CosmoWorks: A Sign of Good Things to Come

Last summer, the Cosmosphere introduced a new project to the aerospace camp experience—art! With close instruction provided by Disability Supports of the Great Plains client artists, students participating in Cosmosphere Camp 501 created space-themed clay artwork.

Since the camp season, DSGP and the Cosmosphere have been working to create an even longer-lasting partnership. A newly renovated DSGP building in downtown Hutchinson has a specific workspace dedicated to the Cosmosphere/Clayworks initiative. Called “CosmoWorks” the space will be used to further the interaction between the two groups of individuals, with planned camp art projects led by the client artists and staff of DSGP, and space and science educational presentations led by Cosmosphere staff. In addition, and following the successful conclusion of three “test camps”, Disability Supports and Cosmosphere leadership are also working towards a series of regularly scheduled camps for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities which will be offered well beyond the borders of Reno County to include potential participants on the national and even international levels.

Rick Staab, President and CEO of DSGP, said he could always envision the client artist’s roles expanding into something more. “Inevitably, we knew there would be a point where our artists would reach levels of ability and professionalism that would allow them to share their incredible gifts and skills with others,” he said. “Our Clayworks artists have the capacity to make any initiative successful, often more so than you or I, because they have no paradigms or limitations that impede their potential. Our artists go all in, wrap
OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Inspiring Innovation Through Science Education and Honoring the History of Space Exploration.

Dillon’s Community Rewards Program
Join the Dillons Reward Program and help the Cosmosphere earn credit!

Dillon’s Community Rewards program allows the Cosmosphere to earn credit for each purchase you make at Dillon’s just by using your Plus Card.

TO ENROLL IN THE COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:
1. Visit the Dillon’s Community Rewards website at: dillons.com/communityrewards
2. Sign in- OR- Create an account
3. Click “Enroll Now”
4. Enter the Cosmosphere’s 5-digit NPO #JQ325
5. Select the Cosmosphere and click on “Enroll”

DILLON’S REWARD PROGRAM FUN FACT:
Twenty-one households who shopped at Dillons between 10/1/2018 and 12/31/2018 have contributed to our $157,29 total donation. Just think what we could accomplish with 100 more supporters on board! Thanks to those of you who have taken the time to sign up! Breaking the $10,000 a quarter goal is just a click away...

SUPPORT/DONATE
The Cosmosphere would not exist without the incredible generosity of passionate supporters like you. Please consider the Cosmosphere in your annual giving and estate planning.

Contact Mimi Meredith, Chief Development Officer, at 620.665.9339 or mimim@cosmo.org to learn more about how your contribution of any size can help the Cosmosphere grow and thrive.

VOLUNTEER
Cosmosphere volunteers are an integral part of the organization’s daily operations. Without volunteers, the Cosmosphere would be unable to conduct the wide variety of programs and services now offered.

For more information on volunteering at the Cosmosphere, contact Maria Eriksen, Volunteer Coordinator at 620.665.9320 or marla@cosmo.org.

FROM THE COSMOSPHERE’S INBOX
We are the Glenn family, distant relatives of John Glenn, and our son Wyatt has loved your program for years! He joined the Cosmosphere program in Space 101 after his studies in the Young Astronauts program in Connecticut, and this year he can’t wait to go to the JPL with some lifelong friends. The Glenn family applauds the Cosmosphere and all the exciting windows to the past and future that it presents our fortunate children.

Keep up the great work.

God Speed, Maia Fitzpatrick
The Cosmosphere would like to thank all of our 2018 Donors for their generous contributions throughout the year.

(Aas of December 7, 2017–January 20, 2019. Donors giving after January 20 will be recognized in our next newsletter.)
Hansen Foundation Continues Funding

for continued opportunities from educators, the Cosmosphere applied for and was granted the continued funding.

“The Cosmosphere has been an outstanding partner,” said Betsy Wearing, the Coordinator of Programs, Communications and New Initiatives for the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. “Students and educators are so excited with the STEM activities and lessons the Cosmosphere staff are bringing into the schools, and the Cosmosphere offers lessons for every grade level that adhere to Kansas curriculum standards. We could not be more pleased with this initiative and the professional staff at the Cosmosphere,” she added.

Though the Cosmosphere served nearly 17,000 students in house during 2018, this grant allows the space and science center to send its educational programs on the road to schools and students who may not have the chance to travel to Hutchinson.

“The Hansen Foundation trustees believe our classroom teachers do a great job, but also recognize that learning is enhanced when students can experience hands on educational opportunities – beyond the traditional classroom. For many of our rural schools, traveling to some of the amazing places in Kansas which offer those opportunities is either impractical due to distance and time, or financially impossible, so we wanted to bring those opportunities directly to the schools,” explained Wearing.

“We are honored to be chosen as a Dane G. Hansen Foundation partner,” said Mimi Meredith, Cosmosphere Chief Development Officer. “This gives us the opportunity to reach more students across the state with the interactive lessons which let them see science brought to life in new and engaging ways. And hopefully, they’ll come to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson to learn even more!”

Cosmosphere outreach programs are tailored to fulfill each particular school’s or educator’s needs. Programs can fit inside a school day, or educators may choose to expand the offering to stretch over a couple of days and cover a variety of topics. All programming offers students an opportunity to learn from hands-on activities and meets educational and classroom standards. Additionally, group sizes can range from one classroom to an entire student body of a school, or even a district.

To find out more about Cosmosphere Outreach programs, visit cosmo.org and click on ‘Outreach’ under the ‘Education’ tab. If you have questions, or if you would like to schedule a program for your school, please contact Helene Kain, Cosmosphere School Programs Manager, by emailing heleneK@cosmo.org.

Above: Students in Dodge City, KS, are learning to program robots to navigate a course. Right: Community members from Dodge City try their hand at underwater robotics.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Quotes from USD 271 students

“Thank you for coming and teaching us stuff we did not know.”

“I liked making ice cream.”

“My favorite part about the Cosmosphere was the planetarium! It was so cool!”

“My favorite part was the planetarium!”

“My favorite thing was all the fun I had with you. Thank you!”

“My favorite was the botl roctes.”

“My favorite part was living in space!”

“My favorite part was everything. I hope you come back next year!”

“Thank you for coming. Dane G. Hansen and Cosmosphere.”

“Thank you for coming to show us stuff about the Cosmosphere. Also thank you for letting us be able to learn about space.”

“My favorite thing was the exploding trash can.”

“My favorite part was making paper rockets, but I loved the whole thing. I hope the Cosmosphere can come back next year.”

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We are GO for AAA!

Adult Astronaut Adventure: The perfect weekend experience for adults who love space!

By Cosmosphere Volunteer, John Mulnix

Last summer, I had the chance to attend the Adult Astronaut Adventure (AAA), and I had an absolute blast! I’m embarrassed to say it, but this was the first time I was able to attend a space-related camp. This may come as a shock to those who know me, seeing as how I’m a self-described space nerd, podcaster, and writer, but it’s the truth. I went into this experience not knowing what to expect since this was the first time I had been to a Cosmosphere camp. I was pleasantly surprised from day one. Friday night was the first part of AAA, and it included a great show at the Planetarium. That evening was spent getting to know my fellow campers over wine and cheese. It was wonderful to be able to chat with everyone and learn what brought them to the Cosmosphere, besides my apparent love of space.

On Saturday we started by separating our mission. It meant our mission was an obstacle course without human intervention. We trained, completed a model rocket launch, experienced 4Gs in the centrifuge, saw artifacts in the archives that aren’t on display and generally had a blast on Saturday.

Sunday was mission day. All of the teams took turns in the Shuttle simulator. launching, deploying a satellite, then returning to Earth. During Delta Team’s flight, the flight controllers had a bit of fun with a simulated electrical error that threatened our mission. Delta Team took it in stride and fixed the errors, bringing the Falcon back to Kennedy Space Center in one piece.

