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SPACE CITY SPOTLIGHT SERIES FOR NOVEMBER 2008

Project Mercury: America's First Man-In-Space Program

Mercury 9's capsule "Faith 7" may have been the last U.S. Mercury manned space flight back in 1963, but it was the first mission to ever televise astronauts while in space. After completing 22 earth orbits, Astronaut Gordon Cooper brought Faith 7 back to earth where visitors at Space Center Houston can now see this historical artifact.

Redstone Rocket launched the first American satellite into orbit in 1953 and got its name from the color of the rock and soil where it was developed in Huntsville, Alabama. Visitors to the Saturn V complex will enjoy seeing the high-accuracy, liquid-propelled, surface-to-surface missile that had the speed of some 3,800 miles per hour.

Visitors can view the portraits and crew photos of every U.S astronaut who has flown in space including those from Project Mercury in the Astronaut Gallery.

The feature film "On Human Destiny" at the Destiny Theater in Space Center Houston will take viewers on a journey through the fascinating and challenging world of the space program including Project Mercury. "On Human Destiny" is free with admission and is shown twice an hour. Once the film is over, visitors are directed into the Starship Gallery Timeline that highlights all of the space programs including Project Mercury with fascinating historical artifacts.

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. February hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.– Fri. and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sundays. For more information please call 281.244.2105 or visit www.spacecenter.org.

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