

INTERNATIONAL SPACE HALL OF FAME COSMIC CONNECTION

Monthly Member Newsletter

Rocketeer Academy Blasts OFF!



Week One Rocketeer Academy cadets in front of the Virgin Galactic Gateway to Space at Spaceport America. The field trip to Spaceport America and the Virgin Galactic facility was extremely popular with cadets and parents who attended. (photo courtesy ISHFF)

For three weeks in July, cadets in 3rd through 8th grade attended the premier of Rocketeer Academy - heralding the revival of a summer camp program that took root at the Museum of Space History in 1985. Launched in the heyday of the space shuttle era, what was then known as "Shuttle Camp" boasted hundreds of cadets each summer from the Alamogordo/Otero County area, all over the United States, and occasionally foreign countries.

"The community support for this summer's program was amazing," said ISHFF President Johnny Powell. "So many people came up to me and said, I went to this program, my kids went to it, and now their kids are going. We are so glad it's back!" Rocketeer Academy is a partnership between the ISHFF and Museum, just as it was in the beginning. This year, however, the local business and non-profit community also stepped in with financial support and cadet scholarships.

Each week of camp was filled with activities that centered around the Museum. Cadets learned about career fields, rocketry, satellites, history, and more. On Tuesday afternoons, a representative from Spaceport America came over from Las Cruces to talk to the classes about the spaceport and prepare them for the Thursday field trip to the facility. During the trip, cadets were treated to a special tour inside the Virgin Galactic Gateway to Space and the Spaceport America Space Operations Center.



The Alamogordo Fire Department came to Rocketeer Academy each week to help launch "eggstronauts" from their ladder truck. In this activity, cadets packed a capsule with padding to protect their "eggstronaut", which was then dropped from the ladder track, hopefully the parachute deployed, and sometimes the egg even survived landing! (Photo courtesy ISHFF)



Virgin Galactic staffmember, Cory Leiferman, accepts a check from the Bank of Mars for a space trip from a young cadet.



Sound That Moves You: Immersive Audio Experience at the New Horizons Dome Theater

Alamogordo, NM — Did you feel that? It's the pulse of an all-encompassing sound system hitting you at once at the New Horizons Dome Theater and Planetarium at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. Thanks to the expertise of Matt Majewski, Aram Lacis, and Brandon Webster from Strong Technical Services, the theater now has cutting-edge audio enhancements, ensuring a top-notch experience for museum visitors.

Aram Lacis installing one of the new speakers. Photo courtesy NMMSH



Previously, guests enjoyed surround sound from left, right, center, and above. Now, the installation of a state-of-the-art Trinnov system takes immersion to the next level. This advanced technology calibrates to the unique acoustics of the dome, measuring and calculating sound waves so that every note, every effect, and every vibration reaches you in perfect harmony. The result? You don't just hear the action—you feel it.

Don't miss your chance to be transported by the power of sound with these captivating shows:

Night Sky Star Show: A live, interactive journey through the cosmos.

Global Soundscapes: Mission to Record the Earth: Explore the planet's most extraordinary sounds.

Astronaut: Ocean to Orbit: A giant screen film adventure from the depths of the ocean to the vastness of space.

Matt Majewski and Aram Lacis working on the Trinnov sound system. Photo courtesy NMMSH



New Exhibit! Skywired: The Story of Radio-Controlled Flight

Alamogordo, NM — Join us on the second floor of the New Mexico Museum of Space History for a high-flying opening day celebration of Skywired, a journey through the history of radio-controlled aviation. This celebration is a testament to the spirit of collaboration between the museum and the Alamogordo RCers, in partnership with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), and supported by the Las Cruces and El Paso clubs. This year-long exhibit runs from July 26, 2025, to August 1, 2026.

The exhibit also pays homage to the local visionary, George V. Holloman, whose innovative breakthroughs at Holloman Air Force Base were instrumental in transforming RC flight into a global phenomenon. His legacy lives on at Holloman AFB, one of the top training facilities for drone pilots.