Above: John Mulnix, takes a “ride” in the Soyuz trainer in the Cosmosphere’s camp area. Below: Mulnix and his team members give a “thumbs-up” during their mission.

RAISED: $3,185

Thank you to all who contributed to our first crowdfunding campaign!

Anonymous
In Honor of amazing counselors who inspire big dreams
Anonymous
In Memory of Lolly Zwick
Bob and Donna Becker
In Honor of Kate Becker
Shawn Bibeirdorf
Patrick Bredtman
In Memory of Han Solo who died along with my childhood
at the hands of Kylo Ren
Vincent Capone
Black Laser Learning, Inc.
Jason Clark
Gary Finlul
In Honor of Walter Finlul
Juslin, NASA Protocol Officer for Neil Armstrong
Krystina Furst
Carlos and Lisa Garcia
In Honor of my three favorite campers with gratitude to the Cosmos for helping them to dream big!

Test and Wendy Hobert
Michael Hughes
Chelsea Iwag
Stephan Kelloy
Michael Kuzak
Gary and Marla Mckee
Glen Meyerowitz
In Honor of Jason Clark
John Mulnix
Chris and Rachel Nelson
Travis and Lindsay Nordwald
Jonathan Oliver
Brandon and Lori Parks
In Honor of Helen Unruh, who inspired so many of us to learn and teach and push the envelope!
Tony Schleich
Robert Schmidt and Barbara Mathers Schmidt
In honor of Mimi Meredith
Michael Staub
Doug and Vicki Westerhaus
Brett Zongker

RAISED: $11,385

Thank you to all who contributed and to our matching donor!

Ruslan Alvarez and Karen Koski
Bob and Donna Becker
LeAnn Cox
Steve and Julie Drach
Carlos and Lisa Garcia
Robert Green
Chris and Shannon Horner
Eva Immich
Richard and Mary Kluba
Charley and Linda Mccue
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Joel and Angie Ontjes
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Jeffrey and Linda Schlader
Tony and Kim Schleich
Anna Maria Siler
Dell Swearer
Caio Torelio

Thank You, Donors!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Donor Spotlight:
Dave and Patty Kerr

Dave and Patty Kerr have been long-time donors to the Cosmosphere. Not only will you often find this couple supporting events hosted by the organization, but the Kerrs have another special connection to the Cosmosphere—they currently live in the home built by Cosmosphere Founder, Patty Carey and her husband, Jake.

The Kerrs recently gave a commodity donation of grain to the Cosmosphere and we sat down with them to learn more about this unique way to give back.

Q: Why do you choose to give to the Cosmosphere?
A: The Cosmosphere has been one of the attractions in Hutchinson which makes this place truly unique, not only in the state, but in the entire country. This is a very valuable organization to our community and we feel we need to not only support the Cosmosphere financially, but tell its story as well.

Q: How does a commodity donation work?
A: Anyone who has grain, or corn, etc., which they normally sell, can choose instead to donate the grain to a charitable organization. This allows the revenue to flow through the organization instead of the owner. In our case, we left the grain to the Cosmosphere, which briefly took possession of the commodity, then the museum sold it and was able to directly benefit from the revenue.

Q: Why should someone consider a commodity donation?
A: Especially with the new laws regarding higher standard deductions, this option allows money to go directly to the charitable organization and the donor of the commodity does not have to record the revenue. In a state full of farmers and land owners, a commodity donation is just a good option to consider.

Patty Carey and her husband, Jake.

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Patty Carey and her husband, Jake.
Eden Craig, a Cosmosphere 501 camper from Raymore, MO, enjoyed the project last summer. “It’s really fun to learn from and work with these amazing people,” she said. “This project allowed more personalization of the camp experience and I’m able to bring something home to show my friends and family.”

Space 501 camp counselor Blake Lee said when the campers toured NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, art was specifically mentioned. “We were on a behind-the-scenes tour, and our guide brought up the need for artists on the JPL team. They need creative-minded people in design all the time,” Lee said.

