

Beyond Spaceship Earth

In *Beyond Spaceship Earth*, children and families blast off and experience the story of space exploration, from one of the first spacecraft to orbit Earth to the work being done on the International Space Station (ISS) today.

The 3,626-square-foot exhibit, which opened in June 2016, is an immersive three-part experience that lets visitors



explore the work of today's astronauts in the International Space Station (ISS) component, discover the exciting early days of space flight in the Schaefer Planetarium and Space Object Theater featuring *Liberty Bell 7*, and learn about some of the many Indiana astronauts and engineers who made it possible at the Indiana Astronaut Wall of Fame.

Beyond Spaceship Earth is designed to inspire the next generation of scientists and explorers and show how science, technology, engineering, and math have made it possible for us to explore what lies beyond our planet. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and former astronaut and Indiana native Dr. David Wolf played an integral role in providing the expertise to create this out-of-this-world experience.

The International Space Station

Beyond Spaceship Earth includes an immersive recreation of portions of the inside of the ISS for children and families to explore. Here visitors can:

- See what the real interior of the ISS looks like and learn how astronauts eat, sleep, live, and work aboard the station.
- Discover how astronauts perform scientific experiments in space and view real video of an astronaut's day-to-day life in space.
- Perform the tasks of real ISS astronauts by playing digital games made by The Children's Museum (and download more to play at home)!
- Grab a spacesuit, exit the station through the airlock, and go on a "spacewalk."
- See a replica of the Russian Soyuz capsule, the vehicle used to carry astronauts to and from the space station.

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Schaefer Planetarium and Space Object Theater

The Schaefer Planetarium and Space Object Theater is designed to display a rotating selection of real and rare iconic spacecraft and other objects from space history in an immersive environment that feels like space.

The first iconic object featured is *Liberty Bell 7*, the second U.S. capsule ever flown into space. It was piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Virgil Ivan "Gus" Grissom, an Indiana native, in 1961. The dramatic story of Grissom's successful flight and the accidental sinking of *Liberty Bell 7* in the Atlantic Ocean (and its recovery from the sea nearly 40 years later) is told through an immersive sound-and-light show and also through live performances by museum actor-interpreters.



Indiana Astronaut Wall of Fame

Indiana has a rich history in engineering and training of future astronauts, with more than 30 astronauts and engineers who have connections to the state. In partnership with Purdue University, the Indiana Astronaut Wall of Fame recognizes the significant contributions that astronauts and engineers with Indiana connections have made to the history of space exploration.

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Beyond Spaceship Earth is part of The Heritage Group Center for Family Learning in STEM.