

NASA Plans Moon Base

Are you bored with life on planet Earth? Would you ever want to live on the moon? If officials at NASA* have their say, people could be living permanently on the moon in just 17 years. Maybe one of those people could be *you!*



NASA officials plan to start building a base on the moon by 2020. At that time, four-person crews will begin making short trips to the moon to build the base. Each crew will stay for about one week at a time. When the base is almost done, crews will stay for as long as 180 days. NASA would like humans to start living at the moon base for six months or more by 2025.

Once the base is completed, astronauts will use vehicles to travel to other parts of the moon. The moon base could be used as a launching pad for trips to Mars, too.

It is most likely that the moon base will be built near one of the moon's two *poles*. The moon's poles get sunlight most of the time. Moon explorers will be able to use the sun's energy to provide power to the base. The moon's poles seem a good choice for another reason: scientists believe water and many useful minerals might be found there.

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officials	project
permanently	poles
minerals	vehicles

When astronauts travel to the moon to start building the base, it will be the first time people have been on the moon since 1972. When U.S. astronauts visited the moon that year, they used a vehicle called a *rover* to explore parts of the moon. Three rovers are parked on the moon, but they've been there so long they are not expected to work.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE MOON BASE

- NASA plans to ask other countries to help build the moon base.
- Transporting the parts needed to build a moon base would take lots of time and money. That's why the first base on the moon might be an inflatable one.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Would you want to be one of the first people to live on the moon? Why or why not?
How do you think life on the moon would be different from life on Earth? How might it be similar?

* NASA is an acronym for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration