Ave. in Everett.

Rice's talk is part of an Astronomy Day event at the Everett Public Library, which will run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This Astronomy Day event is co-sponsored with the Everett Astronomical Society.

Rice is an Assistant Professor of Planetary Science at Western Washington University, where she teaches in the Geology Department and the Physics & Astronomy Department. Her research focuses on the geology and habitability of ancient environments on Mars. She is a team member on the NASA Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity mission and is part of the team building the Mastcam-Z cameras for the NASA Mars-2020 rover.

During Astronomy Day, there will also be displays of astronomical telescopes, astronomical binoculars, and accessories; globe models of planets and moons; samples of more than 20 meteorites of several different types; space rocks that guests can touch and examine; and astronomy books, videos, sky maps and informational hand-outs. Weather permitting, there will also be solar sunspot and prominence observing.

Astronomy Day is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome. For further information, please visit [www.epls.org](http://www.epls.org) or call 425-257-8000.

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