

# JASON PROJECT VIII ANNOUNCED FOR 1996-7 SCHOOL YEAR

## From The Jason Foundation

■(ARLINGTON, VA) This year, students around the world will explore some real hot spots — geothermal hot spots, that is — as Yellowstone and Iceland are the expedition destinations for JASON Project VIII: Journey from the Center of the Earth.

Complete with gushing geysers, frozen glaciers, boiling mudpots and volcanic activity, the year-long scientific learning adventure culminates with live, interactive broadcasts from the Yellowstone and Iceland expedition sites, April 28 - May 9, 1997.

The research locations, Yellowstone and Iceland, were chosen because both are situated directly above geothermal "hot spots" — areas in the earth's upper mantle where rocks from the lower mantle move upward and melt, forming magma.

Students, teachers and scientists will join modern-day explorer Dr. Robert Ballard to investigate the geology, biology, and glaciology of Yellowstone and Iceland. Although these disciplines seem diverse, they all have one theme in common — movement. The students and scientists will conduct field studies that relate to movement in geology (cataclysmic, tectonic and geothermal movement), biology (human and animal migration and movement), and glaciology (glacier movement and how it affects climate).  
Telepresence

For two weeks, advanced "you-are-there" telecommunications technologies called telepresence transport millions of students to the expedition research sites in Yellowstone and Iceland live via satellite. Telepresence allows students at Primary Interactive Network Sites (PINS) throughout the United States, Bermuda, the United

Kingdom and Mexico not only to watch the expedition live, but also interact with scientists and control live-feed video cameras. Video, audio and data signals originate from the simultaneous live broadcasts in Yellowstone and Iceland. The broadcasts are then downlinked to the primary sites, all in less than half a second.

## Curriculum and Professional Development

An award-winning interdisciplinary curriculum is distributed to all JASON Project-participating teachers early in the school year to ensure students are well-versed in the scientific principles they'll encounter during the live broadcasts. The JASON Foundation offers teachers comprehensive professional development programs and an annual Educators' Conference to demonstrate the investigations in the JASON curriculum.

## Local Field Investigations

While the two main expedition sites for this year's project are Yellowstone and Iceland, the most important research location is right in students' backyards, literally. As part of the curriculum, students are encouraged to perform a variety of local field investigations using the same scientific methods employed by scientists at the expedition sites. As the students collect data, open-ended research questions in the curriculum prompt students to develop the critical thinking skills essential to forming hypotheses that makes the data meaningful.

## JASON Online Systems

An essential part of any scientific research is collaboration, and JASON Online Systems provides an ideal forum. A vital, dynamic component of the project, JASON Online Systems let students and teachers access news and discussion groups to com-

municate with peers. JASON Online Systems are also an integral part of the data-gathering and sharing exercises of the Journey from the Center of the Earth curriculum. Students are encouraged to post results of their local field investigations online, to initiate electronic collaborations with students around the world, and to compare and contrast research findings to help them develop hypotheses.

Another aspect of JASON Online Systems is the highly commended JASON Project Homepage (<http://www.jasonproject.org>) which provides graphics, video and sound clips, and interactive exercises on current and past projects.

Journey from the Center of the Earth is the eighth annual JASON Project. In past JASON Projects, students discovered ancient Roman trading ships on the Mediterranean Sea floor; explored warships from the War of 1812 at the bottom of Lake Ontario; followed Charles Darwin's steps in the Galapagos Islands; observed migrating whales and the phenomenon of chemosynthesis in the Sea of Cortez off Mexico's Baja Peninsula; excavated ancient Mayan cities and explored the rain forests and coral reefs of Belize; visited the world's most active volcano, Hawaii's Mt. Kilauea; and, lived in an underwater habitat and performed research from a nuclear submarine off the coast of Key Largo, Florida.

Dr. Ballard started the JASON Project in 1989 after he received thousands of letters from students asking him about his discovery of the wreckage of the R.M.S. Titanic. The annual JASON Project is administered by the JASON Foundation for Education whose mission is to excite and engage students in science and technology, and to motivate and provide professional development for their teachers. Competitively selected student and teacher "Argonauts" join Dr. Ballard and the team of JASON Project scientists on each expedition.

The JASON Foundation for Education is supported by a unique alliance of public, private and non-profit organizations that are committed to the improvement of science and technological education for all students. JASON Foundation for Education's National Corporate sponsors include EDS Corporation, a founding sponsor and technology provider, the National Geographic Society, Bechtel, Sprint, SUN Microsystems, Eastman Kodak Company, ICI Worldwide and the National Science Center Foundation.

