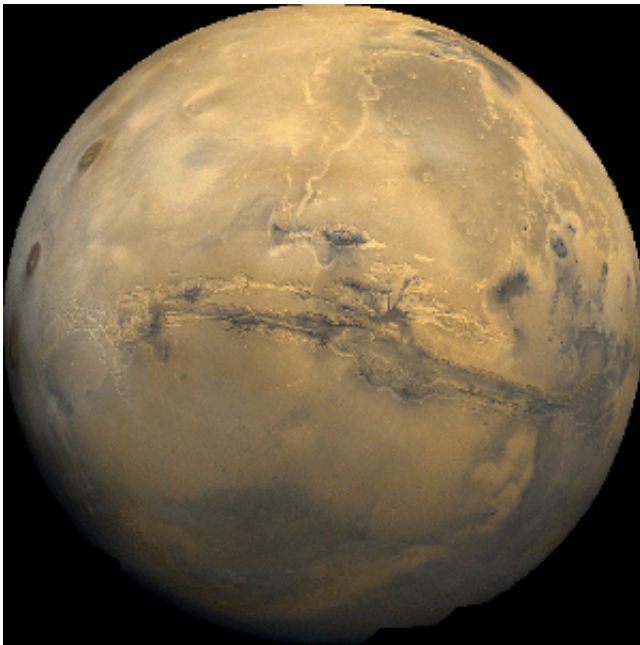


Earthlings, NASA send toast to Martians: Happy New Year!

June 15 2015



Valles Marineris, Mars. Credit: NASA

Earth to Mars: Happy New Year!

That's the sentiment being offered this weekend in Mars, Pennsylvania, as NASA and other space enthusiasts gather to honor the [red planet](#).

The Martian New Year occurs about every two Earth-years. On Friday and Saturday, NASA will sponsor exhibits and activities in the borough of Mars, about 20 miles north of Pittsburgh.

The agency hopes to encourage [young people](#) to study science and technology fields that will further NASA's goal of sending humans to Mars in the 2030s.

Mars on Earth has a population of about 1,700 and a sculpture of a flying saucer in the heart of town. Its festival includes a science fiction costume contest.

The next celebration is scheduled for May 5, 2017.

More information: www.marsnewyear.com

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