

# **INTERNATIONAL SPACE HALL OF FAME**

# **COSMIC CONNECTION**

Member Newsletter

## **Trinity Site Motor Coach Tour Nearly Sold Out!**

### **Limited Tickets Available for October 18 Event**



In this historic photo, military personnel are seen moving “Jumbo” to Trinity Site. One of the concerns of the scientists who built the “Gadget” nuclear device that was detonated at Trinity Site in 1945, was that the bomb might not actually go off. In order to preserve the 13 pounds of plutonium in case of failed detonation, an 80 ton steel vessel named “Jumbo” was built with the intention of imploding the device inside. The \$12 million dollar vessel was never used for that purpose because by the time the test was nearly ready, scientists were confident that it would work. Instead, “Jumbo” was suspended on a steel tower 800 meters from ground zero. The tower was completely destroyed in the explosion, but “Jumbo” remained very much intact. Later, the military tried to destroy it using eight 500 pound bombs, but only succeeded in blowing the ends off of it. What remains can still be seen at Trinity Site today. (Photo courtesy atomicheritage.org)

Eighty years ago on July 16, 1945, a tremendous explosion in the New Mexico desert marked the beginning of the end of World War II. The world’s first atomic bomb was detonated on that day at Trinity Site, on the north end of what is now White Sands Missile Range.

The International Space Hall of Fame Foundation (ISHFF), in conjunction with the New Mexico Museum of Space History, hosts a motor coach tour to the site each October as a fundraiser for the Foundation and the museum’s education department. “We typically take six coaches to the site each year, hosting about 300 guests,” said Johnny Powell, ISHFF President.

Local historians accompany guests on the coaches, giving an in-depth talk on the bomb and its history, along with unique insight into local history. Once on site, guests enjoy a brown bag lunch, visit to the McDonald House and go on a walking tour of Trinity Site. On the way back, guests wind down with an onboard movie, and upon return enjoy a self-guided tour of the museum. Guests can also use their Trinity Site nametags as a museum ticket all weekend.

Trinity Site is open to the public once each year on the third Saturday in October. White Sands Missile Range hosts the annual event. This national historic site is on the north end of the normally highly restricted range. Special interpretation at the site is provided by Missile Range staff. All visitors must have government issued photo identification, such as a driver’s license or passport.

Limited tickets are on sale now through the Foundation’s website at [www.spacehalloffame.org](http://www.spacehalloffame.org). Tickets include the round trip to Trinity Site, breakfast muffins, brownbag lunch, and guest nametags that serve as a museum entrance ticket all weekend . The ticket price is \$155 per person. Museum members receive a 10% discount. In addition, the collectible book “Trinity Site: The History of an Atomic Bomb Historic Landmark” by local historian Jim Eckles is available for purchase when guests register online, or the book can be purchased separately at the Foundation gift shop inside the museum. To reserve your tickets or for more information, visit [spacehalloffame.org](http://spacehalloffame.org).



# STARBASE Holloman Welcomes New Team Member

As STARBASE Holloman ramps up to begin classes on September 30, a new team member comes on board just in time to prepare for the first group of fifth grade students from Tularosa.

Megan Gipson hails from Colorado, studied biology at the University of Denver, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Colorado State University. She was most recently an acquisition program manager for the Air Force Test Center, where she worked to deliver new technical test capabilities.

Meg loves Alamogordo; she's coached soccer, volunteered in various schools and communities as a youth mentor, and currently serves as a robotics coach for two of Alamogordo's FIRST LEGO League Challenge teams. We are so blessed and grateful to have her on our team!! Welcome!



On September 15, STARBASE Holloman received a visit from Col. Ethridge, 49WG/CC; his lovely spouse Mrs. Ethridge; Chief Ford, 49WG/CCC; Col. Quidley, 49MSG/CC; Chief Amaxopolus, 49MSG/SEL; Lt. Col. Kajonpong, 49FSS/CC; Chief James, 49FSS/SEL; MSgt Carson, 49FSS/Shirt; and Mrs. Dobbins, Chief Child and Youth Programs.

Teresa Ferenczhalmay, STARBASE Director, and Racquel Labadie, Holloman School Liaison, showcased the floor space, displaying curriculum and hands-on activities, running the 3D printer and answering questions and STARBASE.

One thing is for sure- everyone is excited for our doors to open and welcome our first class!!

