DAWN RELAY RACE

Goal:

Race in the pathway of the Dawn Spacecraft.

What you need:

Per Team (even numbers in teams works best):

- 2 cones
- A large area to race

Estimated time:

10–20 minutes

Who to do it with:

Ages: 3–Adult

Numbers: 4–40

How to do it:

1. Have each team form a single file line at the starting place, Earth.
2. Place both cones in a line as you move toward the opposite side of the racing area. The first marks Vesta and the second marks Ceres.
3. A player from each team will race to run around the first marker, continue racing to the second marker and around it. After that, they clap their hands three times to let the next teammate know to begin racing.
4. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Optional

Add more accuracy and sophistication by adding a "Mars Gravity Assist" to your race. After leaving Earth and before traveling to Vesta, have a parent or other adult grab the player's hands and do a gentle swing of the runner into the broader trajectory toward Vesta.

For older players, follow up with the Extreme Navigation Activity to make the pathway more realistic.

Why do it:

Everybody needs to burn off a little energy at a party! This activity helps even the youngest or most wiggly amongst us know that the Dawn spacecraft will first orbit protoplanet Vesta and then dwarf planet Ceres. And just like in the race – she won't return to Earth.