“We think it’s important to continue to stretch our campers’ experiences, introducing them to new ideas and new people,” said Brad Nuest, Cosmosphere Director of Education. “Not only does the art encourage creativity and very different thinking than what these students generally do, but we are providing them an opportunity to work with people who are also quite different than those they likely normally interact with. We feel it’s a win-win!”
In 1998, a WWII B-29 bomber was rescued from Mojave Desert. In broken, sun-parched pieces on seven flat-bed trailers, Doc (as the SuperFortress was named) made the trek from the aircraft boneyard in California to the town where it had been assembled more than 50 years earlier: Wichita, Kansas. For the next 16+ years, hundreds of volunteers would donate more than 450,000 hours to painstakingly restore the aircraft. After twice running out of funding, Doc was finally deemed airworthy and in 2016 began life anew, as a living, flying museum. However, the organization of volunteers who oversaw the project, called Doc’s Friends, had one more goal in mind—they wanted to build a hangar for the historic warbird in its hometown.

“We had three goals,” explained Josh Wells, a member of Doc’s Friends. “Our first two, to get the plane airworthy and to have it act as a living museum, we’d accomplished. Our last goal was to give Doc a home,” said Wells.

The group knew a hangar was needed for maintenance of the aircraft, but hoped to be able to offer more to visitors who came to see Doc. As plans developed, the vision became to provide a combination of hangar and hands-on educational museum.

“We knew we wanted this to be more than a ‘museum’, we wanted visitors to truly be engaged,” said Wells. “We wanted people to see and touch and learn about the history and these heroes—both the war heroes and the heroes of this project—our volunteers—and we knew the Cosmosphere could take that vision and make it a reality.”

So, the science center and space museum was contracted to help with the project. SpaceWorks, the restoration and fabrication division of the Cosmosphere, began working on the exhibit design, wall graphics and layout of the visitor’s and education center portions of the new facility, including historic exhibits and the assembly of the artifact cases, while the Cosmosphere’s education team worked to create a coinciding educational curriculum.

“This project helps us fulfill our mission,” said Jim Remar, President and CEO of the Cosmosphere. “We’re honored to have a role in sharing Doc’s story and preserving this history. We hope it helps inspire the next generation of aviators and STEM career-minded individuals.”

Visitors to the B-29 Doc Hangar and Education Center, which opened to the public at the end of January on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport campus, have the opportunity to watch technicians maintain the one of only two operational B-29s in existence today. Artifacts from WWII and the B-29s are also on display for visitors to take advantage of, like the crew tube—where one can crawl through to a reproduced version of the navigator’s station or radio-operators station, just as a crew member on the original B-29 would have done.

Wells said he feels the final project is a success and is excited for the public to be able to better understand the legacy of Doc, the history of aviation in Wichita and the sacrifice of the men and women who’ve served our country.

“It’s very humbling to give the volunteers, the war heroes and Doc a home and to be able to showcase this work, as only it could be done here in the ‘Air Capital of the World,’” concluded Wells.
1100 North Plum St.
Hutchinson, Kansas
67501-1499

COSMO.ORG

GROW YOUR WAY TO COSMOSPHERE AEROSPACE CAMP!

Students 6th-8th grade:
You are invited to see who can grow the most food within a one cubic meter garden space!

RCB Bank will sponsor five winners from Oklahoma and five from Kansas. Each winner will receive a camp experience during Summer 2019 (Cosmosphere Camps Space 101 or 201.)

Contest open to students currently in 6th-8th grade. Contest starts February 1 and runs through April 30, 2019.

How it works: Participants need to first register by emailing education@cosmo.org. Any student who wants to participate needs to carefully read the rules, set-up their garden, collect the required data, and turn in all results to the Cosmosphere at education@cosmo.org on or before April 30, 2019. For a full set of rules and FAQ, visit cosmo.org.

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AEROSPACE ADVENTURES.
Cosmosphere Camps for second grade and beyond!

DISCOVER MORE AT COSMO.ORG/CAMPS
COSMOSPHERE CAMPS: HUTCHINSON, KS / 825.645.6325