

Nagin Cox

Mission System Engineer

NASA JPL

Nagin Cox graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Operations Research and Industrial Engineering and a BA in Psychology and was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force. She worked in F-16 Aircrew Training and received a masters degree in Space Operations Systems Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology. As a captain, she served as an Orbital Analyst at NORAD/Space Command in Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado Springs. In 1993, joined the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and has since served as a systems engineer and manager on multiple interplanetary robotic missions including NASA/JPL's Galileo mission to Jupiter, the Mars Exploration Rover Missions and the Kepler telescope mission to search for earth-like planets around other stars. She is currently on the mission operations team for Mars Science Laboratory (MSL)- NASA's Mars Curiosity Rover



She is currently a Mission Lead on the Curiosity Rover that landed on Mars in August of 2012 and has been exploring ever since. She is also involved in the MOXIE (Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment) team which will prototype making oxygen on Mars from the martian atmosphere, and the Asteroid Redirect Mission.

Nagin's honors include being the namesake for Asteroid 14061. She has received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal and two NASA Exceptional Achievement Medals for her work on the Mars Exploration Rover Team and the Galileo Mission. She has also received the Bruce Murray Award for Exceptional Public Outreach and has been a nominee for the Women at Work Medal of Excellence. She is a U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) SLATE STEM Speaker and has spoken to live and television audiences around the US, Canada, Europe, South America, the Middle East, and South Asia on the stories of the people behind the missions.

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