

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## New exhibits open at Stafford Air & Space Museum

WEATHERFORD, Okla. — The Stafford Air & Space Museum will be opening its new Apollo exhibits on March 1. The primary focus of the exhibits is the complete Apollo Lunar Module.

“The Apollo Gallery differs from the other aviation and space galleries in the museum in that it represents the accomplishment of a national goal,” Max Ary, director of the museum, said.

This is the only time a complete lunar module has been on public display. The Stafford Air & Space Museum is excited to showcase it for younger audiences and reignite the national pride associated with space exploration.

“It is important to keep the story of Apollo, and all of its achievements, alive for future generations to remind all humans of the importance that exploration plays in the ongoing development of the human species,” Ary said.

In addition to the nine displays premiering March 1, the museum is planning to open over 400 new exhibits by 2023. All of the new exhibits will focus on the importance of sharing the innovative stories of space exploration.

The museum acknowledges the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic and has taken multiple measures to protect its patrons. There are sanitation stations at the entrance and exit and all patrons are encouraged to social distance.

“We disinfect during the day,” said Teresa Schoonmaker, director of operations at the museum, said. “We take temperatures of all employees when they come in to begin their shift.”

The Stafford Air & Space Museum, named after Oklahoma native and astronaut in the Apollo missions, Gen. Thomas Stafford, dedicates itself to sharing the evolution of the exploration of space. It is considered one of the best air and space museums in the central U.S. Located along Route 66 at I-40 and Exit 84 in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

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## Media Pitch

To: [aria.alamalhodaei@discover.com](mailto:aria.alamalhodaei@discover.com): Aria Alamalhodaei is a journalist with Discover

Magazine, which is a scientific magazine targeted at inspiring children.

Subject: Stafford Air & Space Museum Apollo Exhibit Openings

Dear Aria,

Your article in Discover Magazine, “Astronauts Get Sick, Too. Here’s the Tech That Could Grow Medicine on Mars,” inspired many young aspiring scientists about space, technology, and medicine. Inspiring STEM in youth is important and I would like to offer an idea that might help continue your efforts to inspire curiosity about space.

60 years ago the U.S. launched the Apollo mission to bring a man to the moon. It was a monumental step for space exploration. This spring the Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford, Oklahoma is opening nine new displays completely surrounding the Apollo missions. Included in these exhibits is the only full lunar module displayed in a museum, which children will be able to explore. The displays are physical examples for children to investigate which could encourage further interest in STEM. These exhibits will include a multitude of displays with artifacts from the actual lunar missions, provided by the Smithsonian and Gen. Thomas Stafford.

I think Discover Magazine should cover the opening of the Stafford Air & Space Museum’s exhibit dedicated to the Apollo lunar missions because it will be a unique opportunity for the readers to experience a lunar module firsthand, which would inspire more interest in STEM. The Stafford Air & Space Museum is dedicated to sharing the space exploration story and is especially excited to share the story of the Apollo lunar missions with today’s youth. Gen. Stafford himself grew up in Oklahoma and loves encouraging the next generation of astronauts.

If you are interested in this story we will need a reply by Feb. 15. The exhibits will open on March 1, 2021. For more information on the opening feel free to reach out to me, Anna Swafford [anna.swafford@ou.edu](mailto:anna.swafford@ou.edu). We have photos of the displays available to you upon request, and employees and Board of Directors members are available for interviews.

Thank you for your consideration and your time.

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