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SPACE CITY SPOTLIGHT FOR APRIL 2009

Kids Space Place at Space Center Houston

The rich history and the awe of space can be experienced by everyone in the family including the children at Space Center Houston. From the popular *Build-A-Rocket* to *Mission Kidtrol*, children will explore, learn the concepts of space and see how these fun activities can be applied to the space program. There are more than a dozen different activities aboard the Kids Space Place and they include:

Lunar Rover

A replica of the actual vehicle astronauts used to roam the surface of the moon. A monitor in front of the vehicle plays a moving landscape, helping creative minds envision a trip across lunar terrain. Complete with a rumbling seat and a moving power throttle, children get the feel of what it is like to drive on the moon.

Mission Kidtrol

Children can learn the importance of flight and ground crews working together as a team. Buttons and light indicators are wired so the ground crew can work with the 'astronauts' to accomplish different tasks.

Space Shuttle

Take a turn in the commander's seat and pilot the Space Shuttle while communicating with the ground crew to complete different tasks.

Apollo Command Module

This module simulates the interior of the Apollo capsules that made history in the early space program. Lying on their backs, visitors experience one of the most exciting eras of space explorations while attempting to execute tasks in their mission program.

Space Station

The Space Station is the third spacecraft connected to Mission Kidtrol where children can explore the future of the space program. It is filled with a variety of experiments, a machine to test heart rate and body temperature and a mission program filled with tasks to be executed for a successful flight.

Mars Rovers

Experience the thrill of using remote-controlled vehicles to explore the simulated terrain of the big red planet!

Build A Rocket

Design your own virtual rocket on a computer by selecting different size boosters based on the distance the rocket must fly before a countdown to launch.

Rocket Launcher

Young space enthusiasts can get an idea of how a rocket launch actually works by activating a pump to fuel the rocket. Once the gauge indicates the spacecraft is ready to launch, visitors can hit the button, listen to warning lights and sounds before the rocket soars to the five-story ceiling of Space Center Houston.

Flying In Space

Imagine flying in space like the astronauts! Children will love using the Manned Maneuvering Unit simulator to experience the frictionless environment of space.

Wind Tunnel

Feel the effects of wind resistance, learn the concept of 'lift' and discover why the shape of a spacecraft's wings is so important by placing a gloved hand in the middle of a wind tunnel!

Aliens From Another Planet

Is that an alien I see? Step on a scale to see how much you would weigh on another planet and learn the different gravitational pulls of planets while viewing your reflection in a curved mirror that distorts images.

Cosmic Weightlifter

Experience a space age workout! By pushing a button, the weight of five pounds on earth can challenge even the strongest of visitors when switched to simulate the gravitational pull of a planet with a larger mass.

Gravity Wells

Here's a unique lesson about the gravitational pull on different planets by turning a hand crank that operates two different sized wells. Visitors can experience how different levels of energy must be used for similar results.

Earth From Space

Visitors can imagine they are looking out the window of the Space Shuttle as it orbits the earth using actual NASA photographs and touch-screen technology.

LEGO Craters

Let your imagination run wild through three different moon craters made entirely of LEGOs. Here children can also create their own visions of space exploration.

Escape Hatch

When visitors are ready to leave the Space Shuttle and the Space Station and return to earth, they will enjoy sliding down an enormous covered curving slide that connects the two levels of Kids Space Place.

Space Center Houston is open every day of the year with the exception of Christmas Day. Admission is \$18.95 for adults, \$14.95 for children ages 4-11 and Senior tickets are \$17.95. June hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri.; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Hours may vary daily. For more information please call 281.244.2105 or visit www.spacecenter.org

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