

Space Odyssey Volunteer Update for March 25, 2016  
Dave Blumenstock  
Dave Blumenstock;Thu 3/24/2016 2:10 PM



# space odyssey

## 03.25.16 volunteer update

[Click here to visit the Space Odyssey MGG Portal](#)

[Click here for the latest space news update on the MGG Portal](#)

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## space o volunteer news and info

### **KUDOS!**

Thanks so much to everyone who has been coming in to help out extra during the weekday shifts. And thanks to the hardcore volunteers who showed-up in the past week braving the

snow to work in Space O. Thank you!

**NEXT FREE DAY: April 10, Earth Day**

**METEORITE CART TRAINING**

**Monday, April 4**

**9 AM to 10 AM**

**Space Odyssey**

**No RSVP necessary** Please join educators Samantha Richards and Naomi Pequette as they give an overview and insightful information about facilitating the Meteorite Cart. To learn more about this popular activity on the MGG Portal, [click here](#).

**GUIDE CAPTAIN MEETING**

**Monday, April 11**

**6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Galaxy Stage in SO**

**RSVP to Dave Blumenstock**

**TELESCOPE HELP NEEDED: APRIL 10 FREE DAY**

If you are a certified telescope operator, please let me know if you'd like to help out for the Earth Day Free Day by running solar telescopes. And if you are interested in being trained on telescopes, let me know that as well, though that training doesn't start until early May.

**HELP NEEDED: MONDAY AFTERNOONS IN SPACE O**

We are in need of help on the Monday PM shift while we look for new recruits to fill these positions. So, if you have the time and inclination to help out, please let me know. Thanks much!

**HELP NEEDED: WEEKDAY MORNINGS IN SO**

If you want to help out for extra shifts, we have need on Wednesday and Friday mornings. If you know someone outside of our current volunteer team who is interested in volunteering in SO who wants to apply, please let me know and I'll help get them started with the application process. Thank you!

**HELP WANTED: SPECIALIZED GEOLOGY VOLUNTEER POSITION AT DMNS**

[Click here](#) to learn more about this position and to apply. If you have questions, email Dr. Dimitri Klebe at [Dimitri.Klebe@dmns.org](mailto:Dimitri.Klebe@dmns.org).

**UPDATES TO THE THE PORTAL**

Thanks to Marta Lindsay in the Newsroom for loading our newly updated training manuals for [Astrolabe](#), [GPS](#) (thanks to volunteers Britt F. and Andy A. for their help with this one),

[Seeing Saturn](#) and [LAMP](#). HUGE thanks to Naomi as well for revising these! And we've also updated an old page with a new name, check out the newly renamed "[Astronaut on the Surface of Mars/Mars Diorama](#)" page.

### **DO YOU WANT TO LEARN THE ASTRONAUT ASSISTANT ROLE?**

If you're interested in being trained, please let me know.

### **CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

[NSF Director shares her thoughts about women in science](#)

[History Channel Video Showcases Women in Science](#)

### **SCFD COMMUNITY FREE DAY CALENDAR**

The Museum is offering 12 Community Free Days in 2016, made possible by the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District. As part of the Museum's agreement to receive funds from SCFD, which account for a significant portion of the Museum's operating budget, the Museum offers these Free Days throughout the year to allow those who can't afford admission the privilege to visit DMNS. To see the dates for all the Free Days and to learn more about SCFD, [click here](#).

## **space o exhibit news**

### **SEASONS TABLE**

We are working on getting the Earth's tilt secured and installing a new Earth that doesn't have North America worn away. How often can you say something like that at work?

### **SHUTTLE DOCKING REPAIRS**

Sean in Tech has replaced two of the three sets of joysticks which has resulted in notable improvement to the performance of this game. He'll be replacing the third set, which is on the North side of the game, sometime soon. You may note that some of the LED's don't work, but at this time, there isn't a plan to get those replaced as we'll be reconsidering the entire shuttle docking game as part of the Space Odyssey Comprehensive Review.

### **EXPERIMENT BAR**

We are looking at permanently removing the GPR (sandbox) due to the fact that the sand is destroying the counter top on a consistent basis. How would you all feel if we did so? Along these lines, we are looking at building an enclosure for the planet weight bottles so that they could be left unfacilitated but also be removed from the 'Bar if need be. Tech is also purchasing a new vacuum pump for use at the 'Bar.

### **INFRARED AREA**

Tech has fixed the broken bracket on the white light device using our in-house 3D printer. They've also fixed the cold box by replacing the power cable, so that should work much

better. The blow dryer has been repainted with flames and pinstripes--just kidding, it's matte black again versus the Jersey cow pattern it had before.

### **SCIENCE ON A SPHERE**

Tech is in the process of ordering the auto alignment gear so that the Sphere can align itself every day to keep its image sharp. Will let you know when it's been installed.

### **S.O. MARS DIORAMA ROVER NEWS**

This past week, the SO Core Team (which includes moi) had a preview of the rover in it's test bed down in the DMNS Digital Lab where Tech has been hard at work getting it ready for prime time. The rover looks great, though there are some items to fix before they can begin in situ testing. The rover has received major and minor design updates since it last ran several years ago:

1. The drive motors have been updated with units that can handle running at a slower pace thus not drawing down the batteries as quickly.
2. The whole computer system has been redesigned so that instead of three computers used to control the system, we now have 1.5 computers, one computer that sends all the navigation controls and runs the user interface and a small computer on the rover itself that receives the navigation commands and transmits images from the onboard webcam used to send pics of the rocks encountered as well as video.
3. The navigation system has been redesigned so that the main computer controlling everything has a better "visual" on the rover to tell it when it's out of bounds etc.

