

NASA Lands Friday at ScienceWorks!

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NASA Trailer Tours, Robots, Museum Activities and Parties!! ScienceWorks Museum Goes to the Moon!

Ashland, Oregon (Sept. 16, 2009) – ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum celebrates 40 years of the Apollo 11 moon landing by hosting the NASA Exploration Experience Sept. 18, 19 and 20, 2009. NASA's official mobile exhibit will be parked at the museum and will be the centerpiece of ScienceWorks NASA Weekend.

"NASA Weekend represents a blend of education and entertainment, with plenty of chances to make memories that last a lifetime," DiRienzo says. "We are honored to have had the help of our Science Advisory Board in making this weekend possible and we thank our sponsors, Key Bank and the City of Ashland, for recognizing the importance of bringing NASA to the Rogue Valley."

ScienceWorks NASA Weekend events include:

Friday's Student Day will serve school and after-school groups: NASA Trailer tours, Robots on the Road demos, Outreach to Space interactive museum activities, coloring contests.

Saturday and Sunday Family Days: Guided NASA Trailer tours, Robots on the Road demo, NASA prizes for kids, water bottle rocket launches, egg gravity drops, lunar lava demos.

NASA Chief Technologist Jitendra Joshi Ph.D. will speak Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the museum theater about NASA's carbon footprint in space.

Complimentary Corporate Night Friday, Sept. 18, 7-9 p.m. ScienceWorks thanks local businesses by offering complimentary tours of the NASA trailer, a peek inside the museum, an opportunity to mingle with space program experts and light refreshments. Enter your business card to win a one-year Family Membership to ScienceWorks. Adults only, please.

Astronauts Ball Saturday, Sept. 19, 7-11 p.m. \$20. Includes guided tours of the NASA Trailer, mingling with space program experts, live DJ playing the "Sounds of 1969," refreshments by 38 Central and local delis, Blue Moon beer, wine and 9 p.m. Star Party with Southern Oregon Skywatchers. Every 20 minutes an entry will be drawn from the NASA Weekend contest: "Where were you on July 20, 1969, when Apollo 11 landed on the moon?" Entries of 200 words or less are accepted via Web site or snail mail. Fabulous prizes will be given.

SOU- and NASA-sponsored Teacher Training Workshops

"This is a once-in-a-blue-moon opportunity for people of all ages to share in the wonder of space exploration without leaving the ground," says ScienceWorks Executive Director Mark DiRienzo. "We are so fortunate to welcome this traveling exhibit to the Rogue Valley for the first time."

The NASA Exploration Experience is an interactive traveling exhibit that demonstrates what it will be like to live and work on other worlds, starting with a simulated journey into space. The two-room NASA trailer features control panels and activity stations. Fully immersive video imagery and audio effects create the effect of being on the moon's surface and genuine moon rocks are available for touching!

"We're excited to give visitors a first-hand look at a not-too-distant future on the moon's surface," DiRienzo says. "ScienceWorks is recognizing NASA's many accomplishments by creating an array of interactive activities, talks and parties to celebrate NASA landing right here in our region."

Meet robots, sample Tang and mingle with experts!

Robots on the Road, produced by NASA's Aerospace Education Specialists Project, will be demonstrated outside the trailer and NASA guides will give prizes to all children. Photos with NASA spacesuits will also be offered.

Inside ScienceWorks museum, kids can explore NASA photographic panels showing the solar system and how and why NASA will return to the moon. ScienceWorks staff will lead space-themed tabletop learning activities including water bottle rocket launches and egg gravity drops.

Footage of NASA's 1969 moon landing, vintage space videos and Tang shooters will also be featured.

Hours: Saturday, Sept. 19: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 20: 11 – 5 p.m. (NASA Trailer opens one hour later both days.) ScienceWorks admission: \$5 ages 2-12 / \$7.50 teens & adults / \$5 seniors 65 and over.

Learn more about NASA Weekend: www.NASAweekendAshland.com. Learn more about NASA trailer: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/events/2009/07-29-31-09.html>; Robots on the Road: <http://www.aesp.psu.edu/robots.cfm>; Teacher Training Workshops: www.nasa.gov/education/aesp, <http://www.aesp.psu.edu/>; Dr. Jitendra Joshi Ph.D.: <http://www.dsls.usra.edu/joshi.html>

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