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**SMITHSONIAN TAKES VISITORS ON A VOYAGE  
THROUGH THE SOLAR SYSTEM**

*New Outdoor Exhibition Celebrates Space Science and Human Exploration*

The Smithsonian Institution, in a collaboration with Challenger Center for Space Science Education and NASA, will premiere a new permanent outdoor exhibition on Wednesday, Oct. 17 in the nation's capital, "Voyage – A Journey Through Our Solar System."

This outdoor exhibition is a model of the solar system – the actual solar system is ten billion times larger. The exhibition consists of 13 8½-foot-tall stainless steel stations, spanning 600 yards along Jefferson Drive, between the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Castle. Each station includes a graphic panel with informative text and captivating imagery. In nine of these stations, model planets and moons are represented and discussed. The remaining stations feature the Sun, asteroids and comets as well as introduce the exhibition to visitors.

Visitors to "Voyage" will take a sidewalk walking tour of the solar system, experiencing the worlds as exciting destinations in space. The exhibition brings the educational experience outside, beyond the walls of the museums.

"We are thrilled to have played a role in developing this new outdoor educational experience," said J. Dennis O'Connor, Under Secretary for Science at the Smithsonian. "Millions of visitors to the Smithsonian will have the opportunity to learn about our solar system through this dynamic experience."

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A series of supplemental materials have been created in support of the “Voyage” exhibition. The exhibition guide and a “Voyage” Web site, [www.voyageonline.org](http://www.voyageonline.org), will be available to enhance a visitor's experience of the exhibition while visiting the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C. as well as through explorations in the classroom and at home.

Plans to replicate the outdoor exhibition at science museums, universities, planetaria, and other community organizations throughout the country are being developed.

Challenger Center for Space Science Education is an international, not-for-profit organization created in 1986 by the families of the astronauts tragically lost during the Challenger space shuttle mission. Using space as a theme and the power of simulation as a teaching tool, Challenger Center programs create an exciting cooperative learning environment that exposes students to the challenges and successes of teamwork, problem solving, communication and decision-making. For more information, visit [www.challenger.org](http://www.challenger.org).

NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is committed to education and research. NASA's efforts are based on the agency's inspiring mission, specialized workforce, close working relationship with the research and development community, and unique world-class facilities. NASA seeks to inspire our nation and the world, to open minds young and old to broader perspectives on the future and to bring home to every individual on Earth the experience of exploring and appreciating space. For more information on NASA, visit [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov).

The Smithsonian Institution is the world’s largest museum and research complex, with 16 museums and galleries, the National Zoo and several research facilities around the world. More than 34 million visits were recorded last year to the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo in Washington. The Smithsonian’s Web site is [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu).

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Editor please note: Images are available upon request. Please contact Anabeth Guthrie, SITES Public Relations, (202) 357-3168, ext.140 or [guthriea@sites.si.edu](mailto:guthriea@sites.si.edu).

