Great Photo Opportunity: Space Day 2004

WHAT: Stars, planets and astronauts ... oh my!
NASA Astronaut Dr. Story Musgrave kicks off Space Day 2004 celebration

WHEN: Saturday, May 1
11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

WHERE: Eisenhower Community Center
1001 West Highway 7, Hopkins.

DETAILS: Minnesotans of all ages will have the chance to blaze galactic trails and imagine a future of space exploration during Space Day 2004, hosted by the Minnesota Planetarium and Lockheed Martin. The event is free and open to the public. Featured events include (a complete event schedule is attached):

-- 11 a.m. -- NASA Astronaut, Dr. Story Musgrave, one of NASA's most experienced astronauts. With a 30 year career spanning the Apollo era of the 1960s right through to the Space Shuttle program of the 1990s, he is the only astronaut to have flown on all five Space Shuttles. He has traveled 20 million miles, logged 1,200 hours of spaceflight and orbited the Earth 788 times.

-- 1 p.m. -- The Physics Force, University of Minnesota, featuring demonstrations that make science exciting for students of all ages. After all, why implode a pop can when a 55-gallon drum is available?

-- 2:30 p.m. -- Mars Rocks! See the red planet in 3-D with the Science Museum of Minnesota. You can also view the latest pictures from the Mars Rovers Spirit & Opportunity and examine a real rock from Mars!

Space Days Background

The Space Day educational initiative was established in 1997 and is supported by the Space Day Foundation, a non-profit organization that is committed to using space to motivate students to become involved in science, technology, engineering and math. More information is available at the Space Day Web site: www.spaceday.org .

The Minnesota Planetarium Society (MnPS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to help build and operate a new state-of-the-art Minnesota Planetarium. The MnPS is a diverse group of business executives, astronomers, and educators who understand that a Planetarium provides an essential educational experience.

Headquartered in Bethesda, MD, Lockheed Martinemploys about 130,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced technology systems, products and services.

SPACE DAY 2004 CELEBRATION
EISENHOWER COMMUNITY CENTER -- SATURDAY, MAY 1

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11 a.m. NASA Astronaut, Dr. Story Musgrave
Story Musgrave is one of NASA's most experienced astronauts. With a 30 year career spanning the Apollo era of the 1960s right through to the Space Shuttle program of the 1990s, he is the only astronaut to have flown on all five Space Shuttles. He is also a pilot, surgeon, mechanic, poet and philosopher. Dr. Musgrave flew six Space Shuttle flights. During these flights, he traveled 20 million miles, and logged 1,200 hours of spaceflight and orbited the Earth 788 times. He retired from NASA in 1997, and today provides unique perspective into the future of space exploration.

1 p.m. The Physics Force, University of Minnesota
The Physics Force is a fun and playful presentation by University of Minnesota professors that makes science

exciting for students of all ages -- from 5 to 105. Their interactive demonstrations emphasize the process of learning science, illustrate complex concepts, and prompt further exploration by students. Each segment of the show begins with an illustrative demonstration, then escalates the excitement through even more vivid examples of physics principles. After all, why implode a pop can when a 55-gallon drum is available?

1 - 11 p.m. Solar & Night Telescope Observing
Keep your fingers crossed that the weather permits a spectacular view of the day & night sky. See solar flares, sunspots, moon craters, a crescent Venus, the moons of Jupiter and Saturn's rings!

2 - 9 p.m. Ongoing Exhibits and Presentations throughout the day

Family Activity Room:
Make your own balloon rockets! Learn how "Toys in Space" work. Simulate your own Mars Rover landing with an egg! Activities courtesy of the Minnesota Space Frontier Society.

3-D Astro-Wall Room:
See an amazing array of astronomy images of the planets and far away galaxies in 3-D! Immerse yourself in Mars, the Earth from space and many more. Courtesy of the Science Museum of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota.

Presentation Room:
Get the latest and greatest about upcoming sky events and NASA explorations from the NASA's Jet Propulsion Solar System Ambassadors. Preview the Transit of Venus coming up on the morning of June 8th -- the first one since 1882! See the plan for grand Saturn when the spacecraft Cassini arrives on July 1st -- after a seven year trip. Also, discover how rockets and unmanned aerial vehicles work with a special presentation by Lockheed Martin. Scheduled announced day of event.

Observatory Room:
Learn how a telescope works. Find out what's a good beginning telescope and various costs.

2:30 p.m. Mars Rocks! Science Museum of Minnesota
Get up close and personal with the red planet and see Mars in 3-D with the Science Museum of Minnesota. You can also view the latest pictures from the Mars Rovers Spirit & Opportunity and examine a real rock from Mars!

4 p.m. The New Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center
See plans and designs for the new Planetarium atop the Library, scheduled to open in Dec 2006 if funding is appropriated.

5 - 10 p.m. High Definition Space Theater
See crystal clear, sharp "high def" films on the Sun, Venus, Mars, Jupiter & Saturn. Films are shown hourly during this time, with the exception of 7 p.m.

7 p.m. Science from the South Pole, Karina Leppik
Educator Karina Leppik has traveled through Antarctica twice. Hear about her amazing journeys and how the South Pole has much in common with outer space.

SOURCE: Lockheed Martin

Web site: http://www.lockheedmartin.com/
http://www.spaceday.org/