Don't miss the legendary "Big Guff," a rare chance to see one of only three known in existence. Built in 1937 by Bill Lyon and Robert Moore of El Paso, this aircraft made history as the first radio-controlled model flown in the Southwest. Lyon and Moore used plans published in the 1937 edition of Air Trails magazine to build it. The plane was controlled with a ham radio system so large that it had to be transported in the back of a pickup truck. Remarkably, this aircraft still has its original Forster .99 engine, which is a vintage spark ignition model aircraft engine. The wooden propeller was hand-carved by Bill Lyon himself. The plane was restored by Tom Holmsley, a close friend of Bill's and a fellow model aviation enthusiast.

Stand beneath the wings of history, marvel at the ingenuity that shaped the skies, and discover how dreams, determination, and collaboration have propelled aviation forward. This is your chance to see rare artifacts and meet passionate experts in RC aviation.

The Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting for the exhibit opening at 9:00 am on July 25th, the public is invited to attend. On July 26th, members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics will have a special event beginning at 2:00.



Several of the remote control aircraft on display as part of the "Skywired" exhibit. (Photo courtesy NMMSH)

BIG BANG STEM EXPO BIG Success!

Alamogordo, New Mexico – The 4th Annual BIG BANG STEM EXPO on Saturday, June 28, at the Tays Special Event Center was a big success, hosting more than 300 people and kids who explored everything from model rocket building to learning about the sun and discovering the opportunities for Girls in Aviation.

This year's BIG BANG featured hands on exhibits from 17 regional organizations.

The BIG BANG STEM EXPO is sponsored by the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation, New Mexico Museum of Space History, and New Mexico State University Alamogordo. Special thanks to Madeleine Fazenbaker who acted as official event photographer.

Colonel John T. Ethridge, Commander of the 49th Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, was the featured speaker at the BIG BANG STEM EXPO, along with former Congresswoman Yvette Herrell. Colonel Ethridge formally welcomed DoD STARBASE Holloman to the community. Herrell, who was integral in pushing for the program while in Congress, remarked on the importance of STARBASE Holloman.

Holloman is the 82nd location for the DoD STARBASE program. STARBASE Holloman will host some 1,200 5th grade students within 3 counties at: Alamogordo Public Schools, Tularosa Municipal Schools, Cloudcroft Municipal Schools, Las Cruces School District, Ruidoso Municipal Schools, Mescalero Apache Schools, area private schools, and local homeschoolers.

For its inaugural year, the fall semester will be a STARBASE Mini-Academy, a three day per week program, due to classroom space limitations from a renovation project. The spring semester will offer full programming, five days per week, with all curriculum offered.

The program will operate year-round for both school year and supplemental outreach programs. It aligns with community and local education agency's push for workforce development, both in trades and STEM careers.

STARBASE Holloman operates through a contract with the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation.



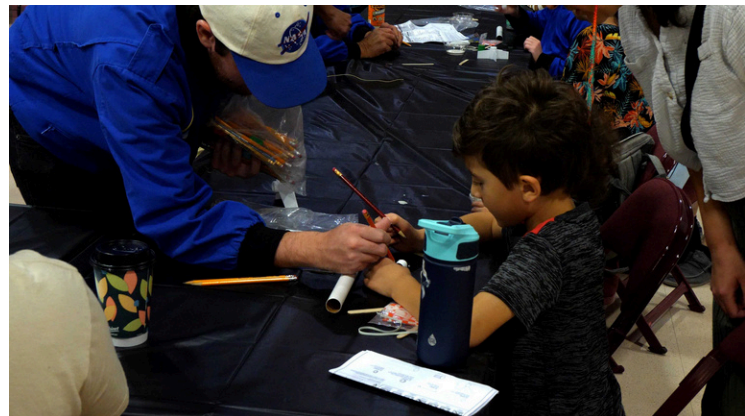
From left to right, Racquel Labadie, Holloman AFB School Liaison Program Manager; Yvette Herrell, former Congresswoman; Colonel John T. Ethridge, Commander of the 49th Wing; Cliff Hudson, Chairman, International Space Hall of Fame Foundation (ISHFF); Johnny Powell, President, ISHFF; Teresa Ferenczhalmay, Director, STARBASE Holloman; Jacquelyn Nichols, Board Member, ISHFF; Rebeca Valdez, Deputy director, STARBASE Holloman; Gene Galassini, Board Member, ISHFF.



