



# space odyssey

## 04.29.16 volunteer update

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

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

**Click below for quick access to:**

[Space Odyssey Volunteer News](#)

[Space Odyssey Exhibit News](#)

[Space Science Lectures & Events](#)

[Did you know?](#)

[Museum News and Events](#)

[Volunteer Enrichment Committee \(VEC\) Events](#)

## space o volunteer news and info

### **KUDOS**

Thanks so much to everyone who worked the Dia del Nino Free Day this past Saturday! And thanks much to anyone who used the offsite parking or took alternate transit to the Museum that day! I know that can be difficult, but it really does help our guests.

### **AWARDS AND MEMORIALS**

Correction from previous update: Congrats to Jim Corlett on his 500 Hour Award! And I'm sorry I missed your name.

## **MARS HUMAN MISSION BIOTECH TRAINING**

**Monday May 16, 2016**

**6:30 PM to 9:30 PM**

**Galaxy Stage in SO**

### **RSVP to Dave Blumenstock by Friday, May 13**

How will humans grow food on Mars? Is this even possible? Come to this session and watch "The Martian" to learn about how future human missions to the Red Planet might sustain themselves--and rescue themselves. We'll view the film, have a discussion and have a potluck. Please bring your favorite potato-based dish to share. Paper goods, flatware and drinks will be provided.

## **SUBMIT YOUR IDEA FOR THE VOLUNTEER FUND**

**\$4,000 Available from the Volunteer Fund**

**Deadline for proposals is May 13**

If you have an idea for a project or activity that will enhance the capabilities of Museum volunteers to support the mission of the Museum, please submit a proposal to the Volunteer Fund by [clicking here to download and fill-out the proposal](#).

You will need to describe the project or activity, including a budget, a timeline for completion and how it will benefit volunteers and the Museum. You will also need an approval signature from the curator or director whose work will be impacted by the project or activity. Approximately **\$4,000** will be available for use in 2017.

Your proposal must be submitted no later than **May 13, 2016**. You can email it to [Jacqueline.altreuter@dmns.org](mailto:Jacqueline.altreuter@dmns.org) or deliver a printed copy to her office. If you have questions at any time, please email [volunteerfund@dmns.org](mailto:volunteerfund@dmns.org).

### **Prior Year Grants**

Past grants have included the purchase of ergonomically correct chairs and industrial lamps for six volunteer work stations in the **Paleontology Lab**, acquisition of two wheeled step ladders to increase easier and safer access to specimens in the **Earth Sciences/Zoology collections**, four iPads were bought for **Museum Ambassadors** and **Placement Counselors** to use when talking with visitors and meeting with prospective volunteers. This year **Volunteer Services** will purchase a camcorder and Polaroid camera, and the **Volunteer Telescope Program** will buy covers, a filter, and an eyepiece for their

telescopes.

### **Want to vote on who receives the money?**

You can ensure your vote on this year's proposals by donating to the Volunteer Fund today. It's easy: you can donate online at [www.dmns.org/volunteerfund](http://www.dmns.org/volunteerfund). And remember "In memoriam" and "in honor of" donations are a wonderful way to recognize your fellow volunteers. Donation forms and envelopes also are available in the staff and volunteer lounge. Ballots will be sent out to donors in October 2016 to vote on funding for 2017.

### **MERCURY TRANSIT UPDATE**

Thanks to Drew Gehring, Dave Martinez, Jeff Fitzgerald and Jeff Siegel for coming to help out for the Mercury Transit on Monday, May 9. For those who don't know, the transit will last from about 5:53 AM to 12:41 local time. We'll have telescopes up on the Sky Terrace to view it--weather permitting of course. If you want to read more about the transit, [click here](#).

### **PARKING UPDATE: APRIL 30**

If you're volunteering tomorrow, especially for the morning shift, know that there is a race in City Park and you might need to show your Museum ID to get into the parking garage if you get here before 9 AM.

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LARRY DOUGLAS ON MAY 21**

Below is information from Anne regarding the memorial service for Larry. For those interested in making a donation in Larry's memory to the Volunteer Fund, here is the link to the online site: <https://secure1.dmns.org/products/355-donate-to-the-volunteer-fund.aspx>

Larry's memorial service is going to be on May 21 at 2:00 p.m. in Warren United Methodist Church, 14th and Gilpin, with a reception to follow. Out of towners - please think of Anne and Larry this day.

No flowers. Memorial gifts may be made to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Volunteer Endowment Fund, 2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205 or using the website above. Thank you all.

### **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: HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT AND SOS**

Mike Snodgrass, long-time Newsroom volunteer has updated his "NASA Human Space Exploration Development" presentation and Kim Evans posted it to the "Galaxy Guide

Portal" on April 20. Thanks Mike! The presentation can be found here:  
[http://spaceodyssey.dmns.org/media/49057/hse\\_development.pdf](http://spaceodyssey.dmns.org/media/49057/hse_development.pdf).

