

KIDS PATCH DESIGN COMPETITION — TEACHER BRIEFING SHEET

Patch to the Future | New Zealand Space Agency 10-Year Anniversary

Purpose of the competition

To mark the New Zealand Space Agency's 10-year anniversary, students are invited to design a space-themed mission patch. The competition aims to inspire imagination, highlight Aotearoa New Zealand's growing space sector, and encourage creativity in students aged 5–13 years (Years 1–8).

Student participation

Students are asked to:

1. Design a mission patch inside the circle on the template.
2. Keep their artwork bold, colourful, and original.
3. Briefly explain the idea behind their design.
4. Complete their name, age/year level, and class or group details.
5. Return their completed entry to you.

Designs may be hand-drawn or digitally created. Use of generative AI tools is not permitted, as entries must reflect the student's own original work.

Using this activity in the classroom

This activity works well as:

- A classroom task
- A rainy-day creative activity
- A fast-finisher option
- An arts-based or STEM-adjacent lesson starter

To support delivery, slides about space, mission patches, and New Zealand's space sector are attached, along with optional background materials.

Use and adapt the attached slides and background materials to suit your class.

Important information for parents and caregivers

Please ensure that parents and caregivers are made aware of the Competition Terms and Conditions, which are attached.

Key points to note:

- Parental or caregiver consent is required for all entries.
- Submissions must not be sent unless a parent or caregiver has reviewed the Terms and Conditions and provided explicit approval.
- Each competition form includes a dedicated section for parent/caregiver signature, confirming consent for participation and use of the design. By submitting an entry, students and their parents/caregivers agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.

Submission process

Step 1: Collect designs

Students may submit hand-drawn or digital designs. Scan or export each design as a PDF.

Step 2: Check each entry includes

- Student name, age/year level, and class or group
- Completed and signed parent/caregiver consent section
- If a combined class PDF is larger than 10 MB, split it into two emails or files

Step 3: Submit by email

Email entries as PDFs to nzspaceagency@mbie.govt.nz by **11:59pm, Friday 5 June 2026**

Teachers may submit entries:

- As individual student files, or
- As a combined submission for a class or school.

Judging criteria

Entries will be assessed fairly within their age group. Judges will be looking for:

- Creativity and originality
- Simple, bold shapes and colours
- A design that works well within a circular format
- A clear connection to a space-related idea
- Suitability for translation into an embroidered patch

All age groups (Years 1–8) will be considered equitably.

Winner categories and prizes

Winners will be selected in the following categories:

- Years 1–3
- Years 4–6
- Years 7–8

Each category winner will receive a certificate of recognition.

One overall winner will be selected from the category winners. The overall prize includes:

- Their design produced as an official New Zealand Space Agency patch
- A New Zealand Space Agency jacket featuring the patch
- A certificate of recognition
- A school visit from a New Zealand Space Agency representative

Questions or support

If you have any questions about the competition, submissions, or consent requirements, please get in touch:

 nzspaceagency@mbie.govt.nz