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Boldly Go To the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center to See Rare Star Trek Items

CONCORD, NH – Nationwide, science fiction fans will see their seven year wait for a new Star Trek movie come to an end as Star Trek, directed by J. J. Abrams, opens across the nation. But, in Concord NH, the wait ends this afternoon, as rare Star Trek items will be on display at the new McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center and will offer some real history behind the landmark series.

A uniform, worn by Transporter Chief Janice Rand, played by Grace Lee Whitney, in Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) will be on display, as well as chairs from the set of Star Trek: The Next Generation (1987-1994). The items were purchased at the October 2006 “40 Years of Star Trek” Auction at Christie's in New York. Fans can come see the Star Trek memorabilia - and sit in some of the actual chairs used by Captain Jean Luc Picard and crew.

“Everyone here loves science fiction,” said Jeanne Tiberius Gerulskis, Executive Director of the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. “And the amazing technology of Star Trek from medical scanners to communicators gave us all a glimpse of the future.”

Star Trek is an American science fiction phenomena that began in 1966 with Gene Roddenberry's original series about the crew of the starship Enterprise and its crew's five-year mission "to boldly go where no man has gone before." The show ran three seasons until 1969. Ten years later, the first Star Trek motion picture premiered, based on the plot line of James Kirk at the command of an upgraded Enterprise battling a hostile energy cloud threatening Earth. Star Trek: The Next Generation was the second television series, set 70 years after the first show. Premiering in 1987, it featured a new starship, the Enterprise-D, and a new crew.

The new McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is a lively science center, featuring 21st century interactive exhibits on aviation, astronomy, Earth and space sciences, a state-of-the-art planetarium and a variety of science and engineering programs.

The engaging, robust educational programs are geared towards families, teens, seniors, students, community groups, and lifelong learners. The Discovery Center includes facilities for conferences and special events, and a NASA Educator Resource Center.

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