The NASA Human Space Exploration program will conduct routine missions to solar system destinations including the Moon and near Earth asteroids with the Mars' surface as a horizon destination for human exploration. This presentation shows some of the technologies that NASA is currently developing to support its Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) program. The AES program is the rapid development and testing of prototype systems and validation of operational concepts for future human exploration missions. Some of the presentation topics include the following updates:

### Vehicle Systems

In 2015, NASA continued to develop advanced deep space propulsion systems including nuclear thermal and advanced deep space electric propulsion systems. NASA awarded three contracts to American companies to develop advanced electric propulsion systems including Ad Astra Rocket developing the VASIMR with scalability for human spaceflight.

In 2014, the Morpheus Project test lander at Kennedy Space Center, FL ascended to about 800 feet in altitude, hovered and landed safely in a 65 yard square of boulder-sized hazards.

### Crew Mobility Systems

NASA continues to develop new spacesuits for early Orion missions as well as designing prototype spacesuits to be used for both micro-gravity and planetary extra-vehicular activities.

### Deep Space Habitation Systems

In 2015, NASA announced partnerships with seven companies to advance habitation concept studies. Selections are intended to augment the Orion capsule with the development of capabilities to initially sustain a crew of four for up to 60 days in cis-lunar space (between Earth and the Moon) with the ability to scale up to transit habitation capabilities for future Mars missions.

We also have a new document on the SOS page of the Portal. This doc was created by a member of the international SOS forum and it gives scales for geologic features as seen on the SOS. [Go to this page](#) to read "Scale of Geologic Features on the SOS." Look in the upper right hand corner of the page and click on the link.

### **ON THE WEB**

[Go See Our Own Naomi Pequette Do Science Stand-up!](#)

[Hertha Ayrton: Mathematician, scientist and holder of 26 patents](#)

[What Happens to Water In Space?](#)

[Eclipse from Space](#)

[What Venus Express Learned by Aerobraking](#)

[Venus Express Swansong Experiment](#)

[Our Mummies In the News](#)

[Plate Tectonics and Climate Change](#)  
[Crash Course Astronomy with Phil Plait](#)  
[Amazing Immersive Mars Panorama](#)  
[Did a Supernova Blast Earth?](#)  
[Kjell Lindgren "Tests" to be an Astronaut](#)  
[Learn about NASA's Robonaut](#)  
[Rise of Rocket Girls](#)  
[Cool New Space Exhibit in Indianapolis](#)  
[Come See Colorado FIRST Robotics Challenge on May 25 at DU](#)

## **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**

### **ORBITS TABLE: PLEASE DON'T MAKE CHANGES**

Please don't make any changes to the appearance or operation of the Orbits Table computer/Uniview. If you accidentally do so, just let me know. Please do not intentionally make any changes. Thanks much! If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you!

### **ORBITS TABLE: TRAINING COMPUTER IN BRIEFING ROOM**

If you need to train on Orbits/Uniview and would rather not do it on the floor of the exhibit, there is a desktop computer located in a cubicle in the back of the basement SO Briefing Room for you to use. The login information is printed on the computer. If you need help, let me know. Enjoy!

### **GALAXY STAGE UPDATE**

The center projector had to be sent out for repair. Meantime, we have a spare in place. It has to be operated by remote control to turn it on. Said remote is located on the top shelf of the Galaxy Stage computer cart.

### **MAC UPDATE: NOW SENDING MAIL**

The mail program issues have been fixed and the Macs are once again sending mail. Please feel free to send web links to guests as you see fit.

### **SCIENCE ON A SPHERE UPDATE**

Thanks to everyone out there who's been using a mic! I hope this is saving your voice while

helping our guests too. Also, the auto alignment gear is now in-house. We should be installing it in the coming days.

### **EXPERIMENT BAR UPDATE**

We have new Planet Weight Bottles at the Exp Bar. We also have Cubelets on the way, though no date is set for their "release." [Cubelets are these cool things.](#) And the ground penetrating radar/sandbox is now gone from the Bar. We are thankful for its service, but sand and Cubelets don't mix, plus the absence of sand will help our next counter top last much longer and save us some money in the process as a new counter top there is about \$2K.

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

The webcam had to be re-positioned as it was too low. No word on a "release date" as yet.

## **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, May 25 , 7 p.m.

#### **Tickets:**

**FREE**

### **DIGITAL EARTH: PETRA**

Back by popular demand! The Nabateans carved their rose-pink rock city of Petra, a stronghold in the desert, using metal tools made from smelted local ores, and controlled age-old trade routes that passed nearby. Surprisingly these controls were not the keys to their success; rather, it was water. These early engineers developed regional water systems, intricate canals and pipelines, and marvelous storage cisterns hewn deep into the mother rock. Using 360-degree photography on the dome, guest speaker and archaeologist Will Reynolds and space scientist Ka Chun Yu will tour through deep time and deep rocks, returning to questions about how the current residents of this historic landscape are striving

to lead the good life.

