



McAuliffe-Shepard
Discovery Center



Media Kit

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New England's Premier Air & Space Science Center



DEDICATION:

Christa McAuliffe:

On January 28, 1986, Christa McAuliffe stepped from the classroom into history with the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger. A gifted high school social studies teacher who made Concord, New Hampshire, her home, McAuliffe was selected from over 11,500 applicants to be NASA's first "Teacher in Space". Her mission, to educate and inspire young people to actively engage in learning all they can about the universe in which we live, continues to be realized in the science center named in her honor in Concord, NH.

Alan Shepard:

While serving as a Navy test pilot, Derry, NH native Alan B. Shepard was selected by NASA as one of America's first seven astronauts. And on May 5, 1961, he became the first of the first, as he rocketed into space aboard Freedom 7, a Mercury capsule atop a Redstone rocket. America's first astronaut, Shepard became chief of NASA's astronaut office, and then - 10 years after his first flight - Rear Admiral Shepard commanded the Apollo 14 mission, setting foot on the Moon in February 1971.

These two space pioneers from New Hampshire continue to inspire people all around the world, with their perseverance, their determination to explore the unknown and their commitment to excellence. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is proud to bear their names and to do all it can to carry their legacies forward.

For more biographical information from NASA's Johnson Space Center, see

www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/shepard-alan.html
www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/mcauliffe.html



McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center

With a Mercury-Redstone rocket at the front entry and a prominent observatory dome, the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center brings the latest in scientific and engineering achievements to the public through its interactive programs, exhibits and planetarium shows. The Discovery Center features 21st century interactive exhibits on astronomy, aviation, Earth and space sciences, a state-of-the-art planetarium and observatory, and a variety of programs centered on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The engaging, robust educational programs are geared towards families, teens, seniors, students, community groups, and lifelong learners of all ages. The Discovery Center's Science Store and Countdown Café offer additional amenities for visitors, and space is available for conferences and events.



NATIONAL GRID EDUCATION CENTER

Integral to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center's mission is an education center for teachers and parents that supports and advances science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. Through a generous donation of \$50,000 to Touch the Future, Inc., National Grid sponsored the idea to support the community and inspire today's youth to pursue exciting careers in STEM fields. By working with educators and parents, National Grid and the Discovery Center are in turn reaching the many thousands of students these adults will impact over a lifetime of teaching and child-rearing.

The National Grid Education Center provides space for professional development workshops and seminars led by educators, scientists and engineers while providing resources that will increase effectiveness in teaching STEM in the classroom. Laptop computers with internet connection are available, as well as a color printer, a large screen monitor to project programs and internet images, an LCD ceiling projector and drop down screen for Power Point presentations, and a library of educational materials for curriculum development.



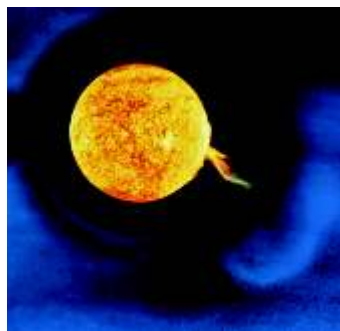
A wealth of free materials is also available from NASA in the east end of the Education Center, where NASA's Educator Resource Center for New Hampshire resides. NASA materials include educator briefs and guides, lithographs, astronomy software, posters, videos, slide sets, bookmarks and more.



FACT SHEET:

McAuliffe-Shepard
Discovery Center
Points of Interest

New England's premier
air & space science
center in Concord,
New Hampshire



Expanded to quadruple
the original stand-alone
planetarium

Opened March 6, 2009

Dedicated to two space
pioneers: NASA's
Teacher-in-Space,
Christa McAuliffe, and
America's 1st astronaut,
Alan Shepard

45,223 square-foot
science center

Designed by Dignard
Architectural Services of
New Boston, NH

Construction by
Bauen Corporation of
Meredith, NH



Redstone Rocket Plaza

Rooftop Observatory

State-of-the-Art Planetarium

21st century interactive
exhibits on astronomy,
aviation, Earth & space
sciences

Wide variety of science and
engineering programs

NASA Space Grant Affiliate

National Grid Education Center
with NASA resources

New conference areas for
special events

Visitor lobby with a Science
Store and Countdown Café





FEATURED EXHIBITS:

▶ **Redstone Rocket Plaza**

The Redstone Plaza features a full-sized replica of a Mercury-Redstone rocket. An interactive exhibit surrounding the rocket tells the story of New Hampshire hero Alan Shepard and his historic flight as the first American in space on May 5, 1961 and the historic Space Race between the U.S. and U.S.S.R.

▶ **Tribute to Two NH Heroes**

Take a personal look at the two space pioneers to whom the Discovery Center is dedicated: NASA's Teacher-in-Space Christa McAuliffe and America's first astronaut, Rear Admiral Alan Shepard.

