

A HISTORY OF SALLY RIDE SCIENCE

To mark the 25th anniversary of Sally Ride Science, here's a timeline of key developments and programs over the years.



2001

Sally Ride joins with her life partner, Tam O'Shaughnessy, and three colleagues - Karen Flammer, Terry McEntee and Alann Lopes - to found Sally Ride Science. The company is based in La Jolla.

2001-2015

Sally Ride launched EarthKAM in 1995. The NASA program allowed students to request photographs of Earth taken by a camera aboard the International Space Station. Sally Ride Science operated the program from 2001 to 2015, when EarthKAM transitioned to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. After Ride's death, NASA renamed the program Sally Ride EarthKAM in her honor. The program concluded in 2025.



2001-2014

Sally Ride Science organizes more than 100 Sally Ride Science Festivals on college campuses across the country, including UC San Diego. At the one-day events, students, most of them girls, attend workshops and street fairs and hear keynote speeches from female astronauts.



2002-2009

Sally Ride Science creates and runs TOYchallenge, a national engineering design competition. Students compete to design and create toys and games in categories like "Toys that Teach" and "Remarkable Robots." Teams are made up of 5th- to 8th-graders and must be at least 50 percent girls.



Cool Careers in SPACE SCIENCES



2004-2013

Sally Ride science publishes 90 books on STEM subjects and careers. Book series include Cool Careers in STEM and Key Concepts in Science.

2009-2014

The Sally Ride Science Academy for educators brings teachers from across the country to San Diego for training on how to incorporate diverse role models into science lessons. The academy uses a train-the-trainer model to expand its reach.



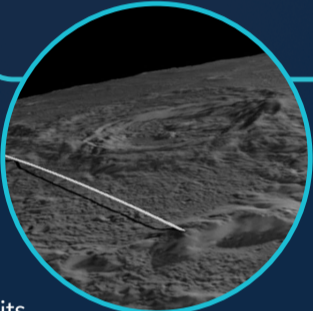
2012

Sally Ride dies of pancreatic cancer at home in La Jolla on July 23, 2012.



2012

Sally Ride Science runs GRAIL MoonKAM, the educational outreach program for NASA's 2012 GRAIL mission, which sends twin satellites to orbit the Moon and map its gravity. MoonKAM allows students around the world to request photos of the lunar surface from cameras on the satellites. On Dec. 17, 2012, NASA crashes the satellites into the Moon and names the impact site in honor of Ride, who had died five months earlier.



2015

Sally Ride Science becomes part of UC San Diego under the direction of the Division of Extended Studies. The former company is transformed into a nonprofit entity, Sally Ride Science at UC San Diego, with UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies Associate Dean Dr. Edward Abeyta overseeing all programs and co-founder Tam O'Shaughnessy serving as executive director.

2016

UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies launches the Sally Ride Science Junior Academy. The annual summer program offers STEAM workshops for grades 4-12.



2016

Research vessel Sally Ride is commissioned by the US Navy at Broadway Pier in San Diego. The ship is operated by Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, with Sally Ride Science cofounder Tam O'Shaughnessy serving as ship's sponsor.



2017

Through Library NEXT, a partnership between the San Diego Public Library and UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies, Sally Ride Science presents free workshops for students in grades 3-12 in library branches around the City of San Diego. The workshops begin at six library locations and gradually expand to 23 branches.



2018

Sally Ride Science partners with Fallbrook School of Arts to offer STEAM workshops for students in kindergarten through high school.



2018-PRESENT

UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies offers online professional development for educators based on curriculum developed by Sally Ride Science. Online classes include "Ignite Student Interest in STEAM" and "Teaching STEM Using the 5Es."



2018

Sally Ride Science hosts the first Women in Leadership panel discussion at UC San Diego's Price Center to celebrate the release of a U.S. Postal Service Forever stamp in Ride's honor. Panelists at the annual event have included tennis great Billie Jean King, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former first daughter Chelsea Clinton.



2020

Sally Ride Science began offering live-online and asynchronous courses for 3rd through 12th grade students.



2019

Southwestern College forms a partnership with Sally Ride Science to offer summer STEAM workshops on the college's campus.



2019

Sally Ride Science partners with ISS National Laboratory to offer space science workshops. Students investigate how microgravity affects heat transfer by programming experiments to run on the International Space Station.



2021

San Diego Unified School District partners with Sally Ride Science to offer STEAM workshops for third-graders at schools in neighborhoods with large military populations. The program is funded by a grant from the Department of Defense Education Activity office.



2025

New course offerings were introduced through Sally Ride Science for K-2nd grade students, allowing Sally Ride Science to continue expanding early learner access.



2021

Sally Ride Science expanded course offerings to serve students in grades 3-12, significantly broadening program impact and reach.



2025

Sally Ride Science reached a milestone, serving a total of 6,894 students.



25th
ANNIVERSARY

UC San Diego
SALLY RIDE SCIENCE