



***Family Science Night at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum***

sponsored by the  
National Center for Earth and Space Science Education  
and the  
Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum

Event Date: Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

Event Time: 6:45pm – 8:50pm

Dear parents and students,

On Wednesday, October 28, 2015, the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE; <http://ncesse.org>) and the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum will be holding a *Family Science Night*. It is a school field trip to the Museum for families, after the close of normal hours, just for the parents, students, and educators from Arlington Diocese. The idea is to provide a family learning experience in the space sciences that are taught in the classroom. Adults do not participate as chaperons, but as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and big brothers and sisters, to the children. It is a chance for a shared, cross-generational learning experience in a wonderfully exciting subject. We encourage you to invite your extended families! The program is free and suitable for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up. Younger siblings of students in grades 3 and above are allowed to attend as well.

A *Family Science Night* starts at 6:45 pm with guests entering the Museum in the *Milestones of Flight* gallery where some of the most remarkable flying machines ever constructed are on display, including: the Spirit of St. Louis, the Bell X-1, an X-15, the early rockets of Robert Goddard, Sputnik, Friendship 7 (John Glenn's Mercury capsule), and the Apollo 11 Command Module. Guests will be able to mill about in various Museum galleries for 30 minutes, including the interactive gallery *How Things Fly*. At 7:15 pm the program moves to the IMAX® Theater for a 35-minute presentation by a space scientist, *Human Exploration – The Journey Continues*, followed by the IMAX® film *Hidden Universe 3D*. Descriptions of the talk and film are attached. The program concludes by 8:50 pm.

Mrs. Anders, from Arlington Diocese, and I are pleased to invite you and your family to this very special evening at the National Air and Space Museum on the National Mall. *Family Science Night* is made possible by the Carnegie Institution of Washington in support of NASA's MESSENGER mission to the planet Mercury; and by a grant from the District of Columbia Space Grant Consortium.

With best wishes for a wonderful evening,

Dr. Jeff Goldstein  
Center Director

National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE) <http://ncesse.org>  
[jeffgoldstein@ncesse.org](mailto:jeffgoldstein@ncesse.org)

**The Evening Program:**

Guests should enter and exit the Museum on Independence Avenue. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

**Schedule:**

- 6:45-7:15 pm    Arrival at the Museum and exploration of open galleries
- 7:15-7:25        Entry to the IMAX® Theater
- 7:25-8:00        Welcome and Presentation: *Human Exploration – The Journey Continues*
- 8:00-8:45        IMAX® Film: *Hidden Universe 3D*

**IMAX® Film:**

Hidden Universe 3D: An extraordinary journey into deep space, Hidden Universe brings to life the farthest reaches of our universe with unprecedented clarity through real images captured by the world's most powerful telescopes. Stunning, high-resolution images of space allow you to peer deep inside the earliest galaxies and nebulae, watch stars being born in vivid clouds of gas and dust, tour the surface terrain of Mars, and witness images of distant celestial structures including awe-inspiring views of the Sun. Seen for the first time in IMAX, these dramatic new images offer fresh insight into the origins and evolution of the universe. [Premiered 2013]

**Presentation by a Space Scientist:**

Human Exploration - The Journey Continues: a wondrous look at who we are as a species and what drives us to the great frontiers. Standing on the shoulders of past generations, we have done remarkable things in our time. On July 20, 1969, we walked on the Moon. Today, peoples of the world are working together to build a space station—a research laboratory placed 200 miles above the surface of our world. Through the eyes of robots we've seen sunset on Mars, volcanoes erupting on a moon of Jupiter, and the awesome majesty of Saturn's rings. With telescopes on the ground and in space, we have seen the birth of other suns, found solar systems beyond our own, and have traveled back in time to see the universe as it was billions of years ago. We humans have even sent four spacecraft beyond Pluto en route to the stars with greetings from Earth aboard. See how far we've come and what awaits the next generation.

**Reserve your spot!**

To sign up for the Family Science Night, please make a reservation for each of your family members on sign up genius (if there are 4 people attending from your family, please sign up for 4 spots). The link is as follows:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0844A8A628A5F85-family1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0844A8A628A5F85-family1)