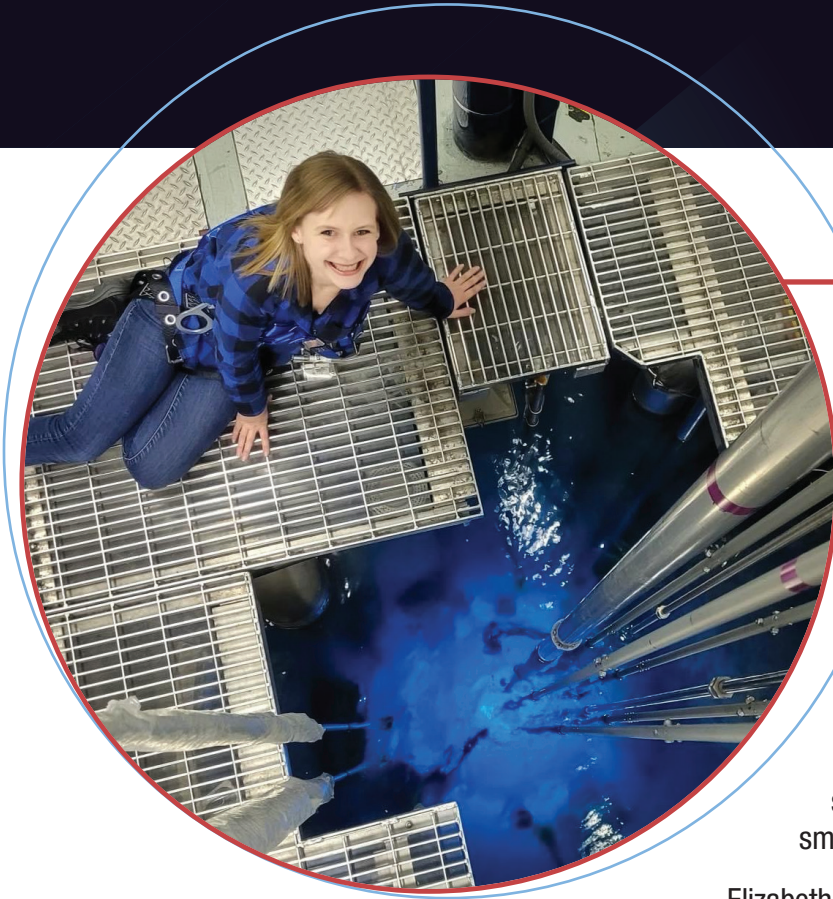


# Success Stories in STEM:

# S P A C E



## Elizabeth Gabler

**Achievement:** One of the top young STEM innovators of the world

How does a 19-year-old get to help design an asteroid-ramming spacecraft? Elizabeth says it all started with a peek at Mars through a small telescope when she was four years old.

Elizabeth has always liked science. She began studying astrophysics while working at a local observatory in high school.

Then as a college student, she became the youngest team member ever to work on NASA's double asteroid re-direction test (DART). The goal of the test is to hit a small moon alongside an asteroid to change the orbit of the asteroid. DART may show how to protect humans by keeping an approaching asteroid from hitting Earth.

At age 24, Elizabeth works at a research nuclear reactor doing nondestructive testing for NASA, SpaceX, and the US Department of Defense. She mostly works on the Artemis program, a NASA-led spaceflight program. She's hoping to put boot prints back on the Moon and eventually on Mars!

2018. "[Physics Student Helps Build Asteroid-Ramming Spacecraft.](#)" *Sacramento State News*, February 20, 2018.  
Chelsea Frisbie. 2020. "[How a 23-year-old became one of the top STEM innovators in the world.](#)" WMUR, October 7, 2020.