**Location:**

Gates Planetarium

**Date/Time:**

Wednesday, June 1, 5:15 p.m.

**Tickets:**

\$8 member, \$10 nonmember

[Buy Now](#)

**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...

...That we have a Volunteer Fund at DMNS? Did you also know that you, as a volunteer, can write a proposal to the Volunteer Fund for something you'd like to see at DMNS that supports volunteers...? If you'd like to write and submit your own proposal, [click here](#) to download the form, fill it out and pass it along to me and I'll submit it.

## museum news and events

### **XCEL ROAD WORK FROM APRIL 22 TO MAY 13**

This work will take place under 22nd street so you may see some cones and construction

equipment. They're replacing some piping.

## **DMNS HERE BETTER INITIATIVE PROGRESS**

### **Completed Here Better Projects:**

- Create and Implement a regular, proactive carpet cleaning schedule
- Modernize Ricketson technology
- Add an interpretive panel about the west view on Sky Terrace and in Schlessman Lounge
  
- Add DMNS Logo and/or signage to our vehicles as appropriate
- Expand and enhance the Daily Huddles/Briefings
- Operationalize Museum Ambassadors Program
- Pilot Low Sensory relationship building ideas
- Implement Self Service Facilitated Ticket Kiosks Phase I
  
- Replace dedicated Member Entrance signage
- Have Museum gift cards available for purchase
- Move the Mars Rover and reclaim that space for more general guest usage
- Complete school arrival process improvements
- Repair IMAX doors (dogging screws and hold open feature)
- Remove the hanging tarp on L2 parking garage
- Sidewalk improvements on the east side to improve safety and function
- Replace the concrete pan at the arch way at garage entrance to eliminate the bad drop, car dragging feature
- Replace the sinking sidewalk just north of the bollards on the north side
- Add (safe) step stools in all restrooms
- North/East exterior enhancements - Phase 1 (benches, trash bins, trees, north side planters)
- Add a Mother's room for guests and staff (located in the first floor family restroom area)
- Add a penny smasher for guests to create a keepsake
- Add an identifying sign above the donor leaf wall on L2 in the south atrium
- Change over former "Where Wonders Never Cease" to be more welcoming-replaced with DZ banners
- Operationalize the language buttons for staff and volunteers (add language/proficiency)
- Camp curbside check-in moved to South side school entrance area.
- Add a coffee/light food cart that can move to various locations
- Refine and operationalize Dia del Nino Festival Day
- Add labels identifying dinosaur sculptures in garage elevator area
- Hold the Makers' Faire "Beta" program (June 2015)
- Prehistoric Journey Paleo Lab Improvements Phase 1
- Regular cleaning of West Atrium rings, ledges, skeletons, light fixtures, ATM buttons - ongoing



### **Here Better Projects in Progress:**

- Better Use of lobby/atria spaces for guest flow and event management-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Improve/advertise "chill zones" through the museum as areas to decompress-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Fix broken glass on central atrium stair-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Restaurant and Deli refresh-Estimated completion Q2 2016
- North/east exterior minor physical enhancements Phase II-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Better coordinate busy days with parking relief mechanisms-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Offer incentive to guests to not drive to the Museum-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Institutionalize a DMNS Service Culture-anticipated roll out Q3 2016
- Evaluate the Service Recovery coupon and consider other approaches-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Assess use of the IMAX evening lobby to reduce confusion on entrances-Estimated completion Q2 2016
- Design an operations continuity checklist-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Space Odyssey & Planetarium Comprehensive Review-Estimated completion Q2 2016
- Build a sustainable Exhibit refresh/upgrade model-Estimated completion Q2 2016
- Prehistoric Journey dinosaur mount repairs-Estimated completion Q2 2016
- Staff Engagement Survey (survey completed; investments on-going)
- Expedition Health technology and program updates-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Implement the "Launch Pad" new hire orientation overhaul-Estimated completion Q3 2016
- Staff recruitment process improvements to better reflect service and work culture - on-going

**Thanks to the many staff who are participating on a variety of teams and are working hard to make these projects happen!**

### **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

**SEMESTER AT SEA IN 60 MINUTES**

**Wednesday April 27**

**4 PM to 5 PM**

**Studio 106**

Join yours truly for a rapid world odyssey as I try to give you an idea of what it was like to live aboard a 600' ship with over 500 college students for three months as we traveled the world. Please sign-up on the VEC bulletin board in the Lounge.

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)