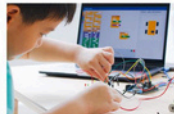
## Holloman Homeschool STEMQuest



**K-8th Grade**  
Science/Technology  
Engineering/Mathematics  
Projects & Topics  
Facilitated by STARBASE  
Holloman & DAF Air &  
Space STEM



**Fall Schedule:**  
22 September  
31 October  
17 November  
19 December



**Location:**  
Youth & Teen  
Center Gym,  
B647, Patterson Dr  
**Time: 1800-1200**

### Eligibility:

- Military-connected families
- Intended for ages 5-13 years
- No Cost, no membership required
- Please RSVP via QR code

### Fall Curriculum Focus:

- Coding & Computer Science
- Engineering



YC: 575-572-3753 | SL: 575-430-5102  
49WG.SL.SchoolLiaison@us.af.mil

September 24th at the Holloman youth center, STARBASE staff held their first STEMQuest of the school year for Holloman homeschoolers, partnering with the Holloman AFB School Liaison Program and the Holloman Air & Space STEM Outreach to bring robots and coding to life.

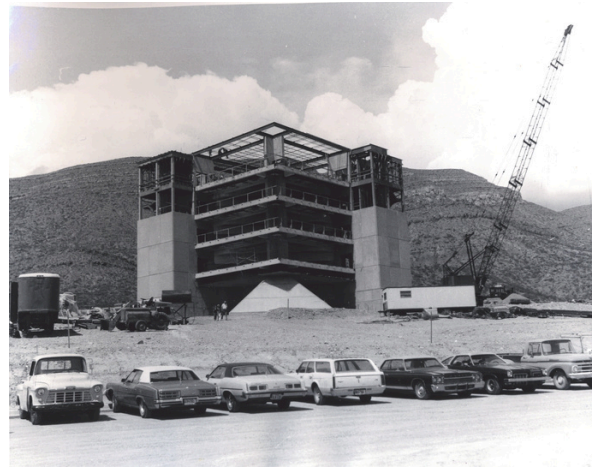


Participating students partnered into small teams to create code and build their very own Lego robots. Once complete they were able to race the robots against each other in a display of creativity!





# Launch Pad Lecture: 49 and Counting!



Construction of the Museum of Space History.

Alamogordo, NM – Don't miss this exciting presentation with Michael Shinabery, Museum Education Director, whose animated style and deep knowledge make history come alive. Mike will discuss the origins of the museum.

It all began with Dwight Ohlinger's dream to create a museum dedicated to space, inspired by the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Within three years, that dream became reality with the creation of the International Space Hall of Fame. Michael gives an overview of its growth and the influential people who visited it, including Clyde Tombaugh (discoverer of Pluto), whose namesake is on our planetarium building. You'll also hear how many influential supporters, including NASA scientists, gave their time as volunteers because they believed in the museum's mission.

This is your chance to experience the fascinating history behind one of New Mexico's most inspiring institutions! The New Mexico Museum of Space History is not just a museum, but a testament to humanity's relentless pursuit of the stars—a journey that, in New Mexico, began before the establishment of NASA.

About the Speaker: Michael Shinabery began his career as a teenage disc jockey for WTGN in Lima, Ohio, before earning a journalism degree from Angelo State University and working across traditional media, including the Alamogordo Daily News. His experience covering military news led him to the New Mexico Museum of Space History, where he is now the Education Director.

## Event Details:

- When: Friday, October 3, 2025, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM MDT
- Where: New Horizons Dome Theater, New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Road 2001, Alamogordo, NM 88310
- Admission: Free; coffee and donuts provided by the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation.

The Launch Pad Lecture Series is held on the first Friday of each month. Museum staff, along with special guest speakers, discuss topics ranging from space history to its future. For more information, visit our website at [www.nmspacemuseum.org](http://www.nmspacemuseum.org)



Firefighters and first responders from across the region participated in the annual 9.11 Stair Climb at the Museum of Space History to commemorate those who were lost on 9.11.01. The event is sponsored by the Alamogordo Fire Department and hosted by the Museum. Photo credit: NMMSH





# Upcoming Events at the Museum of Space History

Friday, October 3, 2025

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Launch Pad Lecture

On October 3, Museum Education Director Michael Shinabery will bring to life the fascinating origins of the New Mexico Museum of Space History with his signature animated style and depth of knowledge. From Dwight Ohlinger's dream that led to the International Space Hall of Fame to the influential NASA scientists who shaped its legacy, this presentation shows how the museum became part of New Mexico's bold vision for spaceflight—years before NASA even existed.

Where: New Horizons Dome Theater, New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Road 2001, Alamogordo, NM 88310

The Launch Pad Lecture Series is held on the first Friday of each month. Museum staff, along with special guest speakers, discuss topics ranging from space history to its future. For more information, visit our website at [www.nmspacemuseum.org](http://www.nmspacemuseum.org)

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

Thursday, October 9, 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](http://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.



Read all about it! The New Mexico Museum of Space History is proud to share that it has been recognized in the September–October 2025 issue of True West magazine as an Editorial Pick for a “Not-to-miss museum.” You can find the Museum featured on page 78 of this special issue.



# 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!