Young and old alike learned about space weather and how the sun affects it, and the Earth. (Credit: ISHFF)



Representatives from NMSU-A's robotics lab showed BIG BANG attendees how robotics work. (Credit: ISHFF)



Museum of Space History education staff and volunteers taught the ins and outs of rocket building. (Credit: ISHFF)



Volunteers from the Fellowship of Las Cruces Area Rocketry Enthusiasts get ready to launch! (Credit: ISHFF)



Upcoming Events at the Museum of Space History

ATTENTION Military members and families! The Museum of Space History participates in the Blue Star Museum program, which allows military members and their families into the museum free through Labor Day.

Friday, July 25 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

The Governor's Commission to the New Mexico Museum of Space History will hold a regular quarterly meeting at 1:00 pm inside the Tombaugh Education Building in the front classroom. A meeting notice and agenda will be posted at the museum and on its website prior to the meeting.

If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact msh.info@dca.nm.gov at least 48 hours before the meeting to discuss your accessibility needs.

For more information, please email msh.info@state.nm.us

Friday, August 1, 2025

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Launch Pad Lecture Topic: Black Holes

Guest Speaker: Jon Brinkmann

The Launch Pad Lecture Series is held on the first Friday of each month in the New Horizons Dome Theater and Planetarium. The program is free to attend. Museum staff, and sometimes special guest speakers, discuss topics ranging from space history to space future.

Free to the public. Coffee and donuts provided by the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation.

Thursday, August 14, 2025

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Astronomy League Meeting

The Astronomy League Meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month in the Clyde W Tombaugh Education Center and is free to attend. Museum staff and sometimes special guest speakers discuss topics ranging from public observing to off-site adventures.

For more information, contact the Museum Outreach Department at 575-437-2840 ext 41135 or visit our website at www.nmspacemuseum.org



NOW SHOWING



Astronaut: Ocean to Orbit

10:20 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm

This giant screen film explores the ways in which NASA uses underwater environments to simulate life and work in space, offering a fascinating look into the high-tech world of astronauts. Find out what it takes to live and work in space.

NOW SHOWING

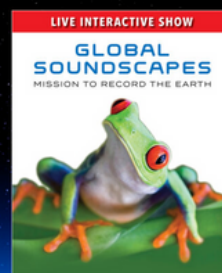


LIVE! Night Sky Star Show with Museum Educator

11:00 am, 12:20 pm, 1:40 pm, 3:40 pm

Take a tour of the night sky with museum educators and experience the beauty of the heavens in the comfort of the New Horizons Dome Theater and Planetarium.

NOW SHOWING



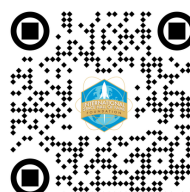
Global Soundscapes: Mission to Record the Earth

11:40 am, 2:20 pm, 4:20 pm

Live interactive show investigating the soundscapes of Costa Rica's rainforests, Hawaii's coral reefs, and Mongolia's vast grasslands. Viewers will discover what soundscapes tell us about the health of our planet.

Next tour: Oct. 18, 2025. Register today!

**Scan to
register!**



Visit our Intergalactic Gift Shop!



T-shirts, caps, collectibles!



Great gift ideas for kids!



Trinitite from Trinity Site



It's never too early to Christmas shop!



Gift shop hours: Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Sunday Noon to 5:00 pm, closed Tuesdays.

Shop online anytime: <https://shop.spacehalloffame.org/>

Did you know?

With a Museum membership, you get a 10% discount at the best gift shop in the universe! Plus discounts on exciting programs like Rocketeer Academy and the Trinity Site Motorcoach Tour. Not to mention free or reduced priced entry to over 300 ASTC (Association of Science & Technology Centers) across the country.

Become a member today!

