

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Sending out a Signal: Innovative Outreach and Communications Initiatives (7)

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LIGHT THE SKY: INNOVATIVE CODING CHALLENGE FOR SPACE EXPLORATION
ENGAGEMENT

Abstract

"Light the Sky," offers an innovative approach to engaging audiences in space exploration through coding challenges. The platform brings together students, educators, and space enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds to tackle coding challenges inspired by the mysteries of the cosmos. Developed collaboratively by members of the military, science, education, and technology sectors, including organizations as the IDF J6 Cyber Defense - School of computer data professions, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Ramon Foundation, Nitzanim program, Wix company, MAMRAM alumni association, and others, "Light the Sky" offers a unique opportunity for participants to delve into the intersection of coding and space science. With over 1500 active students, our online platform features a captivating storyline of a journey to Mars, crafted by scientists and programmers, with progressively challenging coding tasks. Participants solve challenges, receive instant feedback, and compete for educational and social prizes, fostering a sense of curiosity and excitement about space exploration. Our project targets 10th-12th-grade students in technological tracks, providing an engaging extracurricular experience that transcends traditional classroom learning. Through presentations, videos, mentorship forums, and interactive discussions, "Light the Sky" enriches participants' understanding of space-related topics while promoting self-learning, collaboration, and critical thinking skills. Our platform not only serves as a gateway to space science but also inspires the next generation of innovators and explorers. Join us as we illuminate the path to discovery and ignite a passion for space exploration through the power of coding.