Hopefully the combination of a simplified computer system with new drive motors and other improvements will help make for a more robust system and one that will run longer on a charge.

The in situ testing period in the smaller section of the Mars Diorama is slated for April 4 thru April 8. If all goes well with that, Tech will then open the rover on a limited basis to the public for further "observed user testing" from 4/11 thru 4/15. If all goes well with that phase, we'll open it to the public full time starting sometime the week of 4/18. I'll keep you apprised. Thanks a ton to Dimitri Klebe, his assistant and SO volunteer Jacob Lawrence-Simon as well as our Tech department for doing so much work to get this rover roving again.

### **GALAXY STAGE DEFAULT LIGHTING CHANGE**

Tech has changed the default "walk-in" lighting setting so that the curtains and stage are dark. We hope this will help keep younger visitors from playing on the stage and consequently going backstage.

### **BIG DIPPER STAR MARKERS**

Exhibits has changed out the old Velcro with new Velcro in the hope that it will help improve their grip so that they're less likely to wander away.

## **BRIEFING ROOM LAPTOP HDMI ADAPTOR**

Tech has ordered a couple of new adapters used to connect the screen to the laptop in the Briefing Room so that we'll hopefully always have at least one on hand.

# **space science lectures & events**

## **60 MINUTES IN SPACE**

Go "behind the stories" in space science using the best images and animation available to help understand new developments. Seating is limited to first come, first served. Please use the evening entrance on the west side of the Museum.

**Location:**

Gates Planetarium

**Date/Time:**

Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m.

**Tickets:**

**FREE**

## **BREAKING NEWS FROM PLUTO**

After cruising across the solar system for nearly 10 years, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft reached the icy world of Pluto in July 2015. The treasure trove of observations on Pluto and its five moons will stream back to Earth until late 2016, but the new information has already shown these worlds to be far more complex than expected. Fran Bagenal, a New Horizons coinvestigator from the University of Colorado-Boulder, will discuss the latest discoveries about our favorite dwarf planet.

**Location:**

Ricketson Auditorium

**Date/Time:**

Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m.

**Tickets:****\$8 member, \$10 nonmember****YURI'S NIGHT AT SPACE FOUNDATION IN COLORADO SPRINGS**

"Circling the Earth in my orbital spaceship I marveled at the beauty of our planet. People of the world, let us safeguard and enhance this beauty - not destroy it!"

-Yuri Gagarin, 1st human in space

Celebrate man's first journey into space!

Adults 21+ Years and Older.

April 10, 2016 - 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Space Foundation World Headquarters  
and Discovery Center  
4425 Arrowswest Drive

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

[Click here to learn more.](#)

**RESERVATION INFO**

Volunteers have the opportunity to attend most After Hours programs priced at the \$8 member/ \$10 nonmember rate for free on a space-available basis. Volunteers always receive the member rate for all other Adult Programs. Please call Guest Services at 303.370.6000 to make a reservation. Guest Services is open daily, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

To save time the night of the program, we recommend picking up your tickets anytime during regular Museum hours at the north ticket desk. You can also pick up your ticket from the will-call cashier on your way into the program on the night of the program. You will always need a ticket to attend programs.

On the evening of the program, please enter through the same entrance as our guests and pick up your ticket from the will-call cashier. Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for Adult Programs!

**did you know...**

Last year, Jodi Schoemer, Director of Exhibits and Digital Media at DMNS, spent time

talking to DMNS volunteers about our exhibitions at the Museum, including how we select temporary exhibitions, the timeline of production, etc. If you'd like to watch this talk, click on this link: <https://vimeo.com/134132456>

## **museum news and events**

### **PARDON OUR DUST AS ALLOSAURUS GETS A "LEG UP"**

After 20 years on display, the *Allosaurus* mount in *Prehistoric Journey* was leaning a little too much, so it's getting a leg up-and a facelift! This project is also an opportunity to spruce up the platform that holds *Stegosaurus* and *Allosaurus*, and replace an outdated plaster skull cast with a more accurate, lighter-weight one. Because of the difficult nature of working on the fossil skeleton, the dinosaur gallery will be closed from Monday, April 11, through Friday, April 22. The rest of *Prehistoric Journey* will remain open during this time. Guests will still be able to see *Diplodocus* and many of the other dinosaurs from the overlook, located upstairs from the Cretaceous Creekbed diorama. We appreciate your patience!

### **MUSEUM LECTURE AND PROGRAMMING INFORMATION**

[Click here for Evening Lectures](#)

[Click here for Gates Planetarium Daily Show Schedule](#)

[Click here for Museum IMAX information](#)

## **volunteer enrichment committee**

The Volunteer Enrichment Committee plans a variety of events, many of which are free, for

DMNS volunteers to participate, some are onsite at DMNS, others travel to spots nearby. Check the bulletin board in the Staff and Volunteer Lounge for more info.

**Dave Blumenstock**

Coordinator of Volunteers for Space Science

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

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Join the Museum's Online Community

[www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)