

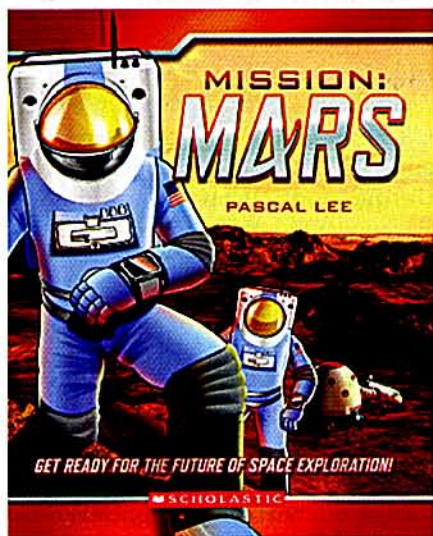
NATURAL HISTORY

November 2013

FOR INTERMEDIATE READERS

Mission: Mars, by Pascal Lee; Scholastic, 2013; 48 pages, \$6.99

“The United States plans to send the first humans to Mars around 2035 . . . preparations are already under way. . . . Your mission: Begin Basic Training to become a future Mars Explorer.” So says “Training Director” Pascal Lee, who in real life helms NASA’s Mars project, in this behind-the-scenes look at plans to visit the Red Planet. With lively graphics and a narrative that propels the reader into the action,



Lee presents the qualities needed by astronauts; the conditions that make Mars so dangerous; the nitty-gritty of space navigation; and specific details of the mission (including why the walls of the Mars ship’s living quarters need to be lined with stored poop and why the space suits should be blue). To land on Mars, you will “fire up small thrusters” to detach your lander and enter Mars’s atmosphere “at a speed of 7,800 miles per hour!” Highlights of the “mother of all camping trips” include a rock hunt on the potato-shaped Mars satellite. *Mission: Mars* winningly captures the adventure, thrill, and risk of traveling to another planet for the first time.