▶ **Space Shuttle Model**

Explore a large-scale model of a space shuttle, complete with an external fuel tank and solid rocket boosters, as well as an interactive program on life in space and personal artifacts used by New England astronauts aboard the shuttle.

▶ **Mercury 7 Capsule**

Visit a full-scale model of the capsule that Alan Shepard used on his first spaceflight.

▶ **Earth and Planetary Sciences Gallery**

Investigates Earth science on a whole new level with a strong emphasis on remote sensing and satellite technology.

▶ **Imaging Our Universe**

From digital imaging to detecting radiation left over from the birth of the universe – telescopes, satellites, space probes, and rovers are helping us answer questions about our universe.

▶ **Getting the Big Picture of Earth**

Take a global look at Earth's processes and cycles and how they change and evolve over time. Test your knowledge of geography against space shots of Earth in exhibit and web-based interactives, and learn about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and applications.

▶ **Comparing Earth to Other Planets and Moons**

Learn how other planets and moons give us clues to how the solar system formed as well as a more complete understanding of Earth.

▶ **Weather Center**

Become a weather forecaster and do your own weather report on the big screen as you learn about meteorology and green screen technology.

▶ **Real People, Amazing Jobs**

Three interactive stations feature actual New England scientists, who tell you about their work, their lives, what drew them to choose their careers and how they persevered to achieve their dreams.

▶ **Expedition to Mars**

Join in planning a human expedition to Mars and select the right time to leave, the perfect landing spot, identify the qualities one needs to be part of a Mars crew, design a Mars station, and find out how to stay strong and healthy during your mission.

▶ **Across the Spectrum and Walk on the Sun**

Explore the electromagnetic spectrum – there is a lot more to see in the universe than what human eyes alone can detect! See and feel the parts of the spectrum. Then hear the Sun through music as you walk across NASA STEREO images of its surface.

▶ **Space Ships**

Land your ship on the Moon. Bring your shuttle in for an Earth landing. Compare the sizes of our early space transport systems to what we use today. View space through daily downloads of NASA imagery, and learn about space weather conditions astronauts need to keep in mind.

▶ **Our Art**

See what NH artists Cynthia Fisher, Gordon Carlisle, Elizabeth Butterfield, James Coates and Frederick Pukstra were inspired to create in celebration of the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center's mission.



OBSERVATORY / PLANETARIUM:

The Rooftop Observatory features a Celestron 14" Schmidt- Cassegrain telescope mounted on a Software Bisque Paramount, and a 100mm Lunt solar telescope specially designed for observing the Sun in great detail. Views seen through the Celestron are displayed on a large plasma screen on the second floor for special programs. Visitors can see first hand what they've learned from the exhibit-based experiences and distance education on astronomy, orbital mechanics, stellar and planetary formation, and gravity.

The Discovery Center's 103-seat planetarium uses state-of-the art Digital Sky, a full-dome video system with a database of over 110,000 stars, stellar and planetary objects extending out the to edge of the known universe. Digital, interactive shows on Earth and space science and astronomy are presented by educators with strong science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) backgrounds. These experiences can be complemented by show-related student activities and curricula, as well as exhibits and related programs in the museum.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Space Camp Scholarship Application Deadline:

Friday, March 16

Astronomy Bowl:

Saturday, March 31

Aerospacefest 2012:

May 4 & 5

explore

discover

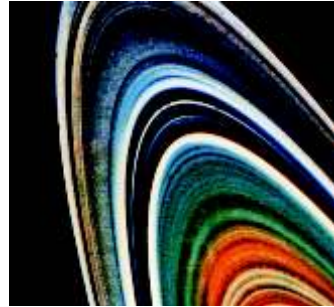
be inspired

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Open 7 Days a Week, 10 AM to 5 PM

General Admission	Cost
Adult	\$9
Student/Senior	\$8
Child	\$6
Group Rate (15+)	\$6
Theater Show Admission (add-on to General Admission, same for all ages)	\$4

School Groups, per student (one free chaperone per each ten students)	\$5
Add-On programs, per student	\$3



Parking:

Free parking for Discovery Center visitors, including accessible spaces, is available in the parking lot at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. Accessible drop off and pick up is located in the front of the Discovery Center.

Location:

2 Institute Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Directions:

From north, south or west: I-93 to exit 15 E (I-393) in Concord, NH. Take Exit 1 and follow the signs to the Discovery Center.

From east: Rt. 4 W to I-393 W. Take exit 1 and follow the signs to the Discovery Center.

From downtown Concord NH: I-393 E to first set of lights. Sharp right onto Commercial St. Left at 1st stop sign, right at 2nd stop sign, right at 3rd stop sign, go over the train tracks and bridge, take a right into the Discovery Center parking lot just after the bridge.

Look for the 92' tall Mercury-Redstone Rocket at the entry to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center!

Website: www.starhop.com