

## Rachel Kronyak, NASA Solar System Ambassador



Rachel received her B.S. in Geobiology from Penn State in 2014 and is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Geology at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. As an undergraduate, Rachel worked in Penn State's Astrobiology laboratory and conducted experiments to study extremophile bacteria. As a Ph.D. student, Rachel is studying rock fractures and veins in Gale crater, Mars, in order to better understand the history of water on the Red Planet. Rachel is also science team member on the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover mission, and she spends several days a week participating in mission operations, operating the rover's color cameras and assist the team in deciding where the rover is going to drive and what its

science objectives are at a given site.

Outside of work, Rachel enjoys CrossFit, running, cooking, and hanging out with her rescue dog, Sadie.