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## Information about the Galaxy Scouts Comic Book Series

May 2022

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### WHO ARE WE?

We are a team of scientists, artists, and educators from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. You can find more about our science education and Galaxy Scouts comic book series at <http://www.astro.wisc.edu/comic/>. This project was funded by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement, the National Science Foundation, and the UW Baldwin fund.

- Our big goal is to improve societal literacy of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) disciplines.
- We want to share the excitement and importance of STEM discoveries and questions with youth.
- To do that, we are developing comic strips about the space adventures of Stella and Riley that involve cutting-edge STEM topics to engage young students in science learning and discovery. In the future, we plan to develop activity books to accompany each comic book.

### WHY ARE WE PRODUCING THESE COMIC BOOKS?

Studies have shown that introducing scientific concepts in an interesting, age-appropriate way is essential to spark students' interest in science and promote long-term engagement with science. Elementary and middle school, when many young people identify their core interests and abilities, is a prime time to encourage youth interest in STEM areas. We want to demystify science and break down common stereotypes used in many layers of society by:

- Featuring innovators and scientists from diverse backgrounds, offering role models for all young people.
- Emphasizing the importance and beauty of scientific discovery through a variety of 'windows,' such as solving problems, helping others, teamwork, being curious, and exploring the unknown.
- Presenting materials appropriate for various age levels.

### WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR YOUR IDEAS?

We need your feedback to understand how to formulate stories that will be interesting and inspiring to all people, especially middle school-aged youth. We want to:

- Show how science is part of our everyday lives and, sometimes, our careers.
- Create comic characters and adventures that are interesting and enjoyable to read about.
- Make science explanations clear and simple so that everyone can understand.

### HOW WILL WE USE THE INFORMATION FROM THE EVALUATION? WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Your responses will help us understand your experiences with the comic strip. This will enable us to improve how fun and interesting the comic book stories are and make the presentation of the characters and scientific ideas more accessible for everyone.

You will not benefit directly from participating in the evaluation. However, constructive feedback will lead to a better quality of future comic strips, which you and others may read.

*If you have any comments or questions about the project, please contact Professor Snezana Stanimirovic, [sstanimi@astro.wisc.edu](mailto:sstanimi@astro.wisc.edu)*

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