



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

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Hampton History Museum Hosts Event at Air Power Park Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing on July 20, 2019 with Activities from NASA Langley Research Center

*That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.
Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.
Mystery creates wonder and wonder is the basis of man's desire to
understand. -Neil Armstrong, July 20, 1969*

Hampton, VA - Join the Hampton History Museum at Air Power Park on Saturday, July 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a day of family fun, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing. Explore Hampton's contributions to space flight and the first steps on the Moon. Be there for the ribbon cutting of the restored "Little Joe" rocket. The event is free and open to the public.

Be among the first to see the fully restored "Little Joe" rocket that played a key role in testing systems for the Moon mission. This unlaunched rocket is the only remaining example of the type used in eight launches, between 1959 and 1960, from Wallops Island, Virginia to test the escape systems and heat shield for Project Mercury capsules.

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Restoration of this iconic spacecraft and the smaller “Corporal” rocket, are among the first improvements to the park. Learn more about the work being done, and the exciting plans that lie ahead to revitalize Air Power Park.

Groove to music from the 1960s while enjoy hands-on activities, interactive programs and historical displays surrounded by vintage 1950s and 1960s planes, jets, rockets and the park’s retromodern geodesic dome housing model aircraft and space vehicles.

Take part in recreating the historic journey to the Moon with Hampton History Museum educator Kris Peters and volunteers. Using models of the Earth, Moon, Sun, and Saturn 5 rocket, this interactive role playing activity will break down the Apollo 11 mission and the variables that influenced it. Explore the physical forces that had to be overcome or accounted for such as the Earth’s gravity, the Moon’s gravity, the movement of these celestial bodies, the changing weight of the rocket during launch, the rigors of space travel, the length of the flight, and leaving and reentering the Earth’s atmosphere.

Hear stories of the “Human Computers” that calculated the complex formulas that made it possible to get to the moon and back, and who were made famous in the hit film and best-selling book “Hidden Figures.” Put your name in a raffle for a Katherine Johnson Barbie doll or space-themed LEGO kit.

In celebration of NASA’s 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Program, NASA Langley Research Center will provide hands-on activities and exhibits focusing on its contributions to the Apollo program, plans to return to the Moon and the Artemis program.

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Leave your mark on a 6 foot-tall scale model of a Saturn 5 rocket to commemorate this historic milestone. Snap a selfie in an astronaut suit with a cool NASA backdrop. Watch a 3-D printer in action to demonstrate how astronauts may make tools in space when the nearest hardware store is millions of miles away.

Marvel at a landing gear tire from the Space Shuttle. Craft space vehicles with LEGOS and get inspiration from a 2-foot tall LEGO model of a Saturn 5 rocket.

See historic footage of the 1969 moon landing, and get a glimpse of the Artemis program that will allow the first female astronaut to step foot on the moon in 2024. Receive free NASA publications and NASA bags while supplies last.

Air Power Park

413 W. Mercury Boulevard

Hampton, VA 23669

Operated by the Hampton History Museum, this free 15-acre park features several vintage aircraft and experimental space launch vehicles from the 1950s and 1960s, including jets, missiles and rockets. Many of the displays have connections with nearby Langley Air Force Base and NASA Langley Research Center. The park includes a playground and a nostalgic geodesic domed building with a 1960's aesthetic. The dome contains themed rooms with more than 325 models of aircraft, spacecraft and nautical vessels representing all the U.S. branches of service and some other nations.

Outside, a raised wooden walkway provides a quiet observation deck with views of Newmarket Creek. Visitors may see herons, egrets, blackbirds, various types of crabs and

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other wildlife. Kids can enjoy the playground area and boat enthusiasts can launch their paddle craft or simply relax on the floating dock.

Air Power Park is situated at one end of Waterwalk at Central Park, a 2¼-mile linear park that stretches through the heart of Coliseum Central to the Power Plant shopping area.

For more information about the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing event, visit www.hamptonhistorymuseum.org or call 757-727-1102.

Parking

Parking will be at the former Kmart at 210 W Mercury Blvd. Shuttle busses will take visitors to and from Air Power Park for this special event.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed to Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

During 2019, Hampton commemorates the 400th anniversary of the first African landing in English North America at Hampton's Old Point Comfort on Fort Monroe National Monument. In addition to honoring the men and women who arrived in 1619, the city

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will also celebrate the contributions of African Americans have made to our city, state and nation. A commission has planned events across the entire year to recognize and celebrate African American impact, including a three-day long Commemoration event, August 23-25.

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